


Recommendations for Policy Waivers/Flexibilities Due to COVID-19

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR



JULY 20, 2020

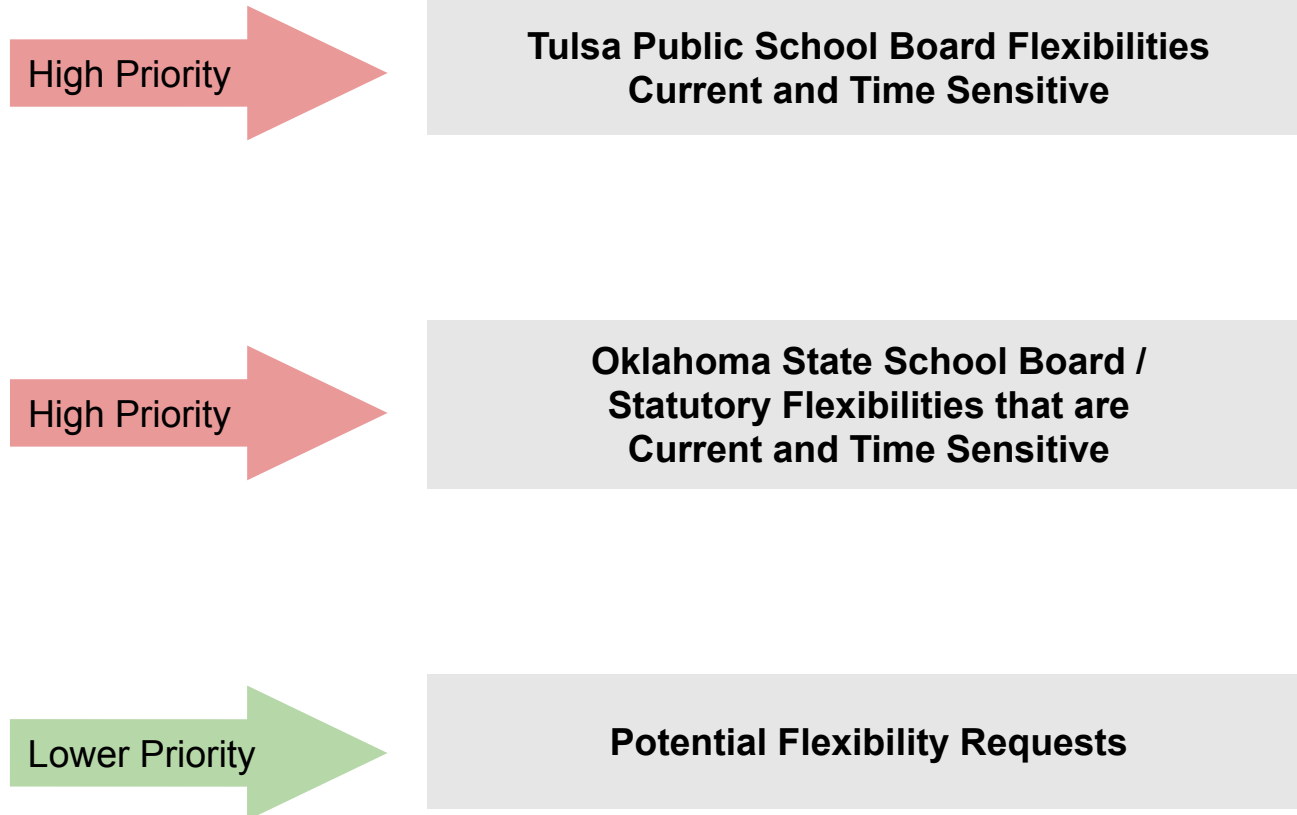


Last year, the Board approved certain requests for policy waivers and exemptions to address the challenges of instruction in the 2019-2020 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

These flexibilities were especially important to requirements regarding:

- Attendance
- Length of school day
- Graduation requirements
- Summer school

**We know we need policy flexibilities this year as well.
Currently, the needs for policy flexibility fall into three general categories:**



First, a disclaimer

With these policy flexibility requests, we are **not** seeking to reduce the time dedicated to or rigor or breadth of our students' instructional experience. We will only implement these flexibilities to the degree that COVID-related conditions makes them necessary, and *only when and if they are necessary*.

However, the conditions under which we will soon open and operate make it necessary to plan prospectively.



Current and Time-Sensitive Needs for Flexibilities in Tulsa Public School Board Policy

2020-2021 School Year

Flexibility Requests: School Day

Policy Number	Category	Policy Flexibility Requested
2204, 2614,	Attendance	<p>These policies outline the requirements for recording attendance and define tardiness and truancy.</p> <p>We request temporary suspension of the policy insofar as we need more flexibility in how we take daily attendance and in how we define “present” and “absent”—especially when there is virtual instruction.</p> <p><i>Flexibility on attendance coding and mandatory drops are needed from the state.</i></p>
2203	Full Time Enrollment	<p>This policy requires students to be enrolled full time. We recommend expanding opportunities to engage in work study, add internships, or otherwise allow eligible secondary students to engage in wider array of out-of-classroom options, especially given the small-but-meaningful number of over-credited high school students in our district.</p> <p><i>Flexibility in the state definition of a school day is needed from the state.</i></p>
3302	Length of School Day	<p>This policy governs the length of the school day. We are requesting an exemption to this policy when the mode of instruction requires a different school day.</p> <p><i>Flexibility is needed from the state</i></p>

Flexibility Requests: Instruction

Policy Number	Category	Policy Flexibility Requested
2406 and 2407	Earning Credit	<p>This policy governs promotion, retention, failing grades, and requires the Carnegie unit for earning credit. We request an exemption to these aspects of the policy so that students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• are not required to complete the seat time required by the Carnegie Unit to earn credit• may access district options for credit recovery and credit accrual, using the pre-test to determine the number of modules necessary to complete for credit. <p><i>Flexibility in accreditation standards is likely needed from the state.</i></p>
2407	Internships and Work Study	<p>This policy allows high school students to earn credits through non-traditional instruction. We are requesting an exemption to this policy to contextualize the definition of “non-traditional learning” and allow all students to earn credit through non-traditional instruction.</p>
3308	AIDS Education	<p>This policy provides that AIDS education will be delivered to all students during grades 5, 7, and 10. We are requesting an exemption to this policy in the event that we are unable to secure quality digital curriculum to the extent it would need to be provided online.</p> <p><i>Flexibility is also needed from the state.</i></p>

Flexibility Requests: Instruction, cont.

Policy Number	Category	Policy Flexibility Requested
3310, 2115-R, 3315/ 3315-R	Physical Education	Given safety considerations and the challenges of virtual instruction, we might struggle to achieve mandatory minutes. Therefore, we request a waiver for physical education requirements for the year. We remain fully committed to all possible and safe recess and physical activities in and outside the school.
3315/3315-R	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Instruction	Given the difficulty of providing this course virtually, we request a waiver for the class of 2021 due to pandemic. <i>Flexibility is also needed from the state.</i>

Flexibility Requests: Academic Requirements

Policy Number	Category	Policy Flexibility Requested
2401/ 2401-R	Grading Policy	This policy and regulation govern grading practices and the use of an “I” for incomplete grades and a ‘P’ to indicate a passing grade. We are requesting a waiver to this policy to allow greater flexibility in the use of the I and P, as well as the flexibility to “freeze” grades and provide extra credit, as necessary.
2210/ 2210R	Concurrent Enrollment	This policy requires students who drop a TCC course to be re-enrolled as a full-time student. We are requesting an exemption to that portion of the policy should we have students that are unable to complete their TCC course and have otherwise met graduation requirements.

Miscellaneous Flexibility Requests

Policy Number	Category	Policy Flexibility Requested
2407-R	Virtual Sections	We may need the flexibility to enroll more than 28 students in a virtual section, which is the current limit.
2620	Student Use of Wireless Telecommunication Devices	This policy limits the use of wireless communication devices for students during the academic day. During any period of virtual instruction, students must be allowed to use their devices as part of their academic day to complete work and communicate with teachers.
2501	Parent Teacher Conferences	We are requesting a limited waiver regarding the parent teacher conference requirement given the possible interruption of normal instruction. If we are in distance learning, we will still create a virtual parent teacher conference options.

Other Noteworthy Flexibility Needs

State Requirements:

- Suspension of accreditation for all schools not in state corrective action or probation

State / Federal Level

- USDA waivers
- E-rate
- Counting enrollment for state aid purposes
- Identification and documentation requirements for students identified as English language learners
- If the State of Oklahoma waives 2021 testing requirements, we will seek district flexibility as well

Possible District-Level Flexibilities for Future Consideration

- Additional graduation requirements
- Specific requirements pertaining to criteria-based magnet schools' application and admission requirements