



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

OKLAHOMA SUMMIT 2025

The 2025 legislative session looked a lot different than it had for the past 8 years. Both the House and Senate had their first legislative sessions with new leadership at the helm, with President Pro Tempore of the Senate Lonnie Paxton (R)- Tuttle and Speaker of the House Kyle Hilbert (R) – Depew, both strong CareerTech supporters. These leadership changes also brought about many new committee chairs and even a new committee process in the House. Additionally, 31 new lawmakers were sworn in after the 2024 elections— 14 new state senators and 17 new state representatives. These fresh faces made up roughly 21% of the Legislature, with 25 Republicans and 6 Democrats among them.

It was a busy legislative session with legislators filing 3,273 bills for the first session of the 60th Oklahoma Legislature. Of those filed bills, only 499 were ultimately passed and signed into law or became law without the Governor's signature, a 15% pass rate. OKACTE began the session tracking 700 of those newly filed bills and will continue to follow many of those which did not pass this session as they remain alive for the 2nd session of the 60th Legislature.

Included in the 499 passed bills were several major pieces of legislation including: a 0.25% reduction in the state income tax, reducing the top bracket from 4.75% to 4.5%, with a path toward elimination, the establishment of business courts, a ban on cellphone use in schools, and expanded voter petition restrictions.

Lawmakers passed a \$12.59 billion general appropriations bill (House Bill 2766) to fund state services for the 2026 fiscal year. The budget included:

- An increase of \$11.6 million for CareerTech- \$2.1 billion for Flex Benefit payments and \$9.5 million for increased program and operational supports,
- Additional appropriations for other public education sectors, mental health services, public safety, healthcare, roads, and infrastructure
- Targeted capital investments of \$250 million for the OSU veterinary school and \$200 million for a pediatric heart hospital at OU.

We know that in order to continue to expand CareerTech's programs and accommodate more students from the waiting lists, we have to continue to push for more funding in future years but are thankful the legislature continues to invest in our workforce and training expansion efforts.

We will be even more strategic and laser focused moving into the 2026 session to push for more CTE funding to increase enrollment, protect students abilities to choose CTE pathways and reduce barriers for students and teachers.

2025 INTERIM STUDIES

Of the 242 Interim Studies approved in the Senate and House, CareerTech is currently following or will be engaged in 53 interim studies that could affect our programs, students or operations. Committees will start holding hearings on those interim study topics beginning in August and those studies usually go through the end of November. Often our association, agency or members will be asked to testify or present at these studies and we will keep you updated as those meetings occur. You can find a list of all the studies we are tracking below.

HSP1005 Archer, Nick(R)

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A study on methods to make Oklahoma a global hub for suborbital aerospace activity.

Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Sent to subcommittee House
Approp Sub: Transportation

HSP1014 Grego, Jim(R)

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A study on market-based pay for agencies compared to other states.

Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Sent to subcommittee House
Approp Sub: General Government

HSP1028 Lay, Mike (F)(R)

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A study on workforce requirements for incoming NE Oklahoma economic development.

Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Referred to House Committee
on House Business

HSP1029 Lay, Mike (F)(R)

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A study on CareerTech needs.

Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Referred to House Committee
on House Postsecondary Ed

HSP1038 McCane, Michelle

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(F)(D)

A study on high school grade level classification, based on earned credits.

Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Referred to House Committee
on House Common Education

HSP1039	Hefner, Ellyn(D)	A study on use cases for AI in health and energy sectors to pursue efficiencies.
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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Health

HSP1044	Caldwell, Chad(R)	A study on classroom technology.
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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Approved as a Joint Study with the Senate, Senate to name a committee

HSP1045	Caldwell, Chad(R)	A study on concurrent enrollment, comparing Oklahoma to other states.
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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Sent to subcommittee House Approp Sub: Education

HSP1056	Dobrinski, Mike(R)	A study on emergency communication systems.
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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Approved with HSP1069 and HSP1133

HSP1062	Lepak, Mark(R)	A study on new and revised public sector defined contribution retirement plans.
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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Approved with HSP1009 and Joint with the Senate

HSP1065	Osburn, Mike(R)	A study on recruitment in the state compared to other states.
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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Referred to House Committee on House Rules

HSP1067 Johns, Ronny(R) A study on incentive pay for teachers.

 Pugh, Adam(R)

Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Approved as a Joint Study with the Senate

HSP1068 Hasenbeck, Toni(R) A study on teacher recruitment and retention.



Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Sent to subcommittee House Approp Sub: Education

HSP1071 Timmons, Aletia (F)(D) A study on economic development and affordable housing needs in Eastern Oklahoma county.



Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Referred to House Committee on House Business

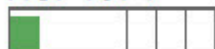
HSP1073 Timmons, Aletia (F)(D) A study on education reading readiness.



Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Referred to House Committee on House Common Education

HSP1074 Hill, Brian(R) A study on statewide workforce needs.



Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Referred to House Committee on House Postsecondary Ed

HSP1076 Hill, Brian(R) A study on barriers to business innovation in the state.



Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Referred to House Committee on House Business

HSP1077 Timmons, Aletia (F)(D) A study on incentives for workforce development and compensation for clerks, bailiffs and other court support personnel.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Sent to subcommittee House Approp Sub: Judiciary

HSP1088 Hall, Rob (F)(R) A study on charter school facility funding and authorization.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Sent to subcommittee House Approp Sub: Education

HSP1091 Schreiber, Suzanne(D) A study on building code revisions to encourage workforce development housing.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Referred to House Committee on House Business

HSP1095 Fetgatter, Scott(R) A study on OMES.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Sent to subcommittee House Approp Sub: Finance

HSP1098 Lepak, Mark(R) A study on Secure Oklahoma Now and related legislative options.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Safety

HSP1113 Williams, Danny(R) A study on international and state medical and nursing recruitment.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Health

HSP1117 Williams, Danny(R) A study on Ad Valorem tax reform.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Approved with HSP1127, HSP1128, HSP1148, HSP1152

HSP1122 Williams, Danny(R) A study on film in Oklahoma.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Referred to House Committee on House Business

HSP1125 Hasenbeck, Toni(R) A study on post-secondary educational opportunities in rural Oklahoma.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Referred to House Committee on House Postsecondary Ed

HSP1127 Crosswhite-Hader, Denise(R) A study on property tax exemptions.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Approved with HSP1117, HSP1128, HSP1148, HSP1152

HSP1128 Crosswhite-Hader, Denise(R) A study on property tax freezes for senior citizens.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Approved with HSP1117, HSP1127, HSP1148, HSP1152

HSP1136 Alonso-Sandoval, Arturo(D) A study on the use of AI in education.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Approved with HSP1137

HSP1137 Alonso-Sandoval, Arturo(D) A study on the ethics of generative artificial intelligence use.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Approved with HSP1136

HSP1143 Banning, Chris(R) A study on workforce delivery system reform.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-28-25 H Rep. Tedford removed as author, replaced by Rep. Banning

HSP1144 Newton, Carl(R) A study on healthcare workforce pipeline.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Approved with HSP1154

HSP1148 Lawson, Mark(R) A study on Ad Valorem for older Oklahomans.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Approved with HSP1117, HSP1127, HSP1128, HSP1152

HSP1152 Townley, Tammy(R) A study on expanding Ad Valorem exemptions for older Oklahomans.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-25-25 H Approved with HSP1117, HSP1127, HSP1128, HSP1148

SSP1004 Boren, Mary(D) A study on the A-F school report card system.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-02-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education

SSP1011 Boren, Mary(D) A study on parental rights in schools.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-02-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Education

SSP1015 Bullard, David(R) A study on OMES focused on the original intent of the agency's purpose.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-02-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Retirement & Government Resources

SSP1017 Bullard, David(R) A study on property taxes and ways to eliminate them.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-02-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Revenue & Taxation

SSP1026 Coleman, Bill(R) A study on reforms for workforce delivery systems.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-02-25 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Econ Development, Workforce & Tourism

SSP1028 Dossett, Jo Anna(D) A study on paid family leave.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-02-25 S Referred to Senate Committee
Senate Econ Development, Workforce &
Tourism

SSP1032 Frix, Avery (F)(R) A study on policies to provide support to
students grieving loss.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-02-25 S Referred to Senate Committee
Senate Education

SSP1045 Hicks, Carri(D) A study on accountability and
transparency in school choice programs.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-02-25 S Referred to Senate Committee
Senate Education

SSP1048 Hicks, Carri(D) A study to evaluate current policies
allowing for-profit colleges and
universities to withhold transcripts from
students and loopholes that may hinder
access to these documents.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-02-25 S Referred to Senate Committee
Senate Education

SSP1049 Jech, Darcy(R) A study to follow-up on the school choice
tax credit.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-02-25 S Referred to Senate Committee
Senate Education

SSP1051

Jett, Shane(R)

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A study on the increase in ad valorem tax assessments on property that exceeded the 1990s referendum percentage caps.

Track Name(s): Interim Studies**Bill History:** 07-02-25 S Referred to Senate Committee
Senate Revenue & Taxation

SSP1055

Kirt, Julia(D)

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A study on how cities adopt and implement plans for workforce housing to address economic growth needs and are their policies that could assist with this issue.

Track Name(s): Interim Studies**Bill History:** 07-02-25 S Referred to Senate Committee
Senate Econ Development, Workforce & Tourism

SSP1059

Mann, Mark (F)(D)

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A study to discuss and find innovative solutions for the delivery of benefits to Oklahoma's veterans.

Track Name(s): Interim Studies**Bill History:** 07-02-25 S Referred to Senate Committee
Senate Veterans & Military Affairs

SSP1067

Nice, Nikki (F)(D)

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A study of the root causes of student absenteeism in public schools and to potentially identify effective, fiscally-responsible strategies for improvement.

Track Name(s): Interim Studies**Bill History:** 07-02-25 S Referred to Senate Committee
Senate Education

SSP1071

Prieto, Dana(R)

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A study on potentially removing home schoolers from private school funding.

Track Name(s): Interim Studies**Bill History:** 07-02-25 S Referred to Senate Committee
Senate Education

SSP1072 Pugh, Adam(R) A study on school lunch programs.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-02-25 S Referred to Senate Committee
Senate Education

SSP1073 Pugh, Adam(R) A study on causes for increases in the
Flex Benefit Allowances for teachers.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-02-25 S Referred to Senate Committee
Senate Education

SSP1076 Reinhardt, Aaron (F)(R) A study on universal meals for public
school children.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-02-25 S Referred to Senate Committee
Senate Education

SSP1079 Seifried, Ally(R) A study on the impact of AI on people and
the role of government in regulating it
while preserving First Amendment rights.

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Track Name(s): Interim Studies

Bill History: 07-02-25 S Referred to Senate Committee
Senate Technology & Telecommunications

2025 INTERIM STUDIES

2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The OkACTE Legislative Agenda outlines our official list of legislative priorities, which are determined by our membership. Members have the opportunity to propose potential priorities, which are then reviewed and ranked during the Legislative & Appropriations Forum. Following this process, the OkACTE Political Action Committee—made up of two representatives from each division—votes to finalize the agenda. Our aim is to stay informed on all legislation that could impact any part of our system, whether positively or negatively. The final document includes both the 2024 OkACTE Legislative Agenda and the ODCTE Appropriations Request.

Upload the 2025 Legislative Agenda [here](#).

2025 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

In collaboration with ODCTE we secured an additional \$10 million to our annual base appropriations.

HB 1087 Rep Lowe/Sen Pugh

- Increases school days from 180 to 181
- Increases school hours from 1,080 to 1,086 with a minimum of 166 days
- Extends the teacher salary schedule from 25 years to 35 years of experience, which provides annual step raises for an additional 10 years.

HB 1727 Rep Moore/Sen Pugh

- Extends OHLAP eligibility to teachers serving in the state for at least 10 years and currently teaching
- The household income of the student's parents must be less than 700% the federal poverty level; and
- The teacher must be a certified, full time teacher who has worked in a public school
- Excludes superintendents, principals, and other administrators
- The measure also extends the application deadline for an OHLAP scholarship to December 31st of a student's senior year.
- Beginning school year 25-26



HB 1601 Rep Gise/Sen Mann

- Allows teachers to use an additional 6 weeks of sick leave to recover from childbirth or bond with a newborn.
- The additional 6 weeks can only be used with medical orders.

HB 1995 Rep Turner/Sen Hamilton

- An employee of a school system includes employed and contracted school resource officers and security guards as used within the crime of rape when the victim is a student and the perpetrator is an employee of the school.

HB 2287 Rep Hilbert/Sen Seifried

- Adds academic instructional costs related to career and technology education programs in comprehensive schools or at technology centers that satisfy high school graduation requirements and Instructional costs related to concurrent classes that satisfy high school graduation requirements.

HB 2729 Rep Kendrix/Sen Bergstrom

- Establishes that state courts, hearing examiners, or
- administrative officers must independently interpret state statutes, regulations, and subregulatory documents without deferring to a state agency's interpretation
- Action brought by or against a state agency, after applying all customary tools of interpretation, the court or hearing officer shall exercise any remaining doubt in favor of a reasonable interpretation which limits agency power and maximizes individual liberty

HB 2743 Rep Caldwell, T/Sen Green

- Any cooperative purchasing agreement entered into by a school district can not include new construction
- Funds from cooperative purchasing agreements are to be applied to chargeables under the agreements or direct administrative costs.
- Prohibits school districts from taking a percentage of the funds as profit under a cooperative purchasing agreement.

HB 1585 Rep Lay/Sen Seifreid

- Allows for our Pharm Tech students to receive more hands on clinical time in the pharmacy.
- Rules to promulgated by the Pharmacy Board.

SB31 Sen Hicks/Rep Strom

Creates a tuition assistance program through the National Guard for Guard members.

- Have at least one year left on their enlistment contract, and agree in writing to complete t; and
- Agree in writing to serve actively for at least 24 months after completion of the last semester for which they receive assistance.

SB 68 Sen Green/Rep Bashore

- Allows state agencies to employ information technology personnel exempting them from OMES

SB 95 Sen Seifried/Rep Archer

- Excludes individuals participating in temporary work arrangements where they observe a work environment and gain experience without financial compensation from being considered employees under the Administrative Workers' Compensation Act.

SB 139 Sen Seifried/Rep Caldwell, C

Bell To Bell

- One year mandate
- No phones during school hours

SB387 Sen Seifried/Rep Osburn

- Expands student eligibility for the STEM Workforce Pipeline Program to include individuals enrolled in a technology center school.
- The Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology may award competitive internship funds, through professional service contracts, to applicant organizations to hire qualified student interns to participate in innovative industry projects.

SB662 and 663 Sen Pugh/Rep Hill

- Requires the Oklahoma Workforce Commission to implement programs to develop the workforce in high-demand or critical occupations, workbased learning opportunities, and innovation in public schools for workforce success.
- The programs may be administered through the newly created Oklahoma Workforce Commission Revolving Fund. The commission must also serve as the centralized data repository for the state's workforce development activities and provide data for the Legislature's interactive Workforce & Infrastructure Working Group map.

HB 1030 Rep Kendrix/Sen Bergstrom

- Extends the Cosmetology Board sunset for one year.
- There will most definitely be changes made to the board in the '26 session.

SB 942 Sen Thompson/Rep Gise

- Requires public schools and universities to integrate the definition of antisemitism into their codes of conduct and to integrate antisemitism awareness into their training for staff and students.
- The State Department of Education and the State Regents are required to designate a Title VI coordinator to monitor antisemitic discrimination and harassment, who will thoroughly investigate all submitted complaints.

SJR 22 Sen Bergstrom/Rep Kendrix

- Disproves the rule requiring teachers to pass the U.S. Citizenship test to RENEW their certificate
- Require a teacher to pass the citizenship test to receive initial certification.
- Approves the proposed rules Department of Career and Technology Education.

HB 652 Rep Osburn/Sen Seifried

Changes School Board Election Dates

- 6 options of dates for elections
- February, April, June, November of any year
- December every 4 years



LEGISLATIVE & APPROPRIATIONS FORUM

OCTOBER 7/ 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Welcome to the legislative process! We need your input and ideas as we define the priorities for the 2026 Legislative Session. Your voice matters to us, and we value your time and effort to be more involved in the process.

Here are two ways to be involved in this process.

- *Offer your priority ideas through the **Suggested Priorities form**. Suggested Priorities must be submitted by September 19.*
- *Participate in the Legislative and Appropriations Forum. During the event we will discuss and vote on all the ideas and narrow down the priorities that make up the legislative agenda*

REGISTER HERE or on our website, okacte.org.