



ROSENSTEIN, FIST & RINGOLD

RED BANNER UPDATE

Date: May 13, 2021

Re: HB 1569

Signed: May 11, 2021

Effective: May 11, 2021

Topic: Play-Based Learning

Summary: This Act creates the *Play to Learn Act* and declares that it is the intention of the Legislature through this Act to “focus on the importance of child-centered, play-based learning as the most rigorous and most developmentally appropriate way for children in the early childhood grade levels to learn literacy, science, technology, engineering, art and math academic concepts.” The Act defines specific terms used throughout.

The Act provides that, to the best of their ability, “educators may create a learning environment that facilitates child-directed experiences based upon developmentally appropriate early childhood practices and intentional, sustained, play-based learning opportunities, including, but not limited to, movement, creative expression, exploration, socialization, reading for pleasure, art, music and dramatic play.” Art instruction may adhere to prekindergarten standards for fine arts, including dance, drama, music, and visual arts, as approved by the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE). Educators may also develop physical, social, emotional, cognitive and academic learning opportunities “in all curricular domains, which may include unstructured time for the discovery of each child’s individual needs, abilities and talents.”

The Act mandates that school districts may not prohibit a teacher from using play-based learning in early childhood education.

Finally, the Act allows districts to support play-based learning by providing ongoing professional development for early childhood educators and administrators, which may include existing early childhood professional development programs from the OSDE. The OSDE will promulgate rules, subject to the approval of the Legislature, that will establish the guidelines for



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professional development programs for early childhood educators and administrators.

Please visit the firm's website to view the signed Act.

RFR attorneys are reviewing this legislation and will be advising clients as to any recommended changes to existing district policies.