
FORWARD

Oklahoma School Performance Review (OSPR)

The **Oklahoma School Performance Review (OSPR)** Program was authorized by the Oklahoma Legislature (HB 1601) during the 2001 session and amended during the 2005 session. The law authorized the Office of Accountability to conduct school performance reviews. Then, in 2012, SB 1797 provided that beginning July 1, 2013 the OSPR program would continue to operate but under the authority of the newly formed Office of Educational Quality and Accountability.

The purpose of the performance reviews is to develop findings, commendations, and recommendations for individual school districts in regard to: (1) containing costs; (2) improving management strategies; and (3) promoting better education for Oklahoma children.

As a part of each review, educational and management consultants conduct onsite evaluations, review district operations, study district data, interview stakeholders, hold public meetings, and distribute surveys. These consultants then produce a report evaluating the following areas of a district's operations:

- Management, Personnel, and Communications
- Instructional Delivery
- Business Operations
- Facility Use and Management, which includes Safety and Security
- Support Services, which includes Technology, Child Nutrition, and Transportation

After the district has reviewed the report's contents for accuracy, the Office of Accountability edits, prints, and releases the final report during a presentation to the local board of education. The report includes commendations, recommendations and estimates of savings or costs, as well as district trend data, survey results, public forum comments, and enrollment projections. Cost savings attributed to the review are required to go toward classroom expenses in order to improve student performance and readiness.

The legislation specifically states: A. the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability is hereby authorized to conduct a performance review program to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of the budget and operations of school districts that have:

1. Administrative service costs which are above the expenditure limits established for school districts in Section 18-124 of this title or have total expenditures in excess of the district's adopted budget;

2. A district academic performance data score, calculated pursuant to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended or reauthorized, which is below the state average academic performance data;
3. Had a request for a performance review submitted by the Governor or the State Superintendent of Public Instruction;
4. A district student eligibility rate for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Act that is above the state average; or
5. Submitted a request for a performance review subsequent to a majority vote of the district's board of education.

B. Funds appropriated by the Legislature to the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability may be expended to fulfill the provisions of this section. The Office of Educational Quality and Accountability may contract with an outside entity or hire personnel to assist in the development and design of the program. The Office of Educational Quality and Accountability may contract with outside entities to assist in conducting performance review programs. Such entities shall be chosen through a competitive bid process. Invitations to bid for the performance reviews shall be open to any public or private entity. Contracts for performance reviews shall not be done on a sole source basis.

C. 1. If a performance review is conducted as authorized pursuant to paragraphs 1 through 4 of subsection A of this section, the entire cost of the review shall be borne by the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability.

2. If a school district requests a performance review, as authorized pursuant to paragraph 5 of subsection A of this section, twenty-five percent (25%) of the entire cost of the review shall be borne by the school district and seventy-five percent (75%) of the cost of the review shall be borne by the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability.

3. Districts shall be selected for review by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability contingent upon the availability of funding.

D. The Office of Educational Quality and Accountability shall engage in follow-up, outreach and technical assistance to help school districts and others understand, interpret, and apply the recommendations and best practices resulting from performance reviews conducted pursuant to this section.

E. After a performance review of a school district is completed by the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability, the school district may implement all or part of the recommendations contained in the review.

F. If a school district experiences a cost savings that is directly attributable to implementation of performance review recommendations, the cost savings shall be expended by the school district for classroom expenses. Classroom expenses shall include but are not limited to teacher salaries

and purchasing textbooks, teaching material, technology and other classroom equipment. Classroom expenditures shall not include administrative services as defined in Section 18-124 of this title or for equipment or materials for administrative staff. (70-3-118.1)

Mission, Vision and Values

Mission: To serve the citizens of Oklahoma by conducting school performance reviews on behalf of public school districts in order to help districts become more efficient and effective

Vision: Conduct school performance reviews in an innovative and flexible manner and to provide school districts with astute findings, insightful recommendations, and research-based follow-up services that will guide them toward functioning at the highest levels of efficiency and effectiveness

Values:

- Strive to meet the district's needs by ensuring relevancy of the review
- Present reviews in a clear and concise manner that allows for understanding by all stakeholders
- Provide supportive assistance through follow-up services
- Maintain a focus on recommendations that are attainable or easily operationalized
- Embrace the process with the intentions of sustainability

History

By staying consistent to its legislated purpose, the OSPR program has continued to successfully serve the state of Oklahoma since 2002 under the supervision of the former Education Oversight Board and now the Commission of Educational Quality and Accountability. The OSPR Staff has conducted over 50 performance reviews since its initial review of the Billings School District in 2003. (See **Appendix A** for a list of districts that have had a school performance review). Although the mission of the program has not changed, a few elements have evolved as well as personnel changes over the years.

In 2013 the Education Oversight Board was dissolved, and the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability was created to govern the operation of the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability. This new office would oversee all of the programs of the Office of Accountability and all of the programs of the Commission for Teacher Preparation.

The OSPR process began with the review of cost and savings of 12 separate functions within a school district's operations. These areas were reviewed and reported in 12 chapters of a final report. Although each area was important and worthy of review, it was decided in 2006 that

streamlining the report into five chapters would be more efficient. Through the years other changes were made to the program in order to increase productivity and quality.

The original purpose of the OSPR program, however, is still intact... making school districts more efficient and effective in order that students may have greater success in their PK-12 journey.