



OKLAHOMA
Rehabilitation Services

Commission for Rehabilitation Services

**Commissioners Theresa Flannery and Wes
Hilliard**

Regular Meeting
and Video Conferencing

3535 NW 58th Street, Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK

April 10, 2023

Empowering Oklahomans with Disabilities

**State of Oklahoma
Commission for Rehabilitation Services
Regular Commission Meeting
April 10, 2023
10:30 a.m.**

Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services
3535 NW 58th Street, Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK

Commission link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1611926496>
Phone: 1-669-254-5252
Webinar ID: 161 192 6496

Wes Hilliard, Commission Acting Chair
Theresa Flannery, Commission Member

Sign Language Interpreters are provided for public accessibility

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| 1. | Call to Order and Roll Call | Wes Hilliard
Acting Chair |
| 2. | Statement of Compliance with Open Meeting Act | Carol Brown
Commission Assistant |

REPORTS

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|----|--|---------------------------------------|----------|
| 3. | Presentation of Longevity Certificates | Wes Hilliard
Acting Chair | |
| 4. | Presentation of Executive Director's Certificates | Melinda Fruendt
Executive Director | |
| 5. | Executive Director's report with possible Commission discussion. The report includes remembrance of James Cooper, retired Visual Service's counselor; Executive Director's meetings with staff, and state meetings; and a reminder of RSA Monitoring and Technical Assistance the week of May 8. Mrs. Fruendt will give updates on Accessibility Professionals Association (APA), OSB Parent Engagement Program, Process Improvement, Case Review and Program Standards, Statistical Research. | Melinda Fruendt
Executive Director | 2 |
| 6. | Priority Group Updates with possible Commission discussion. Report includes status of all Priority Groups II and III. | Tracy Brigham
SBVI Director | |

7.	Financial report with possible Commission discussion of FY 2023 as of February 28, 2023.	Kevin Statham Chief Financial Officer	8
8.	Personnel Activity report with possible Commission discussion, as of December 31, 2022. The activity report has current FTE status.	Tom Patt Human Resource Director	16
9.	Legislative report with possible Commission discussion. This report includes DRS Request Bills, Direct Impact bills and a Bill status report.	Jennifer Hardin Legislative Liaison	25
10.	Success Story with possible Commission discussion.	Mark Kinnison VR Director	41
11.	Oklahoma School for the Deaf report with possible Commission discussion. This report includes overview of activities by students, updates on operations, Family and Early Childhood Services. Special Education Department, Instructional Program, Outreach Department, ASL Services, and Student Life.	Dr. Heather Laine OSD Superintendent	44
12.	Communications report with possible Commission discussion. The report includes statistics on People with Disabilities Awareness Day 2023, updates on work performed by Communications, and media stories for January through March, 2023	Jody Harlan Communications Director	51
13.	Oklahoma School for the Blind report with possible Commission discussion. This report includes student and teacher activities and special projects.	Rita Echelle OSB Superintendent	61

ACTION ITEMS

14.	Review and discussion with possible vote for approval of the March 31, 2023, Commission for Rehabilitation Services regular meeting minutes.	Wes Hilliard Acting Chair	64
15.	Review and discussion with possible vote for the “New Rates for Private Trade, Barber and Cosmetology Schools”.	Kathy Lowry Manager/Compliance Officer	67
16.	Review and discussion with possible vote for the “Request to Increase Rates for Private Contracted Vocational Evaluators”.	Kathy Lowry Manager/Compliance Officer and Terri Murphy Field Services Coordinator	69

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| 17. | Review and discussion with possible vote for approval of the March 20223 donations to the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. | Kevin Treese
OLBPH Programs
Manager | 72 |
| 18. | Review and discussion with possible vote for approval of two items in December 2022, which were inadvertently left off, and February and March 2023 donations to the Oklahoma School for the Deaf. | Dr. Heather Laine
OSD
Superintendent | 74 |
| 19. | Review and discussion with possible vote for approval of the February and March 2023 donations to the Oklahoma School for the Blind. | Rita Echelle
OSB
Superintendent | 76 |
| 20. | New Business (“Any matter not known about, or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting” 25 O.S. § 311) | Wes Hilliard
Acting Chair | |
| 21. | Announcements
Next Meeting:
Monday, May 8, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.
3535 NW 58 th Street 2 nd Floor
Oklahoma City, OK 73112 | Wes Hilliard
Acting Chair | |
| 22. | Public Comments. (Under Oklahoma Open Meeting Laws, the Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services cannot respond to or discuss any matter not on today’s agenda.) | Public | |
| 23. | Adjourn | Wes Hilliard
Acting Chair | |

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
April 10, 2023

Remembrance

Mr. James Cooper, who was a long-time DRS employee, passed away on March 23rd in Ada. He was a teacher in the public school system from 1966 until 1972, when he came to work for Visual Services, which was, at that time, under the DHS umbrella. He was a field supervisor in the Ada VS office, and then a counselor for Vocational Rehabilitation. He worked in the field of rehabilitation until he retired in 2002.

James was an insightful person who inspired countless clients and mentored many agency staff throughout his years in the field, including Field Coordinators Alisa Proctor and Teresa McDermott. James is remembered by all as a person who “told it like it was” but had a genuine helping heart. His passions included hunting and spending time with his children and grandchildren. He was always committed to providing quality services to Oklahomans with disabilities. James was very active with Boy Scouts and served as Scoutmaster of Troop 12 in Ada for over 20 years.

Local Boy Scouters had planned to present long-time Mr. Cooper the Golden Eagle award at a special dinner on Friday, March 31, in recognition of his contribution to local scouting. Now, that event will instead be a celebration of the life of this dedicated scouter. The Golden Eagle Award that was to be presented to him will be presented to his family in his honor.

James is survived by his wife Kay and 2 sons, Steven, and Jeremy. He was also blessed with 12 grandchildren and was preceded in death by his son, Jimmy.

Executive

February

- 15 – VR/SBVI Monitoring Community of Practice.
- 16 – ORC Quarterly meeting; OCCY Interview panel for Community Planner position.
- 20 – House of Representatives, Human Services Subcommittee Budget Hearing.
- 21 – Budget Meeting with Senator Thompson.
- 24 – OCCY Special Meeting.

March

- 7 – PWDAD.
- 9 – VR Supervisor Meeting.
- 10 – Human Services Cabinet Meeting.
- 15 – VR/SBVI Monitoring Community of Practice; Able Tech Planning Meeting.
- 16 – ORC Executive Committee Meeting.
- 22 – National Rehabilitation Counselor Day.
- 22-24 – Annual Leave.
- 24-28 – National Association of Workforce Boards conference.
- 30 – Fruendt’s Front.

31 – Special Commission Meeting.

April

3 – RSA Pre-Monitoring Meeting.

4 – VR/SBVI Performance Meeting.

5 - RSA Pre-Monitoring Meeting.

6 – Human Services Cabinet Meeting.

7 - RSA Pre-Monitoring Meeting; OKIPSE Update meeting.

RSA Monitoring and Technical Assistance – VR/SBVI

The Rehabilitation Services Administration will be conducting an on-site visit to Oklahoma the week of May 8.

Scope of Review

Pursuant to Section 107(a) of the Rehabilitation Act, RSA must conduct periodic onsite monitoring and annual reviews to determine whether a VR agency is complying substantially with the provisions of its State Plan under Section 101 and the State Plan Supplement under Section 606 of the Rehabilitation Act and with the evaluation standards and performance indicators established under Section 106 of the Rehabilitation Act (which are subject to the performance accountability measures in Section 116(b) of WIOA and 34 C.F.R. part 361, subpart E).

The specific programs covered include—

- The State Vocational Rehabilitation Services program (VR program), established under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act (Title I, 34 C.F.R. part 361); and
- The State Supported Employment Services program (Supported Employment program), authorized under Title VI of the Rehabilitation Act (Title VI, 34 C.F.R. part 363).

The return of a substantial amount of unused Federal funds for the VR and Supported Employment programs has generated the attention and concern of RSA, Congress, and stakeholders. Thus, RSA will focus FFY 2023 monitoring on identifying the root causes for the return of unused Federal funds and determining strategies and steps VR agencies may employ to reverse this trend. Importantly, during the programmatic and fiscal monitoring, RSA will ensure designated State units are complying with the nondelegable responsibilities for the administration of the VR and Supported Employment programs described in 34 C.F.R. § 361.13(c)(1). These responsibilities include—

- All decisions affecting eligibility for VR services, the nature and scope of available services, and the provision of these services;
- The determination to close the record of services of an individual who has achieved an employment outcome in accordance with 34 C.F.R. § 361.56;
- Policy formulation and implementation;
- The allocation and expenditure of VR funds; and

- Participation as a partner in the one-stop service delivery system established under Title I of WIOA, in accordance with 20 C.F.R. part 678.

RSA anticipates providing substantial technical assistance during the reviews and limiting compliance findings generally to those focus areas under review.

Accessibility Professionals Association - Charles Watt

The accessibility training offered by the Accessibility Professionals Association (APA) is what initially drew the interest of our DRS ADA Coordinator, Charles Watt, and in 2015 he made his first trip to Plano to attend one of their regional trainings. He eventually became a Professional Member of the APA in 2017 and began serving on the Communication and Membership Committee in 2019. In 2022, he was nominated and elected to the Board of Directors in 2022.

In 2023, Charles was nominated and elected to the office of President-Elect of the APA. He will serve in 2023 as President-Elect, in 2024 as President, and 2025 as a Past President. It is an exciting time for the Accessibility Professionals Association and he is excited to be an integral part of the push to extend its notoriety, relevance, and reach. **Charles took and passed the national certification test.**

More on how the APA came about... In 1994, Texas created their own Accessibility Standards, taking the federal government's ADA Standards for Accessible Design and adopting them, along with some additional standards which went beyond the federal ones.

The following year, the Texas Department of Licensing and Registration (TDLR) created an Independent Contractor Program in order to train and test individuals to become Registered Accessibility Specialists (RAS, pronounced Razz) who would conduct plan reviews and inspections to ensure compliance with the Texas Accessibility Standards. As the ADA Standards changed over the years, TAS also changed so they would stay aligned with federal requirements. The contractor program had requirements for continuing education so every RAS would stay up-to-date with any changing requirements.

Ultimately, in 1999, a group for RAS's was formed which would ultimately become known as the Accessibility Professionals Association. It is a group which is "an association of professionals focusing on accessibility in the built environment." They "offer quality training on the national ADA Standards and other current and upcoming accessibility codes and standards for any accessibility specialists, architects, designers, engineers, contractors, building owners, and other professionals" and are "a registered Continuing Education provider with the Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation, the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, the International Code Council, the American Institute of Architects, and the ADA Coordinator Training Certification Program."

The APA is in the process of transforming itself from a Texas-based organization into one of national reach. A new chapter was established in Colorado and ongoing discussions are being held to start another in Florida. For the last couple of years, they've been working on establishing a certification program which will offer interested individuals an opportunity to test and obtain a certification in their knowledge of accessibility in the built environment. The first certification test was offered at the 2023 APA Annual Conference at the end of January.

OSB Parent Engagement Program

Parent Engagement/Weekend with the Experts. OSB Staff spent two weekends in Oklahoma City where they were provided specialized training for parents and grandparents in techniques for working with their blind/visually impaired children. Training sessions included Pre-Braille/Fine Motor Skills; Independent Living Skills; Sensory Integration; Orientation and Mobility Awareness; and Sighted Guide Basics.

Process Improvement (PI)

AWARE

The AWARE team is collaborating with Alliance Enterprises and the University of Missouri on a project to retrieve data entered by Pre-ETS trainers working for the OU Pre-ETS program. This data is currently collected and stored on a Pre-ETS site hosted by the University of Missouri. Our objective is to import this data into the AWARE system, which will facilitate reporting of Pre-ETS activities to RSA.

Currently uploading Pre-ETS data for the third quarter of PY 2022. This data has been reported by the OU Pre-ETS trainers and is being uploaded manually.

Working with the Professional Development unit to produce content for a statewide training for Rehab Techs scheduled this month.

Collecting data to assist the Financial Services Division, as DRS is currently undergoing a state audit.

Involved in developing responses and reports in preparation for the RSA Monitoring visits.

Case Review

The QA team is currently working on a closed case audit for March. 290 cases qualified for auditing, 233 were closed in "other" status while 57 were closed "successfully". The goal is to audit 15%, approximately 44 cases per Reviewer.

In February the QA Team completed a targeted caseload audit per the request of the Division Administration (DA), Field Coordinator (FC) and Program Manager (PM). A specific instrument was developed and reviewed with Administration prior to implementation. Twenty five percent (25%) of both open and closed cases since

8/1/2022 were pulled for audit of caseload VR-066. A report was submitted to the PM along with the audit results.

Program Standards, Statistical Research

The research staff is working on the analysis portion of the 2023 Open Case Satisfaction survey.

The research staff assisted the ESS staff with a survey of counselors regarding knowledge of Supplemental Employment Services.

Members of the data team are attending virtual Power BI training and have begun building reports replicating Tableau dashboards. These reports can be used for accessibility testing.

The research staff continues to work with SBVI staff on VIBE and Center surveys.

***Respectfully submitted by
Melinda Freundt, Executive Director***

FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 23

As of February 28, 2023

All Programs Agency Summary						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	87,735,007.00	52.4%	49,730,370.95	56.7%	36,877,856.63	98.7%
Travel	839,239.00	0.5%	655,354.11	78.1%	57,293.75	84.9%
General Operating	23,205,101.00	13.9%	9,051,443.24	39.0%	11,352,281.38	87.9%
Office Furniture & Equipment	1,829,672.00	1.1%	442,653.89	24.2%	306,998.32	41.0%
Client / General Assistance	44,130,344.00	26.4%	17,801,068.29	40.3%	23,983,984.45	94.7%
Indirect Cost	9,698,425.00	5.8%	5,831,353.80	60.1%	3,867,071.20	100.0%
Total	167,437,788.00	100.0%	83,512,244.28	49.9%	76,445,485.73	95.5%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 23

As of February 28, 2023

All Programs						
Vocational Rehabilitation and Visual Services						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	25,783,092.00	33.7%	13,890,222.77	53.9%	11,683,031.88	99.2%
Travel	485,400.00	0.6%	463,800.89	95.6%	320.00	95.6%
General Operating	9,467,571.00	12.4%	4,324,059.49	45.7%	3,930,272.44	87.2%
Office Furniture & Equipment	679,781.00	0.9%	165,217.42	24.3%	0.00	24.3%
Client / General Assistance	36,350,344.00	47.5%	13,100,457.70	36.0%	21,116,887.61	94.1%
Indirect Cost	3,742,891.00	4.9%	2,160,459.32	57.7%	1,582,431.68	100.0%
Total	76,509,079.00	100.0%	34,104,217.59	44.6%	38,312,943.61	94.7%
Vocational Rehabilitation Grant						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	23,222,094.00	32.3%	12,442,701.34	53.6%	10,644,121.72	99.4%
Travel	474,500.00	0.7%	453,223.44	95.5%	221.31	95.6%
General Operating	8,576,941.00	11.9%	4,098,183.77	47.8%	3,398,966.22	87.4%
Office Furniture & Equipment	509,281.00	0.7%	116,968.85	23.0%	0.00	23.0%
Client / General Assistance	35,634,667.00	49.6%	12,883,422.84	36.2%	20,716,345.75	94.3%
Indirect Cost	3,454,557.00	4.8%	1,998,767.42	57.9%	1,455,789.58	100.0%
Total	71,872,040.00	100.0%	31,993,267.66	44.5%	36,215,444.58	94.9%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 23

As of February 28, 2023

All Programs						
Oklahoma School for the Blind						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	6,684,882.00	72.4%	4,336,454.65	64.9%	2,296,881.40	99.2%
Travel	75,000.00	0.8%	47,823.99	63.8%	0.00	63.8%
General Operating	1,266,044.00	13.7%	647,204.86	51.1%	431,404.92	85.2%
Office Furniture & Equipment	523,300.00	5.7%	193,091.01	36.9%	175,325.52	70.4%
Client / General Assistance	57,000.00	0.6%	28,005.05	49.1%	45.97	49.2%
Indirect Cost	628,996.00	6.8%	465,211.78	74.0%	163,784.22	100.0%
Total	9,235,222.00	100.0%	5,717,791.34	61.9%	3,067,442.03	95.1%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 23

As of February 28, 2023

All Programs						
Oklahoma School for the Deaf						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	7,722,750.00	50.0%	4,543,178.36	58.8%	2,899,396.55	96.4%
Travel	136,439.00	0.9%	88,968.70	65.2%	24,800.00	83.4%
General Operating	5,872,664.00	38.0%	946,351.84	16.1%	4,210,250.75	87.8%
Office Furniture & Equipment	547,854.00	3.5%	77,460.91	14.1%	131,672.80	38.2%
Client / General Assistance	373,000.00	2.4%	132,143.90	35.4%	57,512.51	50.8%
Indirect Cost	782,043.00	5.1%	487,877.17	62.4%	294,165.83	100.0%
Total	15,434,750.00	100.0%	6,275,980.88	40.7%	7,617,798.44	90.0%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 23

As of February 28, 2023

All Programs						
Disability Determination Division						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	39,833,335.00	71.5%	22,259,675.14	55.9%	17,055,144.71	98.7%
Travel	89,300.00	0.2%	25,370.99	28.4%	32,173.75	64.4%
General Operating	3,875,968.00	7.0%	1,797,608.41	46.4%	1,715,830.90	90.6%
Office Furniture & Equipment	31,237.00	0.1%	1,824.52	5.8%	0.00	5.8%
Client / General Assistance	7,350,000.00	13.2%	4,540,461.64	61.8%	2,809,538.36	100.0%
Indirect Cost	4,538,160.00	8.1%	2,714,092.94	59.8%	1,824,067.06	100.0%
Total	55,718,000.00	100.0%	31,339,033.64	56.2%	23,436,754.78	98.3%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 23

As of February 28, 2023

All Programs						
DRS Support Services						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	7,710,948.00	73.2%	4,700,840.03	61.0%	2,943,402.09	99.1%
Travel	53,100.00	0.5%	29,389.54	55.3%	0.00	55.3%
General Operating	2,722,854.00	25.8%	1,336,218.64	49.1%	1,064,522.37	88.2%
Office Furniture & Equipment	47,500.00	0.5%	5,060.03	10.7%	0.00	10.7%
Client / General Assistance	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
Indirect Cost	6,335.00	0.1%	3,712.59	58.6%	2,622.41	100.0%
Total	10,540,737.00	100.0%	6,075,220.83	57.6%	4,010,546.87	95.7%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 23

As of February 28, 2023

Personnel
Salary Expense
Insurance Premium -Health-Life, etc
FICA-Retirement Contributions
Travel
Travel - Agency Direct
Travel - Reimbursements
General Operating
AFP Encumbrances
Bond Indebtness and Expenses
Buildings-Purchase, Construction and Renovation
General Operating
Inter/Intr Agency Payment for Personal Services
Maintenance & Repair
Miscellaneous Administration Fee
Professional Services
Production, Safety, Security
Refunds, Indemnities, Restitution
Rent Expense
Scholarships, Tuition and Other Incentive-Type Payments
Shop Expense
Specialized Supplies & Materials
Office Furniture & Equipment
Library Equipment & Resources
Office Furniture & Equipment
Client / General Assistance
Social Service and Assistance Payments
Indirect Cost

PERSONNEL ACTIVITY REPORT

PERSONNEL ACTIVITY REPORT AS OF MARCH 31, 2023

FILLED AND VACANT POSITIONS

Personnel Activity = 17 vacant positions filled / 87 positions in Announcement or Selection Process

Division	Title/PIN	Date Vacated	Location	Begin date	End date	Ann. #	Action/Incumbent	Date Filled
MSD	Administrative Programs Officer / 0479	09/27/2022	MSD CDS	03/03/2023	03/09/2023	23-073	In Selection Process	
MSD	Contracting & Acquisitions Agent / 0858	12/12/2022	MSD CDS	1/11/2023	1/31/2023	23-057	In Selection Process	
MSD	Human Resources Programs Manager / 0926	12/01/2022	MSD HR	03/07/2023	Continuous	23-046.1	Currently Open	
DDS	Disability Determination Specialist / 0559	10/23/2021	DDS	03/03/2023	03/09/2023	23-074	In Selection Process	
DDS	Disability Medical Consultant / 1472, 1450, 1451	12/01/2022 01/01/2023	DDS	N/A	N/A	N/A	Jonathan Hart Amy Hudson Julio Rojas	03/13/2023 03/13/2023 03/13/2023
DDS	Administrative Programs Officer / 0685	10/31/2022	DDS	12/09/2022	12/19/2022	23-051	In Selection Process	
		03/04/2020						
		03/23/2021						
		03/01/2017						
		05/25/2021						
		07/09/2021						
		04/20/2021						
		09/24/2021						
		08/01/2021						
		08/01/2021						
		04/01/2022						
		09/17/2021						
		05/28/2021						
		09/24/2021						
		08/02/2022						
		09/13/2021						
		01/01/2022						
		04/30/2021						
DDS	Disability Determination Specialist / 1308, 1281, 1278, 1200, 1198, 1194, 0068, 1186, 0960, 0885, 0406, 0566, 0584, 0734, 1306, 0019, 1329, 0144, 1269, 1274, 0340, 0335, 0271, 0110		DDS	10/05/2022	Continuous	23-033	In Selection Process	

VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0393	12/31/2022	VR29 – Edmond	02/14/2023	Continuous	23-067	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0344	12/31/2022	VR97 – Guymon	02/14/2023	Continuous	23-069	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0150	1/31/2023	VR42 – Poteau	02/23/2023	Continuous	23-071	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0767	01/07/2023	VR86 – Ada	01/25/2023	Continuous	23/058	Currently Open
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 1031	09/01/2022	VR66 – Tulsa	11/07/2022	Continuous	23-029	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0955, 0516	10/31/2022 10/19/2022	VR80 – Tulsa	11/03/2022	Continuous	23-037	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0646	08/01/2022	VR41 – Ponca City	11/21/2022	Continuous	23-038	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0680	10/01/2022	VR03 – Ardmore	11/14/2022	Continuous	23-039	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0948	11/08/2022	VR05 – Weatherford	11/16/2022	Continuous	23-040	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0477	10/01/2022	VR18 – Muskogee	11/23/2022	Continuous	23-041	Currently Open
VR	Business Services Liaison / 0814	07/22/2022	VR86 – Ada	10/26/2022	Continuous	23-035	Currently Open
VR	Job Placement Specialist / 0372	06/01/2022	VR08 – Enid	10/25/2022	Continuous	23-036	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0366	08/31/2022	VR31 – OKC	09/01/2022	Continuous	23-019	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0776	07/15/2022	VR86 – Ada	09/06/2022	Continuous	23-021	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 1078	08/01/2022	VR07 – Durant	09/06/2022	Continuous	23-022	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0073	06/20/2022	VR13 – McAlester	07/08/2022	Continuous	23-003	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0325, 0904	06/17/2022	VR80 – Tulsa	07/20/2022	Continuous	23-008	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0044	04/09/2022	VR67 – Tulsa	06/09/2022	Continuous	22-102	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0793	07/26/2022	VR05 – Weatherford	06/13/2022	Continuous	22-105	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0339	05/01/2022	VR56 – Woodward	05/04/2022	Continuous	22-085	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0846	05/05/2022	VR19 – OKC	05/10/2022	Continuous	22-089	Currently Open
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0714	04/09/2022	VR26 – Claremore	04/25/2022	Continuous	22-082	Pam Pearsall

03/13/2023

VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 1077	10/01/2019	VR03 – Ardmore	04/27/2022	Continuous	22-083	Stefany Folger	02/03/2023
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0381	04/04/2022	VR04 – Bartlesville	04/06/2022	Continuous	22-072	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0440	03/16/2022	VR38 – Okmulgee	04/18/2022	Continuous	22-079	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0200	02/01/2022	VR67 – Tulsa	04/18/2022	Continuous	22-056.1	Kristin Goodrich	03/06/2023
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0752	11/02/2021	VR80 – Tulsa	01/11/2022	Continuous	21-054.1	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0567	09/01/2020	VR67 – Tulsa	12/22/2020	Continuous	21-028.1	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0627	07/08/2020	VR18 – Muskogee	08/18/2021	Continuous	21-007.2	Currently Open	
SBVI	Rehabilitation of the Blind Specialist / 0311	01/31/2023	SBVI 84 – McAlester	02/06/2023	Continuous	23-068	Karen Waller Hill	03/13/2023
SBVI	Rehabilitation Technician / 0766	12/05/2022	SBVI 60 – Lawton	12/20/2022	Continuous	23-052	Laura Rees	02/15/2023
SBVI	Vending Facility Business Consultant / 0170, 0134	06/01/2022 09/23/2022	SBVI 33 – OKC	01/04/2023	Continuous	23-054	Currently Open	
SBVI	Rehabilitation Technician / 0001	01/15/2023	SBVI 73 – OKC	01/11/2023	Continuous	23-055	Kimberly Tomagos	02/06/2023
SBVI	Vending Machine Technician / 0805, 1027	11/21/2020 01/01/2021	SBVI 33 – OKC	01/11/2023	Continuous	23-056	Currently Open	
SBVI	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0083	12/01/2022	SBVI 58 – Ada	11/23/2022	01/10/2023	23-043	Quaid Johnson	03/01/2023
SBVI	BEP Operations Coordinator / 1209	03/26/2022	SBVI33 – OKC	05/03/2022	Continuous	22-084	Currently Open	
SBVI	Business Services Liaison / 0159	09/01/2021	TBD	05/11/2022	Continuous	22-090	Merlyn Romero	02/01/2023
SBVI	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 1033	05/20/2022	SBVI73 – OKC	05/31/2022	Continuous	22-097	Currently Open	
SBVI	Assistive Technology Specialist / 0091	07/01/2020	SBVI – TBD	03/14/2022	Continuous	22-066	Currently Open	
SBVI	Vending Operations Manager / 1486	11/20/2021	SBVI 33 – OKC	05/10/2022	Continuous	22-067.1	Currently Open	
SBVI	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0709	02/08/2022	SBVI 84 – McAlester	04/29/2022	Continuous	22-058.1	Currently Open	
SBVI	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0669	05/29/2021	SBVI 69 – Weatherford	01/26/2022	Continuous	21-080.5	Currently Open	

SBVI	Vending Machine Technician / 0167	02/20/2020	SBVI 33 – BEP	08/31/2020	Continuous	21-014	Currently Open
SBVI	Vending Facility Business Consultant / 0003	10/01/2021	SBVI 33 – OKC BEP	09/09/2021	Continuous	22-020	Beau Renfrow 02/16/2023

DISCHARGES/RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS = 15

As of March 31, 2023

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION (Executive/MSD/FSD)

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Resignation = 3

1 = 37 years

1 = 8 months

1 = 4 years 4 months

Retirement = 1

1 = 24 years 1 month

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED DIVISION

Retirement = 1

1 = 25 years 6 months

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Resignation = 1

1 = 6 years 3 months

Discharge (Trial Period) = 1

1 = 3 months

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Resignation = 2

1 = 9 months

1 = 5 years 1 month

DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES

- Resignation = 5
- 1 = 3 years 4 months
- 1 = 1 year 1 month
- 1 = 8 years 6 months
- 1 = 4 years 5 months
- 1 = 8 years 6 months

- Retirement = 1
- 1 = 19 years 8 months

CURRENT FTE STATUS FY 2023

FTE as of March 31, 2023

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>BUDGETED FTE</u>	<u>FILLED</u>	<u>PENDING</u>	<u>EXEMPT FTE</u>	<u>TOTAL FILLED PLUS PENDING MINUS EXEMPT FTE</u>
Support Services (Executive/MSD/FSD)	74.8	72.00	3.00	(1.00)	74.00
Vocational Rehabilitation	226.8	185.00	33.00	(4.00)	214.00
Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired	108.00	90.00	11.00	(3.00)	98.00
VR/SBVI-DP	2.00	2.00	0.00	(0.00)	2.00
Oklahoma School for the Blind	98.0	96.00	3.00	0.00	99.00
Oklahoma School for the Deaf	119.5	109.00	11.00	0.00	120.00
Total (NON-EXEMPT)	629.1	554.00	61.00	(8.00)	607.00
Disability Determination Services (EXEMPT)	367.8	319.00	26.00	(319.00)	345.00
TOTAL NON-EXEMPT & EXEMPT	996.9	873.00	87.00	(327.00)	952.00
FY 23 Budgetary Limit = 1255					

* Authorized agency FTE limit does not include Executive Fellow and SWIP appointments

ROUTING TO: Melinda Fruendt, Director
 Kevin Statham, Chief Financial Officer
 Randy Weaver, Chief of Operations
 Tom Patt, Human Resources Program Director
 Dana Tallon, Public Information Manager II
 Carol Brown, Executive Assistant
 Rosemarie Chitwood, Secretary V
 Brett Jones, Public Information Officer III

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

4/10/23 – DRS Commission Legislative Report

by Jennifer Hardin

- 01/19/23 Total Bills Filed = 3,772
- 3/23/23 – Bills left after March Committee and Floor Deadlines = 1,000

DRS Request Bills

[HB 1041](#)

[Randleman, Randy \(R\)](#)
[Stanley, Brenda \(R\)](#)

Establishes an alternative diploma program for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Note: This is a joint request with the OK. Dept. of Ed.

Problem being addressed:

Many districts have been graduating these students with a regular high school diploma, prior to ageing out due to accountability purposes. When this occurs, the schools are no longer required to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) even when some students may need additional services. The change will provide a meaningful diploma option to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. It will allow students to qualify for a FAPE until the school year in which they turn 22. Allowing districts to include these students as graduated (with no penalty) for accountability purposes.

Bill History: **3-08-23** Passed/Adopted ([Vote Y: 86/N: 0](#))

3-09-23 Received in the Senate

DRS Request Bills

[SB 154](#)

[Stanley, Brenda\(R\)](#)
[Lawson, Mark \(R\)](#)

Provides an exception from the Reading Sufficiency Act (RSA) to ASL & braille students, replacing with a formative evaluation.

Note: This is a joint request with the OK. Dept. of Ed.

Problem being addressed:

The current requirements do not address an infrastructure that ensures equity practices. The Reading Sufficiency Act evaluation was designed for hearing and sighted students. Allowing the exemption would reduce time consuming testing and allow educators to measure benchmarks by utilizing a formative evaluation system. The replacement method would use authentic reading and writing skills unlike the current RSA evaluation method. The intention is not to reduce requirements for these student groups but offer a meaningful alternative assessment that will provide educators with the best information to make data-driven decisions for each student. For students receiving an exemption, the school must report on measures of proficiency and language attainment through alternative means.

The State Board of Education will promulgate rules to determine measures of proficiency for students receiving exemptions.

Bill History: **2-28-23** Voted from committee - Do Pass as amended Senate Education

03-23-23 Dormant pursuant to the rules

Direct DRS Impact Bills

[SB 357](#) [Dossett, Jo Anna \(F\)\(D\)](#) **Includes the OK School for the Deaf and the OK School for the Blind in future disbursements of Redbud school grants by the Board of Education.**

Bill History: In 2021, the Redbud School Funding grant began directing a portion of medical marijuana tax revenue to eligible charter and public-school districts for improving school buildings.

Potential issues for applying to OSD & OSB:

- We are not sure how the property tax criteria will be interpreted or adjusted as students come from all over Oklahoma.
- The criteria for determining the allocation is based off of local property taxes and funding per pupil. OSB & OSD do not receive funding from local property taxes like other schools.

1/24/2023 – Sen. Dossett was made aware of the potential issues. She is working with the bill drafter and House author on possible solutions.

1/26/23 - Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education

2-03-23 Also Referred to Senate Appropriations

3-03-23 Dormant pursuant to the rules

[SB 487](#) [Matthews, Kevin\(D\)](#) **Makes an appropriation to fund the Statewide Independent Living Council; up to \$400,000 may be used as necessary.**

Bill History: 1/26/23 - Referred to Senate Committee Senate Appropriations

3-03-23 S Dormant pursuant to the rules

[SB 598](#) [Kirt, Julia\(D\)](#) **Modifies language changing the term 'handicapped' to 'disability' in Title 7 and Title 74.**

Bill History: **2-09-23** Voted from committee - Do Pass Senate General Government

3-23-23 Dormant pursuant to the rules

- **2/20/23** – Met with the Chair and Vice Chair of House Appropriations to discuss DRS budget request.
- **2/21/23** – Met with the Chair and Vice Chair of Senate Appropriations to discuss DRS budget request.
- Budget negotiations are ongoing. Its typically released at the end of April or beginning of May.
- The DRS legislative monitoring list will continuously be updated as bills are reviewed or amended.
- Please do not hesitate to contact me if you become aware of a specific bill you would like to be monitored.



OKLAHOMA Rehabilitation Services

Bill Status Report

03-28-2023 - 15:13:41

DRS Request Bills

HB 1041	Randleman, Randy(R) Stanley, Brenda(R)	Establishes standards and requirements for students to graduate school with alternative diploma program; EMERGENCY.
Bill History:		03-09-23 S Received in the Senate

Direct DRS Impact Bills

HB 1407	Culver, Bob Ed(R) Stewart, Jack (F)(R)	Provides for two one-time increases to state employee flexible benefit allowances in 2024 and 2025.
Bill History:		03-13-23 S Received in the Senate

HB 1570	Stark, Marilyn(R) Bullard, David(R)	Provides that any individual that does not have a disability or is not a trained assistant of someone with a disability, that uses a service animal attempting to gain special treatment shall be subject to being convicted of a misdemeanor.
Bill History:		03-09-23 S Received in the Senate

HB 1794	Osburn, Mike(R) Pugh, Adam(R)	Specifies the responsibilities of the Human Capital Management Administrator within the Civil Service and Human Capital Modernization Act.
Bill History:		03-21-23 S Received in the Senate

HB 1798	Osburn, Mike(R) Thompson, Roger(R)	Establishes a system to gradually increase state employee pay to the level of 90 percent of comparable private sector positions by 2026 and maintain that threshold moving forward.
Bill History:		03-21-23 S Received in the Senate

HB 2027	Wolfley, Max(R) Garvin, Jessica (F)(R)	Exempts the sales of hearing aids from the state sales tax; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 03-13-23 S Received in the Senate
HB 2253	Burns, Ty(R) Jech, Darcy(R)	Authorizes the Attorney General and office to utilize certain state owned and state leased vehicles, and to purchase vehicles for their agents; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 03-20-23 S Received in the Senate
HB 2312	Hilbert, Kyle(R) Gollihare, Todd (F)(R)	Allows surviving spouses of disabled veterans to claim state sales tax exemptions even if the final determination of eligibility is not made until after the death of the qualified veteran; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 03-23-23 S And also Referred to Senate Appropriations
HB 2411	Kannady, Chris(R) Brooks, Michael(D)	Expands the qualifying certifications and standards for persons to become official legal interpreters. Bill History: 03-09-23 S Received in the Senate
HB 2716	Hefner, Ellyn (F)(D) Kirt, Julia(D)	Requires the Dept. of Human Services to report to the Legislative Office of Fiscal Transparency on payments made to providers for certain services to individuals with intellectual disabilities and plan for serving more individuals; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 03-13-23 S Received in the Senate
HB 2718	Hefner, Ellyn (F)(D) Montgomery, John(R)	Creates the Oklahoma Promise Opportunity Scholarship Act and accompanying program to provide awards to eligible students pursuing studies in a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program for students with disabilities. Bill History: 03-23-23 S Received in the Senate
HB 2722	Hefner, Ellyn (F)(D) Montgomery, John(R)	Requires certain governmental organizations and future contacts to provide or make accessible information about ABLE accounts and programs; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 03-23-23 S Received in the Senate

HB 2854	Wallace, Kevin(R) Thompson, Roger(R)	Terminates the state defined contribution plan, transferring participants into the standard Public Employees Retirement System with service credits to be purchased, such changes to be defined as non-fiscal under legislative requirements.
		Bill History: 03-21-23 S Received in the Senate
SB 302	Thompson, Roger(R) Osburn, Mike(R)	Directs most state agencies to convert to a web-based payroll system that provides employee payment every two weeks by July, 2025 under OMES supervision; EMERGENCY.
		Bill History: 03-09-23 H Received in the House
SB 534	Rosino, Paul(R) West, Tammy(R)	Changes the maximum adjusted gross income to 300 percent of the federal poverty level for the purpose of qualifying for assistance for a child that is severely developmentally disabled; EMERGENCY.
		Bill History: 02-27-23 H Received in the House
SB 621	Pugh, Adam(R) Hill, Brian(R)	Creates an Oklahoma Workforce Commission to coordinate programs and funds for workforce development in the state; EMERGENCY.
		Bill History: 03-08-23 H Received in the House
SB 773	Rosino, Paul(R) Miller, Nicole(R)	Adjusts the focus and responsibilities of the Dept. of Transportation Advanced Mobility Pilot Program and creates a fund for the program's needs.
		Bill History: 02-23-23 H Received in the House
SJR 19	Bergstrom, Micheal(R)	Approves certain proposed permanent rules of various state agencies.
		Bill History: 03-29-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m., Room 4S.9 - Senate Administrative Rules

Education Bills

HB 1028	Talley, John(R) Floyd, Kay(D)	Prohibits school district personnel from using corporal punishment on any student with significant cognitive disabilities as identified by the Dept. of Education.
		Bill History: 03-21-23 S Received in the Senate

HB 1035	Rosecrants, Jacob(D) Pemberton, Dewayne(R)	Provides exemptions for school absence requirements to students missing class for mental health assessments and therapy sessions. Bill History: 03-27-23 S Received in the Senate
HB 1424	Vancuren, Mark(R) Garvin, Jessica (F)(R)	Creates an Education Employee Assistance Program within the Dept. of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to provide mental health services support to school district employees and their families; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 03-21-23 S Received in the Senate
HB 1426	Vancuren, Mark(R) Stanley, Brenda(R)	Protects accumulated teacher sick leave from being lost due to any break in employment and ensures it is transferrable; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 03-14-23 S Received in the Senate
HB 1441	Provenzano, Melissa(D) Pugh, Adam(R)	Adjusts the timing and frequency of certain mandatory training and professional development courses for school teachers; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 03-27-23 S Received in the Senate
HB 1935	McCall, Charles(R) Treat, Greg(R)	Creates the Oklahoma Parental Choice Tax Credit Act which establishes an income tax credit for certain qualifying private school and alternative education expenses and a related fund; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 03-27-23 S Senator Daniels removed as sponsor, replaced by Senator Treat
HB 2007	Davis, Dean(R) Rosino, Paul(R)	Requires outerwear to be removed prior to or during any warrantless search by school officials for weapons, controlled substances, alcoholic beverages, or certain stolen property. Bill History: 03-14-23 S Received in the Senate
HB 2158	Lowe, Dick(R) Stanley, Brenda(R)	Modifies school graduation requirements to include a half unit of personal financial literacy; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 03-23-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education
HB 2162	Lowe, Dick(R) Pemberton, Dewayne(R)	Adds ten additional years to the top end of the certified school employee salary schedule, commensurate with experience of up to 35 years; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 03-14-23 S Received in the Senate

HB 2528	Lepak, Mark(R) Garvin, Jessica (F)(R)	Modifies school employee applications to the Teachers' Retirement System, adjusts membership requirements, benefits, options, and repeals provisions relating to prior service credits and unclassified positions heading the System; EMERGENCY.
		Bill History: 03-21-23 S Received in the Senate
HB 2555	McBride, Mark(R) Thompson, Roger(R)	Creates the Critical Industries Scholarship Program to institute a four-year pilot program to encourage high school graduates to pursue post-secondary education in critical economic growth areas; EMERGENCY.
		Bill History: 03-13-23 S Received in the Senate
HB 2558	McBride, Mark(R) Pugh, Adam(R)	Provides an annual salary bonus and test expenses reimbursement for certain teachers holding National Board Certification; EMERGENCY.
		Bill History: 03-14-23 S Received in the Senate
HB 2559	McBride, Mark(R) Pemberton, Dewayne(R)	Expands eligible participants in the Inspired to Teach scholarship program for prospective teachers to include those who have completed the GED and homeschooled students and adjusts certain hour requirement restrictions.
		Bill History: 03-13-23 S Received in the Senate
HB 2672	Baker, Rhonda(R) Pugh, Adam(R)	Adjusts reporting, expenditure requirements, and authorizing actions by school districts and the Department of Education relating to the Reading Sufficiency Act, requires formation of a literacy instructional team; EMERGENCY.
		Bill History: 03-21-23 S Received in the Senate
HB 2673	Baker, Rhonda(R) Pugh, Adam(R)	Provides for the statewide student assessment to include a retest of the college- and career-readiness assessment or certain portable career-readiness assessments; EMERGENCY.
		Bill History: 03-09-23 S Received in the Senate
HB 2676	Baker, Rhonda(R) Thompson, Roger(R)	Modifies several requirements for individualized programs of professional development of the School District Empowerment Program and allows local school district boards to adopt alternative evaluation programs and schedules; EMERGENCY.
		Bill History: 03-21-23 S Received in the Senate

HB 2775	McCall, Charles(R) Treat, Greg(R)	Makes various appropriations for school teacher pay increases, Redbud funds for underserved districts, and to the Oklahoma Student Fund, funds to be spent for teacher pay increases and certain other authorized expenses; EMERGENCY.
Bill History:		03-27-23 S Senator Daniels removed as sponsor, replaced by Senator Treat
SB 39	Stanley, Brenda(R) Vancuren, Mark(R)	Includes school support employees under provisions which protect school personnel from punitive actions when reporting or disclosing information they reasonably believe relate to a violation of law or constitutional rights; EMERGENCY.
Bill History:		03-08-23 H Received in the House
SB 99	Daniels, Julie(R) Lepak, Mark(R)	Establishes certain notice requirements for school employees authorizing payroll deductions for professional organizations and requires annual reauthorization.
Bill History:		03-14-23 H Received in the House
SB 100	Pemberton, Dewayne(R) Lowe, Dick(R)	Requires all school districts to undergo a risk and vulnerability assessment conducted by the School Security Institute every five years; EMERGENCY.
Bill History:		03-27-23 H Committee hearing cancelled House Common Education
SB 322	Seifried, Ally (F)(R) McBride, Mark(R)	Allows certain comprehensive transition and postsecondary programs approved by the federal Dept. of Education to qualify for state college tuition aid grants; EMERGENCY.
Bill History:		03-13-23 H Received in the House
SB 332	Dossett, Jo Anna (F)(D) Vancuren, Mark(R)	Adjusts the definition of a career teacher to include those who have taught for the requisite amount of time but across several different districts; EMERGENCY.
Bill History:		03-14-23 H Received in the House
SB 358	Daniels, Julie(R) Echols, Jon(R)	Removes requirement that recipients of the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program spend the year prior enrolled in a public school and exempts certain students from other eligibility requirements.
Bill History:		03-14-23 H Received in the House

SB 359	Pugh, Adam(R) Lowe, Dick(R)	Removes consideration of protested ad valorem tax revenue when calculating the Foundation Program Income and Salary Incentive Aid, further requires the Dept. of Education to include said protested revenue in its annual budget request.
		Bill History: 03-20-23 H Received in the House
SB 362	Pugh, Adam(R) Baker, Rhonda(R)	Removes certain exemptions for teachers and prospective teachers from submitting to criminal background checks, both state and national, when applying to new positions both in and out of their current school district; EMERGENCY.
		Bill History: 03-08-23 H Received in the House
SB 364	Pugh, Adam(R) Baker, Rhonda(R)	Provides that certain school employees shall be eligible for eight weeks of paid maternity leave upon childbirth, to expire after twelve months of childbirth, in addition to existing sick and pregnancy leave; EMERGENCY.
		Bill History: 03-23-23 H Received in the House
SB 397	Hamilton, Warren (F)(R) Conley, Sherrie(R)	Requires schools and public libraries to appoint committees to categorize materials as elementary, junior high, under 16, or juniors and seniors, materials not to be available to borrowers younger than the assigned category; EMERGENCY.
		Bill History: 03-08-23 H Received in the House
SB 428	Montgomery, John(R) Wallace, Kevin(R)	Allows school districts to enter into contracts with vendors providing security alert systems; EMERGENCY.
		Bill History: 03-27-23 H Committee hearing cancelled House Common Education
SB 467	Stanley, Brenda(R) Miller, Nicole(R)	Creates the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact Act to facilitate license equivalency and reciprocity between member states and their respective licensing authorities with the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact Commission; EMERGENCY.
		Bill History: 03-27-23 H Committee hearing cancelled House Common Education
SB 482	Pugh, Adam(R) McBride, Mark(R)	Provides for a new minimum salary schedule and benefits structure for certified school personnel; EMERGENCY.
		Bill History: 03-22-23 H Received in the House

SB 489	Thompson, Roger(R) Hilbert, Kyle(R)	Makes an appropriation to the Public Common School Building Equalization Fund from the Medical Marijuana Authority Fund for redbud school grants; EMERGENCY.
		Bill History: 03-23-23 H Received in the House
SB 516	Pugh, Adam(R) Echols, Jon(R)	Abolishes the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board, creating the Statewide Charter School Board with definitions, duties, and a revolving fund, exempts such schools from certain rules and statutory requirements.
		Bill History: 03-23-23 H Received in the House
SB 522	Pugh, Adam(R) Baker, Rhonda(R)	Requires the State Board of Education to allocate funds to school districts for mentor teachers providing guidance and support to a new teacher; EMERGENCY.
		Bill History: 03-20-23 H Received in the House
SB 525	Pugh, Adam(R) Hasenbeck, Toni(R)	Requires teachers that successfully complete certain competency exams to be reimbursed for the cost of the exam by their employing school district; EMERGENCY.
		Bill History: 03-20-23 H Received in the House
SB 526	Pugh, Adam(R) Echols, Jon(R)	Removes provisions relating to the Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Evaluation System and related incentive pay plans; EMERGENCY.
		Bill History: 03-08-23 H Received in the House
SB 527	Pugh, Adam(R) Martinez, Ryan(R)	Provides the definition of an English learner, adjusts the school funding formula's factor for transportation and adjusts weights for certain student categories and grade levels; EMERGENCY.
		Bill History: 03-27-23 H Received in the House
SB 630	Montgomery, John(R) Lepak, Mark(R)	Updates certain provisions of state retirement systems to maintain compliance with federal regulations; EMERGENCY.
		Bill History: 03-21-23 H Received in the House
SB 926	Jett, Shane (F)(R) Vancuren, Mark(R)	Places certain maximum limitations on credits for salary increments and retirement that teachers may be granted based on military service history; EMERGENCY.
		Bill History: 03-23-23 H Received in the House

General Government Bills

HB 2329 Boatman, Jeff(R)
Weaver, Darrell(R) Adjusts various responsibilities, compensation, duties and qualifications for the Chief Information Officer, including directing the creation of a 3-Year IT Strategic Plan.

Bill History: 03-22-23 S Received in the Senate

HB 2376 Kannady, Chris(R)
Hall, Chuck(R) Adjusts provisions related to state employee benefits, providing a maximum of 640 hours of carryover leave and clarifying services which qualify for inclusion in benefits calculations; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 03-23-23 S Received in the Senate

HB 2461 Hill, Brian(R)
Paxton, Lonnie(R) Creates the Oklahoma Capitol Critical Infrastructure Act which declares the State Capitol Complex as critical infrastructure; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 03-21-23 S Received in the Senate

HB 2463 Hill, Brian(R)
Paxton, Lonnie(R) Removes requirements that OCAST establish certain programs and make health research program evaluations, making such actions permissive rather than required.

Bill History: 03-23-23 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Business & Commerce

HB 2749 Miller, Nicole(R)
Stanley, Brenda(R) Authorizes the Tourism and Recreation Dept. to create a state employee information and promotion program for state employees to enjoy amenities at discounted rates that do not inhibit facility operation.

Bill History: 03-14-23 S Received in the Senate

HB 2777 McCall, Charles(R)
Treat, Greg(R) Creates the Oklahoma Public Finance Protection Act which sets certain limitations and standards on the authority of fiduciaries for state government funds.

Bill History: 03-22-23 S Received in the Senate

SB 193 Garvin, Jessica (F)(R)
Archer, Nick (F)(R) Provides for 6 weeks of paid maternal leave for state employees upon the birth or adoption of a child.

Bill History: 03-13-23 H Received in the House

SB 434 [Montgomery, John\(R\)](#) [Lepak, Mark\(R\)](#) Requires various State retirement systems to promulgate administrative rules to ensure compliance with Internal Revenue Service regulatory requirements.

Bill History: 03-20-23 H Received in the House

SB 447 [Montgomery, John\(R\)](#) [Lepak, Mark\(R\)](#) States that in the event of an error in payment for employer contributions to the Public Employees Retirement system occurs for terminated employees, payments to rectify errors will not reinstate the former employee in the System.

Bill History: 03-13-23 H Received in the House

SB 630 [Montgomery, John\(R\)](#) [Lepak, Mark\(R\)](#) Updates certain provisions of state retirement systems to maintain compliance with federal regulations; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 03-21-23 H Received in the House

OMES Bills

[HB 2026](#) [Wolfley, Max\(R\)](#) [Pemberton, Dewayne\(R\)](#) Requires the Office of Management and Enterprise Services to provide an association representing state employees with a monthly reconciliation report with information related to opted in members.

Bill History: 03-23-23 S Received in the Senate

[SB 247](#) [Haste, John\(R\)](#) [Ford, Ross\(R\)](#) Defines barrack-style accommodations in jails and prisons.

Bill History: 03-14-23 H Received in the House

Open Meeting/Record Bills

[HB 2108](#) [Pae, Daniel\(R\)](#) [Howard, Brent\(R\)](#) Adjusts provisions of the Open Meeting Act to permit limited digital participation during public meetings and under set public access standards.

Bill History: 03-27-23 S Received in the Senate

[HB 2287](#) [Pfeiffer, John\(R\)](#)
[McCortney, Greg\(R\)](#) Establishes a Public Access Counselor within the Office of the Attorney General to review, upon request, rejected requests for inspection of public records.

Bill History: 03-23-23 S Received in the Senate

[HB 2377](#) [Culver, Bob Ed\(R\)](#)
[Haste, John\(R\)](#) Permits school personnel to keep confidential contracts for a student athlete's name, image or likeness disclosed to a postsecondary institution.

Bill History: 03-20-23 S Received in the Senate

[SB 1055](#) [Kidd, Chris\(R\)](#)
[Pae, Daniel\(R\)](#) Removes certain expired language from the Open Meetings Act related to the COVID-19 pandemic and videoconference attendance; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 03-22-23 H Received in the House

Workforce Dev. Bills

[HB 2457](#) [Hill, Brian\(R\)](#)
[Paxton, Lonnie\(R\)](#) Creates the NextGen Employee Development Program under the Dept. of Commerce to award funds for training and development of highly skilled workers in select industries; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 03-21-23 S Received in the Senate

[SB 398](#) [Pugh, Adam\(R\)](#)
[Duel, Collin \(F\)\(R\)](#) Identifies the Dept of Veterans Affairs to serve as the state's principal assistance organization for the U.S. Dept of Defense's Skill Bridge program, which is to assist qualified businesses and transitioning servicemembers with employment.

Bill History: 02-27-23 H Received in the House

[SB 621](#) [Pugh, Adam\(R\)](#)
[Hill, Brian\(R\)](#) Creates an Oklahoma Workforce Commission to coordinate programs and funds for workforce development in the state; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 03-08-23 H Received in the House

SUCCESS STORY



OKLAHOMA
Rehabilitation
Services

Client Success story

Client Name

Amy Jenkins

Hometown

Shawnee

Their story

Removing obstacles and optimizing profitability are compatible goals for Amy Jenkins, a process improvement consultant for ONE Gas.

Jenkins, from Shawnee, was hired at ONE Gas as a temporary customer service representative in 2005. She was promoted to a series of jobs with increasing responsibility over 17 years, including contract analyst and helping commercial and industrial customers purchase natural gas.

Jenkins, who uses a wheelchair, has a form of Muscular Dystrophy called Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease that causes peripheral nerve damage and loss of sensation in arms and legs.

She qualified for career counseling, tuition assistance and other employment services from Vocational Rehabilitation, a division of Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services that provides employment, education and independent living programs serving more than 184,000 people in 2022.

Jenkins was recognized in October as an award winner at the 35th Governor's Disability Employment Awards of Excellence at the Governor's Mansion in Oklahoma City.

"As a person with a disability, you're constantly finding a different way, a different



approach," Jenkins said. "My brain just works like 'What is the easiest way to get this done?' to find a better way, but also (deliver) a great product in the end."

Vocational Rehabilitation helped fund Jenkins' education at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton, her undergraduate degree in agricultural communications from Oklahoma State University. ONE Gas funded her master's degree in business administration from Oklahoma Christian University.

“Vocational Rehabilitation was also great in helping me evaluate my skills and figure out what kinds of employment I wanted to do,” Jenkins said.

In 2019 and 2020, when she was transitioning from walking with crutches to being in a wheelchair, Vocational Rehabilitation opened a new case to assist with modifications to her van and home to accommodate her new wheelchair.

“VR hired Jonathan Howard of Howard’s Construction to widen internal doors and door frames to give me more room to maneuver in my small house and put an awning over my back door, so I have time to get in and out in bad weather,” Jenkins said. “The home modifications wound up being incredibly nice because I spend so much more time there,” Jenkins said, adding that she teleworks more since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

DRS staff who helped change a client’s life

Vocational Rehabilitation staff

**OKLAHOMA
SCHOOL
FOR THE DEAF
REPORT**

Oklahoma School for the Deaf
DRS Commission Report
Dr. Heather Laine, Superintendent
April 10, 2023

OSD Overview

- January 17 - OSD new Superintendent began working.
- January 21 - Winter Basketball Homecoming
- January 28 - Grades 6 through 12 went on a field trip to Dallas to see the Holocaust Museum as a part of the cross-curricular study.
- The Middle School Math Team went to South Carolina School for the Deaf on the weekend of January 20 for the Southeast Regional Math Competition under NTID Youth Program. They placed 2nd place. They will go to RIT/NTID in New York on the weekend of March 31 for the Final Math Competition.
- February 2nd-4th - Great Plains Schools for the Deaf HS Basketball & Cheer Tournament at Iowa School for the Deaf
- February 16-20th - HS National Robotic Competition at Talladega, Alabama
- February 23-26th - JH National Robotic Competition at Talladega, Alabama
- March 2nd-4th - JH/HS Underwater ROV Competition at West Hartford, CT
- March 9 - OSD Parents event at OSD campus - Meet Supt Dr. Laine 2-3pm

Operations

- Career/Vocational Building - The roof is new and completed except the metal trimming, but the trimmings will be completed after all roof on the buildings have been replaced.
- Griffing Hall - Replacing the Hood in the kitchen is almost complete. Roof is completed except the metal trimming but that will be completed after all roof on the buildings have been replaced.
- Read Hall - 1st Floor was flooded by broken water pipes due to freezing temperature on December 25th. The Business Office was moved to the 2nd floor while the infirmary was moved to the schoolhouse temporarily.
- Read Hall - Elevator is being replaced.

- Read Hall - Roofing is in process.
- White Hall - 1st floor flooring will be replaced during summer.
- Stewart Hall - the renovations are nearly done but OMES has been working closely with Matt Neal. Matt, Trudy, and Dr. Laine did a walk through on March 1 to get some ideas. The bathrooms and flooring looked great. We wanted to put some colors there to make it a cozy home for our girls before they move into the dorm.
- Ken Brown Gym -
 - Roof replacement will begin on 3/6.
 - The ground floor including the gym floor was damaged by the water pipe breaking due to freezing temperatures on December 24th. OMES came on January 15 to check and determined that the floor on the first floor needed to be replaced.
- Spring Break - March 13-17 - Network Updates will be handled during spring break without any disruptions for the students and staff.

Family and Early Childhood Services (FECS)

PRESCHOOL UPDATE

- OSD has six preschool students at the Sulphur campus.

FEELS PROGRAM (FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND EARLY LANGUAGE SUPPORTS)

- OSD's statewide early intervention program
- Services at no charge to families
- Do not have to be an OSD student to receive services
- Currently serving 64 families and working 10 referrals
- We have three full time providers, searching to hire for a fourth full time provider, and we have five part time contract providers
- The team will attend the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Conference in Ohio from March 5 to 7.

DEAF MENTOR PROGRAM

- Oklahoma is now the 38th state to have the SKI-HI Deaf Mentor program
- Training happened in October with national SKI-HI trainers, Paula Pittman, and Jodee Crace.
- We have 10 mentors
- The Deaf Mentor program is under the FEELS program - required to be in an early intervention program
- 20 Families are participating, more are requesting services
- Pilot program funded through June by grant funds from the help of our

wonderful partners - Newborn Hearing Screening Program and Sooner Start.

- Need to secure funding for continuing the program

BABY BISON CLASS

- Parent toddler class at OSD Sulphur
- Meet once a week - Wednesday mornings
- Five current students

BABY BISON ON THE GO IN THE METRO

- Parent toddler group in OKC
- Varying locations - park, library
- Meet 2nd Wednesdays of the month
- Two current families

Special Education Department

- We are getting calls daily from families who are interested in enrolling their child to OSD.
- 2 scheduled tours for potential students
- 6 admissions applications
- School Based Social Worker through partnership with DHS began February

Instructional Program

- Students under the guidance of the teachers and leadership of Karen Standifer and Kristen Akerman performed our annual Winter Program: "Christmas Through the Decades". All students from PrK-12th grade participated in some type of fashion. Participation included: performing, creating the program, operating, and managing the stage lights, behind the scenes stage crew, and being involved with the Master of Ceremony - MC.
- The week of Jan 2 Lynn Dunn from NSRC came to campus where a two-day ACT Prep workshop was provided to our OSD Jr and Sr. She also provided additional training for our teachers in support of our Bi-Lingual program focusing on English print and writing skills in all areas of content.
- RISE program participated in a Winter games Special Olympic opportunity on January 13 and 14

- Middle school students attended the OKC Blue STEM program in OKC on February 28. Special thanks to our OSD Foundation. Kelsey Jones wrote a grant for the MS students to participate in this opportunity.
- Monday, March 6 - We will have Justin Loncar on the campus to provide two shows. He is a Deaf comedian. He is known for the Some Deaf Guy where he has funny skits related to his experiences as a Deaf person. First show at 1pm will be for the students and staff then open to the public at 7pm.
- March 7 - 3 Student Ambassadors have appointments set to visit with Legislators before PWDAD and a group of about 10 high school students

Outreach Department

- Sarah Jameson and Traci Prince hosted Leadership Murray County in January. Participants toured the campus, met students, observed in classrooms, and attended a presentation in which they learned about services provided by OSD, both on campus and off campus.
- The LINKS to Literacy program is underway. With the grant money we received (\$12,000), we are serving 7 public school students in mostly rural areas who are without deaf ed support. We have 5 Deaf language models/mentors. The language models will meet with the students weekly through August. Post assessments will be done to document language growth.
- The statewide deaf ed conference will not be held on campus due to ongoing renovations on the campus but will be held at the Chickasaw Retreat Center in Sulphur June 5-8. Registration opened February 21st. There will be tracks for early developmental specialists/early intervention, educational interpreters, and teachers of the deaf.
- Outreach and FEELS are working together planning two family events: April 15th in the OKC area, and April 29th in Tulsa. These events, "Oklahoma Family Connection" will provide parents of deaf or hard of hearing children the opportunity to engage with other families, will provide a place for children to interact with other children with a hearing loss, and provide insight to successes of Deaf and hard of hearing adults.
- The state department of education has asked OSD to establish a teacher training institute for Oklahoma special education teachers who would like to work with students who are deaf or hard of hearing, and

potentially pursue deaf ed certification. A program overview and scope of work has been submitted to OSDE for review. If approved, the institute will start in July.

- Our 3 Educational Consultants are currently serving 321 students in 114 public school districts. They continue to host roundtable discussions over various topics for public school teachers monthly.
- The state department of education educational interpreter registry is updated monthly. The EIPA CEU program calendar year ended in December. Any interpreter who did not attain their CEUs (10 hours) were removed from the registry per OSDE instruction. Interpreters have the option of being reinstated by contacting the Outreach office, submitting a request in writing, and completing their CEUs. There were 7 interpreters removed from the registry.

ASL Services / Equipment Program

- ASL Community Classes (Online) - 214,176 registered
- Family ASL Classes (Live through Google Meets for OSD families only) - 15 registered
- Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma has once again donated to the Senior Citizen's Hearing Aid Program. Waiting on date for check presentation
- Breakdown per program for services between July 1, 2022, to March 3, 2023:
 - Equipment Distribution Program - 80
 - Senior Citizens Hearing Aid Program - 90
 - Fund 216 (Donated money from the Mason's) - 165
 - Children's Hearing Aid Program - 4

Student Life (Dorm, Clubs, Athletics)

Dorm Life:

- Our female students are ready to move to Shasta Hall. The girls are very excited. They help the Director of Student Life pick colors they wanted in the dorms.
- Griffing Hall (2nd and 3rd Floor) will be a temporary residence for the male students because the renovations of the Blattner will begin this summer.
- Spring is coming and students are ready for outdoor activities. We are working on putting new looks on the five basketball half-courts with

new nets. This is a way for our students to enjoy playing different games such as basketball, 4-square, hopscotch, etc since they could not play in the gym due to the damaged floor from December when the pipe broke during freezing.

Clubs:

- OSD Junior National Association of the Deaf (Jr. NAD) hosted their Valentine's dance.
- OSD Jr. NAD has been planning a spirit week and fun activities to go with the National Deaf Youth Week on the week of March 6 and 9.
- The Performing Arts Club (PAC) will have their spring performance in April. They have been rehearsing since January. The performance is called "Chasing Charming"

Athletics:

- OSD basketball season is over. Our boys and girls team did not have the opportunity to participate in the Great Plains School for the Deaf (GPSD) tournament in Iowa this year due to the ice storm.
- HS and JRHS students participated in their Robotics competition at Arkansas School for the Deaf on the weekend of February 16-19 for high school and February 23-26 for middle school.
- Our Cheerleading team competed at the first ever National Deaf Cheer competition via Zoom on February 25. 12 Deaf schools participated.
- JrHS and HS teams went to American School for the Deaf in Connecticut to compete for the Drone competition on the weekend of March 2 and 5.
- Our RISE student competed in horseshoe competition and other special olympic events. They have a couple more events to attend to.
- Students have begun practicing in spring sports such as track and golf. The games have been scheduled between March 20 to April 29.
- Our Math middle school team will participate in the National Math Competition in New York on the weekend March 31.

COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DRS Communications Office
Commission for Rehabilitation Services Report 04/10/23

1. People with Disabilities Awareness Day 2023

Event Leader: Dana Tallon

Total Attended **653**

317 checked In

336 walk up

218 no shows

Total Awareness **871**

653 attended + 218 no shows

Total Volunteers **93**

81 checked in

12 walked up 8 no shows

Exhibit Tables **70**

13 DRS programs and 5 DRS divisions

Total Exhibitors **211**

163 checked in

48 walked up 59 no shows

Guests Only **349**

73 checked in

276 walked up 151 no shows

Dana Tallon Total Steps **18,763 (8.04 miles)**

PWDAD 2022 Award Winners

Rachel McLemore videoed and Brett Jones edited and captioned videos of Commissioner Theresa Flannery, Executive Director Melinda Freundt, Lt. Governor Matt Pinnell and 8 award winners for the first time.

VR Client of the Year: Dr. Phil Dupoint

SBVI Client: Hannah Dangle (mom Lisa Smith accepted)

OSB Student: Abigail Norton

OSD Student: Aracely Murillo

Excellence in Communications: Molly Payne, 1600 KUSH AM

Senator of the Year: Paul Rosino

Representative of the Year: Brian Hill.

2. DRS Switchboard

As DRS switchboard operator, Customer Service Representative Brett Freeman is the voice of DRS. He is the first contact many people have with the agency. Brett also routes many calls to other state agencies, especially DHS Developmental Disabilities Services. During the COVID years, Brett never stopped answering the DRS phone Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. while other agencies stopped using live operators and never returned to providing that service.

3. Client Success Stories

Administrative Assistant Cathy Martin tracks and posts success stories submitted by DRS staff to the Communications Team. Cathy researches each person's state senator and representative so that the Communications Team can deliver the success stories to lawmakers during PWDAD. Jody Harlan uses the database to research clients for media stories.

4. Top 21 Legislative Leaders

In 2022, External Relations Coordinator Jen Hardin identified 21 key legislative leaders serving in the Oklahoma Senate and House. We sometimes compare the Top 21 list with client success stories and leads from other sources. In May 2022, Jody Harlan wrote a story about Audrey Church, a successful SBVI client from Okemah who is employed as education coordinator for Okmulgee and Okfuskee County Youth Services. Her senator Roger Thompson serves as chair of the Senate Joint Committee on Budget and Appropriations. He also owns the Okemah News Leader newspaper, which published Audrey's hometown success story.

5. Commission Client Success Stories

In 2022, the Commission, assisted by Carol Brown, began selecting featured clients or students whose stories are presented at each Commission meeting. Communications Officer III Brett Jones researches and writes a story about each client and submits a photograph for the Commission packet.

6. Western Oklahoma Workforce Development Board Newsletter

Western Oklahoma Workforce Development Board asked Brett Jones to research and write a quarterly article about DRS clients, services and programs for their quarterly newsletter. His work helps to strengthen DRS' partnership with our partner Oklahoma Works and private businesses community colleges, training providers, elected officials and other workforce program leaders.

7. Social Media Scheduling and HootSuite

Communications Officer II Rachel McLemore schedules dozens of posts on DRS Facebook pages, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram every week. She uses a new social media scheduling platform called HootSuite to keep up with expanding demands for additional posts. Rachel writes many posts for DRS, but also rewrites or shares posts related to disability from outside DRS. She makes all the posts accessible, tracks social media comments and shares her own “Fiction Friday” book feature.

8. govDelivery.com

Communications Manager Dana Tallon uses the email service govDelivery.com to reach out to the public and DRS staff who sign themselves up for topics such as: General Information, Meeting Notices, Press Releases, Transition newsletters, Career Opportunities and Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. From March 2022 to February 2023, the number of a new subscribers grew by 157.42%. We had a 69.4% engagement rate for our emails, meaning recipients opened or clicked on links. We sent 95 emails to more than 114,000 recipients.

**DRS Communications Office
Media Stories January-March 2023**

- 03/27/23 ["350,000 attend OK School for the Deaf's online American Sign Language training"](#) – **Norman Transcript**
- 03/27/23 ["Oklahoma School for the Deaf seeking to teach more people sign language"](#) – KSWO TV
- 03/24/23 ["Pancake Day is Back!"](#) – **Muskogee Phoenix**
- 03/24/23 "350,000 attend OK School for the Deaf's online American Sign Language training" – KRFM Radio (Clay Center, Kansas) News Report, website & Facebook
- 03/23/23 ["Jace Wolfe Joins Oberkotter Foundation – Hearing First"](#) –
The Hearing Review
- 03/23/23 ["Sulphur School teaches sign language to the world"](#) –
KTEN TV
- Winter 2023 "Changing Perceptions" by Faye Miller - **California Transcribers and Educators for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CTEBVI) Journal**
- 03/22/23 ["350,000 attend OK School for the Deaf's American Sign Language online training"](#) – **Ada News**
- 03/22/23 ["Program to benefit businesses, disabled"](#) – **Journal Record**
- 03/21/22 ["OK Rehabilitation Services offering summer job help for students this summer"](#) – KSWO TV
- 03/20/23 Local lawmaker honored by disabilities agency as Senator of the Year" – **Yahoo!entertainment**
- 03/20/23 ["Local lawmaker honored by disabilities agency as Senator of the Year"](#) – **Norman Transcript**
- 03/18/23 "Hill, Rosino named legislators of the year by OKDRS" – **Yukon Progress**
- 03/16/23 "Lawmakers honored at People with Disabilities Awareness Day" – **Mustang Times**

- 03/16/23 “Lawmakers honored at People with Disabilities Awareness Day” – **Tuttle Times**
- 03/16/23 [“Client honor goes to EC resident”](#) – **Pauls Valley Democrat**
- 03/15/23 [“Woodward graduate wins award for work with DRS”](#) – **yahoo!life**
- 03/15/23 [“Woodward graduate wins award for work with DRS”](#) – **Woodward News**
- 03/13/23 [“Lunch and Learn being held by Department Of Rehabilitation Services”](#) - KSWO TV
- 03/11/23 [“HB 2775 best for Oklahoma kids, parents”](#) – **Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise**
- 03/10/23 [“People with Disabilities Awareness Day”](#) – OETA
“Oklahoma News Report”
- 03/10/23 [“Cushing resident wins Excellence in Communications award at People with Disabilities Awareness Day”](#) – 1600 KUSH AM
- 03/08/23 [“Happenings: Vision support Group Hosted by Ponca City New Lions”](#) – **Ponca City News**
- 03/04/23 “YHS hosts camp for youth with disabilities” (BEST) – **Yukon Progress**
- 03/04/23 “Oklahoma People with Disabilities Day planned for Monday (typo), March 7 – **Yukon Progress**
- 03/01/23 “Rehabilitation Services ends waiting list for some job-seekers” – **The Oklahoman**
- 03/01/23 “Oklahomans to be honored during People with Disabilities Awareness Day on March 7” – **City Sentinel** (print edition)
- 03/01/23 “DRS relocates Vocational Rehabilitation offices in Oklahoma City” – **City Sentinel** (print edition)
- 02/27/23 [“Free ASL Classes offered by School for the Deaf”](#) – KXII TV

- 02/25/23 "People with Disabilities Awareness Day set for March 7" – **Yukon Progress**
- 02/25/23 "Oklahomans to be honored during People with Disabilities Awareness Day" – **Anadarko News**
- 02/23/23 ["Oklahomans to be honored during People with Disabilities Awareness Day"](#) – **Muskogee Phoenix**
- 02/23/23 "Priority Group 1 reopening" – Live interview on KOCO TV Morning Show (Jody Harlan)
- 02/22/23 ["Oklahomans to be honored during People with Disabilities Awareness Day on March 7"](#) – **Black Chronicle**
- 02/21/23 ["Oklahomans to be honored during People with Disabilities Awareness Day on March 7"](#) – **City Sentinel**
- 02/19/23 ["Strategic Partners"](#) - Oklahoma Press Association's newsletter **The Oklahoma Publisher**
- 02/19/23 ["DRS relocates Vocational Rehabilitation offices in OKC"](#) – **Black Chronicle**
- 02/18/23 ["DRS relocates Vocational Rehabilitation offices in OKC"](#) – **City Sentinel**
- 02/17/23 ["Rehabilitation Services ends waiting list for jobseekers with most significant disabilities"](#) – **Chickasha News Star**
- 02/16/23 ["Rehabilitation Services ends waiting list for jobseekers with most severe disabilities"](#) – **Ada News**
- 02/15/23 [Rehabilitation Services ends waiting list for jobseekers with most significant disabilities](#) – KUSH Radio
- 02/15/23 Priority Group 1 reopens – Robin Marsh with KWTW News 9 live on the "Morning Show"
- 02/09/23 ["Students Test Math, Engineering Skills"](#) – **Muskogee Phoenix**
- 02/09/23 ["Oklahoma eases path for Deaf educators"](#) – KTEN TV

- 02/04/23 [“OK School the Deaf wins national coach, player of the year awards”](#) – **The Ada News**
- 02/24/23 [“OK School for the Deaf educators earn teaching certifications”](#) - **The Ada News**
- 02/02/23 [“Oklahoma School for the Deaf wins national coach, player of the year awards”](#) – **Ada News**
- 01/28/23 [“ASB hosts wrestling, cheerleading, & performing arts tournament”](#) – **The Daily Home** (Talladega, AL)
- 01/27/23 Braille literacy & SBVI programs (Teresa McDermott) – KOCO weekday morning show
- 01/24/23 [Ruth Porter Busby obituary](#) (donations to OLBPH) - Legacy
- 01/20/23 [“OSD to celebrate homecoming”](#) – **Ada News**
- 01/18/23 “January is Braille literacy month in Oklahoma” – **The Oklahoman**, “Community Briefs”
- 01/17/23 [“Oklahoma School for the Deaf welcomes new superintendent”](#) – **KTEN TV**
- 01/17/23 [“Kirschner Trusts awards \\$60,000 grants to Oklahoma School for the Blind”](#) – **Muskogee Phoenix**
- 01/14/23 “Problem-solving is key to success for ONE Gas process improvement consultant with Amy Jenkins - **The Hidden Workforce** with Lisa Toth on 105.7 The Bone in Tulsa, Anchor and Spotify
- 01/4/23 [“January is Braille Literacy Month in Oklahoma”](#) - **Oklahoma City Sentinel**
- 01/14/23 [“From the desk of Sen. Jessica Garvin”](#) – **The Duncan Banner**
- 01/14/23 [“New OSD superintendent starts January 17”](#) – **The Ada News**
- 01/12/23 [Oklahoma country singer-songwriter Cutter Elliott donates guitar to School for the Blind](#) - **City Sentinel**

- 01/12/23 [January is braille literacy month in Oklahoma | Community | duncanbanner.com](#) - **Duncan Banner**
- 01/11/23 ["New School for the Deaf Superintendent starts this January"](#) – KXII TV
- 01/11/23 ["January is braille literacy month"](#) – **Enid News & Eagle**
- 01/10/23 Disability services help workers conquer barriers – **Tahlequah Daily Press**
- 01/10/23 [Disability services help workers conquer barriers](#) – **Tahlequah Daily Press**
- 01/10/22 ["January is braille literacy month in Oklahoma"](#) – **Chickasha News-Star**
- 01/08/23 ["Just completely blown away: McDonald's employee with autism helps customer"](#) – **KTUL TV**
- 01/07/23 [Sulphur Oklahoma School for the Deaf squeezes past Jacksonville Illinois School for the Deaf 54-46](#) – **Herald& Review.com**
- 01/07/23 [Alabama School for the Deaf vs Oklahoma School for the Deaf \(High School Girls Basketball\)](#) – **MaxPreps.com**
- 01/04/23 ["Community Briefs: Country singer-songwriter Cutter Elliot makes a donation to the School for the Blind"](#) – **The Oklahoman**
- 01/04/23 ["CVTech students reach out to volunteer"](#) – **The Oklahoman**
- 01/02/23 ["Problem-solving is key to success for ONE Gas process improvement consultant"](#) – **The Seminole Producer**
- 01/01/23 "Art Notes: Country singer donates guitar to School for the Blind" – **The Oklahoman**

**OKLAHOMA
SCHOOL
FOR THE BLIND
REPORT**

OSB Commission Report April 10, 2023

Oklahoma School for the Blind has had a busy year. Each month brought a variety of events.

We held parent teacher conferences on October 11, January 10, and March 7.

National School Lunch week, October 10 – 14, was recognized and Muskogee Mayor Marlon Coleman ate lunch with our students on October 12.

October 12 was also the day that we recognized White Cane Day. Students went downtown to walk and demonstrate proper cane usage. Senior Rayce Phillips spoke to discuss the importance of this day.

Our FCCLA has sponsored two blood drives this year, October 17, and January 17. They have another one scheduled for April 18.

Our annual Fall Festival was held on October 25. This week also was Red Ribbon Week that promotes the dangers of drug use.

OSB middle and high school students attended the Sports Extravaganza in Texas October 28-30. The teams competed in goalball, archery, races, long jump and shotput.

November started off with our Spaghetti Dinner, silent auction, and dessert auction fundraiser. This was held on November 1 and along with the matching funds from the Masonic Lodge, we raised \$15,000.00.

The 10th Annual Oklahoma Regional Cane Quest was held on November 2. There were 36 cane users from across the state that competed. OSB students did an excellent job with many placing in the gold, silver, and bronze categories.

November 12 OSB held the 2022 Panther Pride 5K sponsored by our Student Council. Race day was a very cold one, but we still had 35 runners. Many of our staff participated and placed in the race. We also had one of our students place in his age division.

Mississippi School for the Blind traveled to our campus on November 11-13 for wrestling and cheerleading clinics. It was a fun weekend and enjoyed by all.

We had 53 of our students participate in World Stack Up Day. This event took place November 15-17 with people from all over the world participating. Each

person had to spend at least 30 minutes “cup stacking” to be counted towards the goal. With the help of our students a new world record was set of 737,863.

Through our ESSER afterschool grant we hosted our first “Weekend with the Experts” on our campus December 2-3. Our Outreach Department worked with five families to teach them techniques to assist their blind or visually impaired child. We held our second event in Oklahoma City on February 24-25 and have one other one scheduled in Lawton on April 21-22.

FCCLA students participated in STAR events. Two OSB members received first place in their division and advanced to regional competition. The girls represented OSB in the FCCLA Region STAR Events on February 8-9. The girls qualified to participate at the next level in the Children’s Literature category. FCCLA leadership team also had the opportunity to attend the Get SET conference in Owasso in December. STAR stands for Students Taking Action for Recognition.

A special project was sponsored by our 7th grade Character Education class. They collected books and toys and delivered these to the Saint Francis Children’s Hospital on December 13.

Homecoming was held on January 10 with Kaylie Minter being crowned 2022-23 Homecoming Queen. The ceremony was followed by wrestling matches between OSB and Hulbert High School. After all the events, the students attended a reception in the REC.

On January 26-29, wrestlers, cheerleaders, and band students traveled to Talladega, Alabama for SCASB. Our students all did an amazing job and we had two students, William Winston, and Katelynn Zampella place first in their divisions.

The 2023 Spelling Bee was held on January 24. This year we had 20 students from 1st – 8th grade. Two of our students will proceed to the Eastern Oklahoma State Spelling Bee on April 21.

Middle school students participated in the Math and Engineering Competition held in Muskogee on February 9. These students represented themselves and the school well.

The 21st Annual Oklahoma Regional Braille Challenge was held on our campus on March 1. We had 31 contestants compete. Students worked hard to prepare for the contest. Many of our students received gold, silver, or bronze medals. Muskogee Mayor Coleman came to present medals to our winners.

On March 7th, students and staff were in OKC to meet with legislators and attend PWDAD.

March 22 was a busy day for students. Many of them attended Special Olympics that day. In the afternoon we had a mobile dairy visit, and the students had an opportunity to go outside and visit the dairy trailer.

Our Junior/Senior prom is March 29. The students will be treated to a delicious dinner and then a DJ will play for the remainder of the evening.

Upcoming events include: SCASB track in Austin, Texas April 19-23; Spring concert May 9; Graduation May 18.

Our afterschool program that we have in large part to the ESSER grant we received is going extremely well. In addition to tutoring students, we have many specialized clubs. Mr. Miller has a 3-D printing club. Mrs. Hargrove holds a beading club and Braille club. Ms. Leatherman and Mrs. Eckerson have the Mileage club, which helps students log how many miles they walk each week. They then receive tokens for those miles. The OSU HOP Program (High Obesity Program) has partnered with us on different events. In February they taught elementary students how to make healthy snacks out of waffles, fruit, and other toppings. In March students were treated to making homemade hummus.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Bryant for Rita J. Echelle, OSB Superintendent

COMMISSION MINUTES

**Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services
Department of Rehabilitation Services
In-Person and Videoconferencing
Commission Minutes
March 31, 2023**

Jace Wolfe, Commission Chair
Wes Wolfe, Commission Vice Chair
Theresa Flannery, Commission Member

Sign Language Interpreters are provided for public accessibility

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard. Two Commissioners were in attendance; therefore, there was a quorum.

PRESENT

Wes Hilliard, Commission Vice Chair
Theresa Flannery, Commission Member

NOT PRESENT

Jace Wolfe, Commission Chair

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Carol Brown, Commission Assistant confirmed the Commission for Rehabilitation Services follows the Open Meetings Act.

ACTION ITEMS

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard asked for a motion and vote to approve the February 13, 2023, Commission for Rehabilitation Services regular Meeting Minutes. Commission Assistant Brown stated there was a correction to these minutes, removal of unnecessary wording in last paragraph of Jody Harlan's Longevity information.

Motion was made by Commissioner Flannery to accept the minutes with the correction and seconded by Vice-Chair Hilliard to approve the February 13, 2023, minutes as corrected. Both Commissioners voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

DRS PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard recognized Tina Calloway, Administrative Program Officer. She reviewed the DRS Proposed Administrative Rules. Commissioner Flannery questioned why 612:10-7-1, line 72, and 612:10-7-62 lines 3 and 22 had the word maintain added and had stricken retain, regain, or advance. Commissioner Flannery further stated she had read RSA FAQ22-03 guidance and the words "maintain, regain, or advance" are included in the explanation for post-employment services. Why are the words were deleted on DRS Proposed Administrative Rules? After discussion by Chris Kennedy, VR Field Manager, and Mark Kinnison, VR Director it was decided to leave

maintain in and unstrike retain, regain, and advance. Melinda Fruendt, Executive Director, stated RSA will be in DRS offices the week of May 8th and she will discuss this with them.

Motion was made by Commissioner Flannery “on DRS Proposed Administrative Rules 612:10-7-1 line 72 keep the added word, maintain and unstrike retain, regain, or advance, and on 612:10-7-62 lines 3 and 22 keep the added word maintain and unstrike retain regain, or advance”. Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard seconded the motion. Both Commissioners voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

REQUEST TO ABOLISH FIXED RATES FOR PRIVATE TRADE, BARBER, AND COSMETOLOGY SCHOOLS

Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard recognized Kathy Lowry, Manager/Compliance Officer. Mrs. Lowry requested to abolish the current fixed rates. Statue Title 74 O.S. §85.7(A)(6)(g) allows DRS exemption from the requirement to go through Central purchasing to change rates. She also stated the rates must be abolished before new ones can requested.

Motion was made by Commissioner Flannery “to accept the abolishment of the fixed rates”. Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard seconded the motion. Both Commissioners voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard asked if there was any New Business. There was none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard announced the date and location of next regular meeting of the Commission for Rehabilitation Services is **April 10, 2023**, at 10:30 a.m., DRS State office 3535 NW 58th Street, 2nd Floor Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard asked if there were any public comments. Jonathon Cook said there were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commission Vice-Chair Hilliard and seconded by Commissioner Flannery to adjourn. Both Commissioners voted in the affirmative. Motion passed

**Respectfully submitted by Carol Brown, Commission Assistant
March 31, 2023**

**PROPOSED
CHANGES TO COSTS AT
TRADE SCHOOLS**

NEW RATES FOR PRIVATE TRADE, BARBER, & COSMETOLOGY SCHOOLS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On behalf of the VR and SBVI Divisions, we are requesting approval to increase the current rates for Private Trade, Barber, and Cosmetology schools by 10 percent. The current rates have been in place since May 8, 2000, and are as follows:

Private Trade Schools	\$6.50 per clock hour or \$104 per credit hour
Barber Schools	\$3688 for 1500 hours/\$2.46 per hour
Cosmetology Schools	\$3315 for 1500 hours/\$2.21 per hour

Tuition rates at public and private schools have increased over the past 23 years and raising the rates by 10 percent will close the gap a little bit for those clients who are attending a private school for training that may not be available at a public school and is feasible for the client. The proposed tuition rates will not exceed the public schools' tuition rates. If approved the new rates will be in effect July 1, 2023 for Fiscal Year 2024.

The DRS administrative rule in place for setting and approving rates for private school contracts is 612:10-7-161, which states that tuition at a privately owned vocational schools will be paid at the rates approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services sitting as the Rates and Standards Committee.

New proposed rates are as follows:

Private Trade Schools	\$7.15 per clock hour or \$114.40 per credit hour
Barber Schools	\$4056.80 for 1500 hours/\$2.70 per hour
Cosmetology Schools	\$3646.50 for 1500 hours/\$2.43 per hour

Financial Impact:

A 10 percent increase would impact the budget by approximately \$10,000 per year.

Authorization history shows that expenditures for private trade, barber, and cosmetology schools in FY 2022 was \$108,083. In FY 2023 there has only been \$66,785 authorized to date.

**PROPOSED
CHANGES TO RATES
FOR PRIVATE
CONTRACTED
VOCATIONAL
EVALUATORS**

Executive Summary

Request to increase Rates for Private Contracted Vocational Evaluators

On behalf of the VR and SBVI Divisions, we request approval to increase the current rates for contracted Vocational Evaluators.

The current rates for Contractor Vocational Evaluators to Administer Vocational Testing to our DRS clients, were established and approved by the DRS Commission and the State Purchasing Director in 2009. There has not been an increase in these Evaluator rates for 14 years.

We would like to increase the rate of the Contractor Vocational Evaluators from \$450.00 per evaluation to \$750.00 per evaluation. DRS has been supplying the testing materials for the Evaluators and will stop providing these materials and Contracted Vocational Evaluators will be responsible for the purchase of their own testing materials, with DRS input as to tests used during evaluations. This cost is approximately \$800.00 per year.

Total paid in 2022 = \$71,810.65

Financial impact to the DRS Budget = \$43,800 less cost of testing materials for the contractors to begin bearing, in the amount of \$800 for an impact of \$43,000.

In the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, Internal Acquisition Procedures, it states:

6.8 FIXED RATE CONTRACTS. This contract method is utilized only when the services are provided directly to persons benefiting from the services and shall not be used for consultants or to purchase items.

6.8.1 Fixed Rate Hearing Process. The Central Departmental Services reviews and determines if a rate should be presented to the DRS Commission for consideration and/or approval. Upon a decision to present the issue to the DRS Commission for approval, a notice of hearing is published at least 30 days prior to the meeting. An agenda item is included for discussion of the proposed fixed rate at least 30 days prior to the meeting where approval/disapproval is voted upon by the Commission. A service qualification

is also presented to the State Purchasing Director at least 30 days prior to the hearing date. All documents supporting the fixed rate are submitted to the State Purchasing Director at this time, and the State Purchasing Director may submit written comments prior to the hearing or oral comments at the hearing. The State Purchasing Director shall advise DRS if he/she determines the fixed rate proposed is excessive. If the State Purchasing Director provides written comments and is absent from the hearing, the comments shall be presented orally during the hearing. The State Purchasing Director comments, whether written or oral, shall be included in the hearing minutes.

6.8.2 Fixed Rate Approval. Upon approval of the rate by the DRS Commission, the State Purchasing Director is notified in writing and the rate is considered approved.

DRS has an exemption from the Central Purchasing Act for client services, and we are not required to have these rates approved by the State Purchasing Director. DRS will only need to request approval from the DRS Commission to set new rates.

There will be identified rates for each type of evaluation that the Commission would approve, along with future increases as the market bears. Eliminating the process for requesting approval by the State Purchasing Director will be more effective and efficient.

Until new rates are established and approved by the DRS Commission, we will continue to pay the current rates. The current rates are as follows:

- Vocational Evaluation \$450.00 plus testing materials
- Self-Employment Evaluation \$450.00 plus testing materials

Upon the DRS Commission's approval, the new rate will be in effect July 1, 2023, for Fiscal Year 2024.

**OKLAHOMA
LIBRARY FOR
THE BLIND AND
PHYSICALLY
HANDICAPPED
DONATION REPORT**

**OLBPH Donation Report
February & March 2023**

	Name	Cash	Fund	Property	Value
Cash Donations (Under \$500)					
Date					
3-Mar-23	Herman and Mary Lipe	\$200.00	216		
Subtotal of Cash (Under \$500)		\$200.00	216		
Material Donations (Under \$500)					
17-Feb-23	OLBPH Friends Group			Floating wall shelf	\$46.99
	Oklahomans for Special			Studio Monitor	\$202.15
	Library Services (OSLS)				\$249.14
Subtotal of Materials (Under \$500)					
Material Donations (Over \$500)					
17-Feb 23	OLBPH Friends Group			3 SSD Harddrives	\$625.47
	Oklahomans for Special			4 Dynamic Cardioid Mics	\$2,196.00
	Library Services (OSLS)				\$2,821.47
Subtotal of Materials (Over \$500)					
TOTAL DONATION AMOUNT		\$3,070.61			

**OKLAHOMA SCHOOL
FOR THE DEAF
MONTHLY
DONATION
REPORT**

OSD Donation Report

February-March 2023

Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Explanation	Property Value
Donations Under \$500.00					
12/5	Walmart			Dorm Hygiene needs for dorms	124.23
12/7	Artesian Hotel			OSD Yearbook raffle - 2 gift cards-Hotel room & food	458.00
2/22	Anonymous (Paid with gift Card			Classroom/Library-Books sent to Stacy Edgar	26.95
3/22	Curriculum Associates	72.00		Curriculum samples sent to K. Akerman for reading	
	Subtotal Cash Under \$500.00	72.00		Subtotal Property Under \$500.00	609.18
Donations Over \$500.00					
2/2	OKC Community Foundation	15,000.00	21600	Links for Literacy/Health & Wellness for Traci Prince & FEELS Money for Petra Gatzemeyer	
3/22	Oklahoma Arts Council	500.00	21600	Grant Awarded in November 2022	
		<u>15,500.00</u>			
	Subtotal Cash Combined	15,572.00		Subtotal Property Combined	609.18
Total donation for February-March		\$16,181.18			

**OKLAHOMA SCHOOL
FOR THE BLIND
MONTHLY
DONATION
REPORT**

OSB DONATION REPORT

February 2023 Donations

Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Property	Value
Donations under \$500					
2/9/2023	Casey's General Stores	\$ 124.00	701		
2/23/2023	Lawton Council of the Blind, Inc.	\$ 500.00	216		
Subtotal of Cash (under \$500) donated in February 2023		\$ 624.00		Subtotal prop.	\$ -
Donations \$500 and over					
2/20/2023	UAFS Delta Gamma Sorority	\$ 954.00	216		
2/22/2023	Patsi Nix Smith / FACS kitchen	\$ 10,000.00	216		
Subtotal of Cash (\$500 and over) donated in February 2023		\$ 10,954.00		Subtotal prop.	\$ -
TOTAL DONATION AMOUNTS February - 2023		\$11,578.00			

OSB DONATION REPORT

March 2023 Donations

Donations under \$500						
Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Property	Value	
3/27/2023	OHCE / Jr-Sr class	\$ 40.00	701			
Subtotal of Cash (under \$500) donated in March 2023		\$ 40.00				\$ -
Donations \$500 and over						
3/9/2023	Patsi Nix Smith / FACS lab renovation	\$ 5,000.00	216			
3/9/2023	The Nix Foundation / FACS lab renovation	\$ 15,000.00	216			
3/21/2023	Frank Dirksen / Athletic supplies & O&M Bingo	\$ 1,000.00	701			
3/30/2023	Cherokee Nation / Educational needs	\$2,886.63	701			
3/30/2023	New Hope UMC / beeper eggs			beeper eggs	\$ 1,250.00	
				toddler cane,		
				toys,		
				learning		
				materials	\$ 1,000.00	
Subtotal of Cash (\$500 and over) donated in March 2023		\$ 23,886.63		Subtotal prop.		\$ 2,250.00
TOTAL DONATION AMOUNTS March - 2023		\$26,176.63				