



OKLAHOMA
Rehabilitation Services

Commission for Rehabilitation Services

Commissioners

**Janet Barresi, Theresa Flannery,
Lindsay Hanna, Kelsey Lee, Lance Robertson,
Noel Tyler, and Kevin Wallace**

Regular Meeting

There is no video conferencing for this meeting

Disability Determination Services
9801 N. Kelley Avenue, West Entrance
Oklahoma City, OK 73131

May 13, 2026

Empowering Oklahomans with Disabilities

**State of Oklahoma
Commission for Rehabilitation Services
Regular Commission Meeting
May 13, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.**

Disability Determination Services
9801 N. Kelley Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73131

Commissioners: Chair, Theresa Flannery; Vice Chair, Dr. Janet Barresi;
Members, Lindsay Hanna, Kelsey Lee, Lance Robertson, Noel Tyler, and
Kevin Wallace

Sign Language Interpreters are provided for public accessibility. There is no
virtual attendance option for this meeting.

Public Comment: To sign up to speak, please sign up on arrival prior to the
start of the meeting. Public comments will be limited to three minutes per
person.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Theresa Flannery, Chair

2. Statement of Compliance with the Open Meeting Act

Kathleen Arrieta, Commission Assistant

3. Public Comments

Public Audience - Under Oklahoma Open Meeting Laws, the Oklahoma
Commission for Rehabilitation Services cannot respond to or discuss any
matter not on today's agenda.

4. Presentation of Longevity Certificates

Theresa Flannery, Chair

5. Executive Director's Report

Melinda Fruendt, Executive Director

- a) Certificates of Appreciation
- b) Report includes agency and departmental updates, process
improvement, case reviews, and program standards. Pg. 6
- c) State office relocation update Pg. 9
- d) State subminimum wage taskforce update Pg. 12
- e) Possible discussion

6. Legislative Report

Jennifer Hardin, Legislative Liaison

Pg. 15

- a) Status of legislative bills
- b) Possible discussion

7. Chief Financial Officer's Report

Kevin Statham, Chief Financial Officer

- a) Financial Status Report
- b) FY 2027 Budget Update
- c) FY 2028 - FY 2035 Capital Outlay Request
- d) Possible discussion

Pg. 28

Pg. 35

8. Human Resources Report

LaChelle Westfahl, HR Director

- a) Personnel Activity report
- b) Introduction of new staff
- c) Possible discussion

Pg. 40

9. Priority Group Updates and Portal Referrals

Tracy Brigham, Division Administrator, Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI)

- a) Priority Group Updates and Portal Referrals
- b) Possible discussion

10. Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Transition Report

Renee N. Sansom Briscoe, Transition Coordinator

- a) Report includes Pre-ETS, staffing, contracts, programs, staff, and summer program updates.
- b) Possible discussion

Pg. 45

11. Disability Determination Services Overview

Keith Tiller, Division Administrator

- a) Report includes benchmark targets and program updates.
- b) Possible discussion

Pg. 54

12. Acceptance of Donations to the Oklahoma School for Deaf

Dr. Heather Laine, Superintendent

- a) Donation Reports for April 2026
- b) Discussion and possible action to accept the donations.

Pg. 59

13. Acceptance of Donations to the Oklahoma School for the Blind

Brent Pearce, Superintendent

- a) Donation Report for April 2026
- b) Discussion and possible action to accept the donations.

Pg. 61

14. Acceptance of Donations to the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (OLBPH)

Kevin Treese, Program Manager III, SBVI

- a) Donation Report for April 2026
- b) Discussion and possible action to accept the donations.

Pg. 63

15. Review of the April 8, 2026 Commission Meeting Minutes.

Theresa Flannery, Chair

- a) Discussion and possible action to modify and/or approve the minutes.

Pg. 65

16. New Business

Theresa Flannery, Chair

- a) Any matter not known about, or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting 25 O.S. § 311.

17. Proposed Executive Session to Discuss the Performance Review of the Executive Director

Theresa Flannery, Chair

- a) Discussion and possible vote to enter executive session pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1) for the purpose of discussing the follow-up to the performance review of the executive director.
- b) Vote to reconvene into regular session.
- c) Discussion and possible action on matters discussed in executive session.

18. Adjournment

Theresa Flannery, Chair

- a) Discussion and possible action

Note: "Possible action" by the Commission includes, but is not limited to, approval, authorization, adoption, rejection, denial, amendment, taking no action, or tabling the item for disposition at a later date or time.

**Next Regular Commission meeting: Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 10:30 AM
Disability Determination Services, 9801 N. Kelley Avenue, OKC, OK 73131**



Executive Director's Report

Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
May 13, 2026

Remembrance

Marilyn Patocka passed away on April 6, 2026. Marilyn was born with her twin sister, Carolyn, they were two months premature and in an incubator for at least two months. Their optic nerves hadn't fully developed so Carolyn was partially sighted and Marilyn was totally blind.

Marilyn graduated from Oklahoma School for the Blind in May 1966. She collected hundreds of braille books. She will be missed by many.

Meetings

Governor's Council on Workforce and Economic Development Executive Committee Meeting and Governor's Council on Workforce and Economic Development Council Meeting – Presentation on Business Services Program.

Workforce Cabinet Meeting.

Commission/DRS Finance Committee Meeting.

Commission/DRS Legislative/Policy Committee Meeting.

VR/SBVI Performance Meeting.

OSD Budget Meeting.

DRS Support Services Budget Meeting.

Oklahoma Inclusive Post-Secondary Education (IPSE) Meeting – May 1 – Recognized as IPSE Day, proclaimed by the Governor.

WIOA State Plan Modification – Stephanie Roe

The Oklahoma Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program submitted a Combined State Plan Modification on April 30, 2026, for Program Years (PY) 2026 and 2027, covering the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028. In accordance with the public comment requirements, a 30-day comment period was conducted and concluded on April 12, 2026. A total of 80 public comments were received during this period, but none of them specifically addressed the Vocational Rehabilitation portion of the Combined State Plan. The VR section was submitted as originally presented during the State Plan comment period.

Expected Levels of Performance Negotiations – Mark Kinnison and Tracy Brigham

Vocational Rehabilitation negotiated expected levels of performance for PY 26-27 with the Rehabilitation Services Administration on April 17, 2026. The negotiated levels of performance for PY 26 & 27 are as follows:

Performance Indicators	PY 2026 Expected Level	PY 2026 Negotiated Level	PY 2027 Expected Level	PY 2027 Negotiated Level
Employment (Second Quarter After Exit)	53.0%	53.0%	53.1%	53.4%
Employment (Fourth Quarter After Exit)	51.7%	51.7%	51.8%	51.8%
Median Earnings (Second Quarter After Exit)	\$5,427	\$5,427	\$5,500	\$5,500
Credential Attainment Rate	51.1%	51.1%	51.2%	51.2%
Measurable Skill Gains	72.5%	72.5%	72.6%	72.6%
Effectiveness in Serving Employers	Not Applicable ¹	Not Applicable ¹	Not Applicable ¹	Not Applicable ¹

Federal - FY 2027 President’s Budget Request

The Administration has released its FY 2027 budget, outlining federal priorities across education, workforce, and disability programs. While full details are still being analyzed, several themes are emerging:

- **Workforce Alignment:** Continued emphasis on strengthening connections across federal workforce programs, with implications for how VR interfaces with broader systems.
- **Program Efficiency and Accountability:** Increased focus on performance outcomes and return on investment, reinforcing the importance of data-driven results in VR.
- **Potential Structural Considerations:** Ongoing policy discussions signal continued interest in how and where workforce and disability programs are administered at the federal level.

Federal – Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Reauthorization – Looking Ahead

Congressional efforts to modernize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), through the Stronger Workforce for America Act, continue to evolve. Key areas under discussion include:

- Enhanced alignment across workforce programs, including VR.
- Stronger performance accountability measures.
- Expanded employer engagement strategies.

These discussions present a critical opportunity to reinforce VR’s role as a cornerstone of the workforce system for individuals with disabilities.

Process Improvement (PI)

AWARE

The Employment Support Services Vendor Portal project with Alliance is ongoing. The AWARE team has engaged in multiple meetings with both staff and vendors, testing the Vendor Portal features and functionality, and providing feedback to Alliance.

Utilizing QA Advisor to identify RSA-911 errors for Q3 2025 and working to resolve those errors.

February 2026 OU Pre-Employment Transition Services were imported, and we are preparing to import March 2026 services this week.

Program Standards, Statistical Research

The research staff are working on planning and early-stage projects for the Needs Assessment.

Power BI

- Updated reports per end-users' requests.
- Added new review set to the Program Manager Reviews.
- Changed Program Manager Review Individual Reports to include Comments.
- Completed one-time requests for end-users.

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

State Office Headquarters Move Questions

1. When did we know we were moving?
 - a. Received notice of new ownership 1/15/26
 - b. Received notice of non-lease renewal on 1/27/26

2. Why didn't we move to OLBPH?
 - a. Not enough room.

3. Worked through REALS (Real Estate and Leasing Services) part of OMES on RFP, (Request for Proposal)
 - a. Also inquired about State Owned Property for our agency, there is not enough room in a State-Owned Property.
 - b. REALS assisted with the search for new office space

4. Does DRS have the funding to move?
 - a. Yes
 - b. Original cost was \$18.75 a square foot, negotiated down to \$16.50

5. Other pertinent information:
 - a. New building is ADA compliant, meets ADA guidelines in restrooms as well as parking
 - b. Little to no buildout, owner will buildout doors at their expense

6. Money Saving Efforts
 - a. Reusing auto door openers from Landmark
 - b. Using softphones instead of desk phones, this saves DRS money, avoiding a drop put into every office
 - c. Using Wi-Fi for the new space
 - d. Moving cameras from Landmark
 - e. Office will operate on WIFI
 - f. Repurposing badge access readers

DRS Headquarters Relocation Overview and Site Selection Strategy

Notice of Non-Renewal of Lease Agreement

DRS received notice, hand delivered, on January 15th, 2026, that ownership had been transferred to Gardner Tannenbaum Holdings, (GTH) under the entity The Landmark Towers Apartments, LLC, effective January 15th, 2026. We also received updated lease payment information for the new owner.

On January 27th, 2026, DRS received notice via certified mail from Craig E. Brown of Morgan, Brown, & McCormick that our Lease Agreement with GTH would not be renewed. Additionally, our property manager, Dusty Price, received an introductory call from Cindy Murillo, COO, of GTH. During this call, Dusty Price discussed the short timeline to move the headquarters of the agency and was able to negotiate an extra month of tenancy, with a firm vacancy deadline of August 31, 2026.

The Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) then executed a strategic, multi-phase approach to secure a new headquarters location that meets operational, accessibility, and fiscal requirements. In partnership with the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) Real Estate and Leasing Services (REALS), DRS conducted a comprehensive market evaluation, prioritizing ADA accessibility, space functionality, and readiness for occupancy. After eliminating non-viable options and confirming no suitable state-owned property was available, DRS identified and secured a location that accommodates 91 offices without requiring buildout. This proactive and disciplined process ensures continuity of operations and compliance with minimal disruption to staff.

Strategic Approach to Site Selection

OMES REALS (Real Estate and Leasing Services) initiated the process by issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to identify potential leasing opportunities. DRS Property Management partnered closely with REALS to evaluate submitted properties through a structured and strategic review process. Each location was assessed against key criteria, including operational fitness, accessibility, space capacity, and overall suitability for agency needs.

Comprehensive Evaluation Process

The Property Management team conducted detailed site tours for each prospective location. DRS ruled out 30 potential offices in all areas of Oklahoma City. The evaluations began at the point of arrival and extended throughout the interior of each facility. This included reviewing parking accessibility, building entry points, interior pathways, and restroom accommodations. Locations that did not align with agency requirements were systematically removed from consideration.

ADA Accessibility as a Primary Priority

Ensuring accessibility for all staff and visitors was the highest priority throughout the evaluation process. Each site was reviewed to confirm compliance with ADA standards, including minimum doorway clearances of 32 inches and hallway widths of at least 36 inches. Spaces were also evaluated for overall usability and inclusivity to support individuals with disabilities.

State-Owned Property Assessment

In collaboration with REALS, DRS explored the availability of state-owned properties capable of meeting the agency's needs, including space for 91 offices. After thorough review, no state-owned facility was identified that could meet the required capacity and functional criteria.

Final Site Selection and Lease Negotiation

Upon identifying a location that met all key requirements, adequate space, ADA accessibility, and no need for buildout, the Property Management team proceeded with lease negotiations. The negotiated terms were developed to ensure fiscal responsibility and operational effectiveness.

Approval and Implementation Timeline

The finalized lease agreement was submitted to OMES REALS for review and approval. Following approval, DRS executed the agreement and initiated transition planning. This effort is aligned with the required deadline to vacate the current Landmark location by August 31, 2026, ensuring a seamless transition and continuity of services.

Oklahoma Commission Meeting Report

14(c) Task Force Update

May 2026

Executive Summary

The 14(c) Task Force, established under House Bill 1833, is actively working to develop a strategic plan to phase out subminimum wages for individuals with disabilities in Oklahoma. Since its inception, the task force has convened twice, conducted multi-state research, and gathered stakeholder input. Early findings highlight a clear national trend toward Employment First policies, increased service investment, and stronger interagency collaboration to support competitive integrated employment outcomes.

Background

The 14(c) Task Force was created through House Bill 1833, effective November 1, 2025. The task force consists of 11 members and is co-chaired by Representative Elynn Hefner and Senator Julia Kirk.

The primary charge of the task force is to develop a plan to phase out the use of 14(c) subminimum wages and support the transition of individuals with disabilities into competitive integrated employment. The task force is authorized to operate through November 1, 2027.

First Meeting – January 29, 2026

The initial meeting focused on introductions of members and discussing current viewpoints around the use of subminimum wage.

- A history of 14(c) was presented by Dr. Kim Osmani of the Yang-Tan Institute on Employment and Disability.
- A roundtable discussion followed, with key topics relevant to the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), including:
 - Benefits planning
 - Business services
 - Transition Services
 - The partnership between DRS and Developmental Disability Services (DDS)

Interim Activities

Following the first meeting, Melissa Gituma (DDS) and Mark D. Kinnison (DRS) conducted research on states actively pursuing the phase-out or elimination of subminimum wage.

Conversations were held with representatives from: Kansas, Oregon, Illinois, Washington, Indiana, and Pennsylvania.

Second Meeting – April 24, 2026

- Individuals who successfully transitioned from subminimum wage to competitive employment shared testimony.
- Melissa Gituma and Mark D. Kinnison presented findings from the multi-state research effort.

Key Findings

Common strategies among states that have eliminated or are phasing out subminimum wage include:

- Adoption of an Employment First approach prioritizing competitive integrated employment
- Increased investment in supported employment services, job coaching, and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) staffing
- Legislative action supporting phase-out or elimination efforts
- Policies prohibiting new entrants into subminimum wage programs
- Strengthened partnerships among VR, DDS, Pre-ETS, and Community Rehabilitation Providers (CRPs)
- Requirements for 14(c) certificate holders to develop formal transition plans

Next Steps

The task force will continue to analyze national models and best practices and develop actionable recommendations for Oklahoma's transition plan.

Conclusion

Progress to date reflects a strong commitment to aligning Oklahoma with national trends that promote competitive integrated employment. Continued collaboration, research, and strategic planning will be essential to ensuring a successful and sustainable transition.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark D. Kinnison, M.Ed., CRC, LPC-S
Vocational Rehabilitation Services Administrator (DRS)



Legislative Report

DRS Commission Legislative Report

Date: May 13, 2026

Prepared by: Jennifer Hardin

Report Submission Date: April 30, 2026

Key Legislative Dates

- **April 23, 2026** – Committee deadline for bills in opposite chamber
- **Total pending bills after deadline – 750 (House = 450, Senate = 300)**
- **May 7, 2026** – Deadline for bills to be heard on floor in opposite chamber
- **May 29, 2026** – Sine Die (No later than 5:00 pm)

Legislative Engagement & Updates

- Governor Stitt signed the budget bill.
-

'26 DRS Request HB3627

HB3627

[Rep. Josh Cantrell](#)
[Sen. Alvord](#)

Allows the State Committee of Blind Vendors to hold executive sessions by videoconference, EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 3-05-26 Unanimously passed out of House Rules Committee.
3-17-26 H Passed/Adopted (Vote: Y: 78/N: 2)
3-23-26 Bill received in the Senate
4-01-26 Referred to Senate Committee Judiciary
4-24-26 S Dead pursuant to the rules



OKLAHOMA Rehabilitation Services

Bill Status Report

04-27-2026 - 11:06:35

DRS Request Bills

[HB 3627](#)

[Cantrell, Josh\(R\)](#)
[Alvord, Jerry\(R\)](#)

Allows the State Committee of Blind Vendors to hold executive sessions by videoconference and sets participation requirements; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 01-15-26 H Filed
02-02-26 H Rep. Lawson removed as author, replaced by Rep. Cantrell
02-03-26 H Referred to House Committee on House Rules
03-05-26 H Meeting set for 11:30 a.m., Room 5S.2 - House Rules
03-05-26 H Voted from committee - Do Pass House Rules
03-12-26 H Set on the House Floor Agenda
03-17-26 H Laid out for consideration in the House at 9:54am 📺
03-17-26 H Passed/Adopted (Vote: Y: 78/N: 2)
03-17-26 H Emergency Passed (Vote: Y: 78/N: 2)
03-23-26 S Received in the Senate
04-01-26 S Referred to Senate Committee Senate Judiciary
04-24-26 S Dead pursuant to the rules

Total DRS Request Bills: 1

Direct DRS Impact Bills

[HB 1539](#) [Lepak, Mark\(R\)](#)
[Bergstrom, Micheal\(R\)](#) Provides for income tax rate reductions based on estimated state revenue calculations.

Bill History: 11-07-25 S Carried Over

[HB 3047](#) [Tedford, Mark\(R\)](#)
[Haste, John\(R\)](#) Directs agency reports statutorily required to be sent to the Legislature to be digitally submitted to LOFT; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-20-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass
Senate Rules

[HB 3279](#) [Pfeiffer, John\(R\)](#)
[Bergstrom, Micheal\(R\)](#) Tightens rules on former state employees contracting with the state and strengthens penalties for violations.

Bill History: 04-14-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass
Senate Retirement & Government Resources

[HB 3281](#) [Hall, Rob \(F\)\(R\)](#)
[Bergstrom, Micheal\(R\)](#) Requires state agencies to publicly post guidance documents and clarify that they do not carry the force of law.

Bill History: 04-09-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass
Senate Administrative Rules

[HB 3413](#) [Strom, Judd\(R\)](#)
[Woods, Tom\(R\)](#) Requires agencies to disclose contractor details and post consultant reports when submitting budget requests.

Bill History: 04-07-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass
Senate Retirement & Government Resources

[SB 169](#) [Hall, Chuck\(R\)](#)
[Kane, John\(R\)](#) Increases the values of certain longevity payments to state employees across all brackets; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-23-26 G Sent to the Governor

[SB 1877](#) [Hall, Chuck\(R\)](#)
[Caldwell, Trey\(R\)](#) Requires state agencies to submit required reports through a centralized filing system, repeals obsolete reports, and standardizes reporting procedures.

Bill History: 04-27-26 H Set on the House Floor Agenda

[SB 1555](#) [Reinhardt, Aaron \(F\)\(R\)](#) [Pae, Daniel\(R\)](#) Adjusts certain definitions related to intellectual disability within statute for Medicaid home and community-based services.

Bill History: 04-27-26 H Set on the House Floor Agenda

Total DRS Impact Bills: 8

Education Bills

[HB 1139](#) [Crosswhite-Hader, Denise\(R\)](#) [Sacchieri, Kendal \(F\)\(R\)](#) Adjusts provisions permitting firearms onto school property under certain circumstances, particularly within vehicles.

Bill History: 11-07-25 S Carried Over

[HB 1276](#) [Caldwell, Chad\(R\)](#) [Seifried, Ally\(R\)](#) Requires school districts to implement policies which prohibit students from using cell phones or personal electronic devices during the entire school day and while on school grounds; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-15-26 S Emergency Passed (Vote: Y: 41/N: 5)

[HB 1388](#) [Hasenbeck, Toni\(R\)](#) [Reinhardt, Aaron \(F\)\(R\)](#) Creates the Protecting Oklahoma's Children on Social Media Act which requires the Department of Education to develop model programs for educating students regarding online safety; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 11-07-25 S Carried Over

[HB 1417](#) [West, Josh\(R\)](#) [Weaver, Darrell\(R\)](#) Creates the School Access for Emergency Response Act which establishes a grant program for certain emergency communication system to be installed and maintained in school buildings.

Bill History: 11-07-25 S Carried Over

[HB 1979](#) [Ranson, Trish\(D\)](#) [Hall, Chuck\(R\)](#) Creates the Early Childhood Task Force, providing for the membership, compensation, requirements, and authority its members.

Bill History: 04-20-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass as substituted Senate Health & Human Services

HB 2288	Hilbert, Kyle(R) Frix, Avery (F)(R)	Modifies provisions relating to the postretirement employment of teachers, allowing retired members to receive earning without a reduction in their retirement benefits; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-23-26 S Enacting clause restored on the floor
HB 2696	Ford, Ross(R) Rader, Dave(R)	Sets standards for the protection of certain government records to include cybersecurity risk assessments and related data and allows the release of educational records to student guardians. Bill History: 04-07-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass Senate Judiciary
HB 3016	Dobrinski, Mike(R) Hicks, Carri(D)	Directs the Dept. of Education and Dept. of Health to develop and implement a binocular vision screening pilot program for school children; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-23-26 S Emergency Passed (Vote: Y: 34/N: 10)
HB 3021	Lowe, Dick(R) Pugh, Adam(R)	Adjusts public school subject matter standards across various curricula; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-21-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass as amended Senate Education
HB 3029	Kerbs, Dell(R) Pugh, Adam(R)	Directs the Dept. of Education to establish a comprehensive four-year plan for addressing needs and development in public education. Bill History: 04-21-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass Senate Education
HB 3076	Lepak, Mark(R) Seifried, Ally(R)	Adjusts the responsibilities for the alternative teacher preparation program from the Board of Education to the Educational Quality and Accountability Commission; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-21-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass Senate Education
HB 3327	Osburn, Mike(R) Daniels, Julie(R)	Expands the membership of the Board of Education and requires members to be removed only for cause; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-23-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass as amended Senate Rules

HB 3674	Provenzano, Melissa(D) McIntosh, Julie (F)(R)	Requires reporting of sexual assault in schools to relevant law enforcement and mandates certain training for all school resource officers. Bill History: 04-21-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass Senate Education
HB 3710	Caldwell, Chad(R) Pugh, Adam(R)	Permits the State Regents to establish cohort-based award schedules for the Rising Scholars Award Program. Bill History: 04-14-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass Senate Education
HB 3711	Caldwell, Chad(R) Pugh, Adam(R)	Requires school districts to publish certain information related to total expenditures, specifically the portion of any expenditures which are spent on classrooms directly on school websites and before bond elections; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-23-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass as amended Senate Rules
HB 3759	Turner, Tim (F)(R) Hamilton, Warren(R)	Revises temporary appropriation procedures by imposing a fiscal year deadline for school districts. Bill History: 04-06-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass Senate Revenue & Taxation
HB 3885	Cantrell, Josh(R) Hines, Kelly (F)(R)	Allows and requires schools to suspend or expel third through fifth graders who assault school staff; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-21-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass as amended Senate Education
HB 4268	Johns, Ronny(R) Pugh, Adam(R)	Creates the Teacher Effectiveness and Excellence Act establishing growth-based teacher compensation and National Board certification bonuses; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-13-26 S Bill no longer dual referred to Appropriations
HB 4326	Moore, Anthony(R) Seifried, Ally(R)	Expands Oklahoma's Promise eligibility and revises income, custody, and certified teacher qualification rules. Bill History: 04-22-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass as amended Senate Appropriations

HB 4358	Moore, Anthony(R) Seifried, Ally(R)	Limits screen time for Pre-K through fifth grade public school students; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-16-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass as amended Senate Technology & Telecommunications
HB 4359	Moore, Anthony(R) Seifried, Ally(R)	Sets standards and requirements for the timing of public school assessments each year; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-07-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass as amended Senate Education
HCR1025	Hilbert, Kyle(R) Pugh, Adam(R)	Supports the elimination of the federal U.S. Dept. of Education. Bill History: 04-22-26 S Received in the Senate
SB 6	Seifried, Ally(R) Banning, Chris(R)	Adjusts school board elections dates and modifies filing periods to account for the adjustment. Bill History: 11-07-25 H Carried Over
SB 201	Pugh, Adam(R) Caldwell, Chad(R)	Establishes a new pay scale for certified school personnel and sets standards for qualifying prior experience to advance up the scale; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-27-26 H Set on the House Floor Agenda
SB 215	Stanley, Brenda(R) Moore, Anthony(R)	Creates the Math Achievement and Proficiency Act which adjusts the standards and practices related to the education of mathematics in public schools. Bill History: 04-15-26 H Senator Seifried removed as author, replaced by Senator Stanley
SB 245	Deevers, Dusty(R) Hasenbeck, Toni(R)	Adjust various provisions related to advanced teachers and stipend calculations, directing the Education Dept. to establish and manage a High Dosage Tutoring Program to produce and assess tutors to improve student performance; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 11-07-25 S Carried Over
SB 646	Paxton, Lonnie(R) Kerbs, Dell(R)	Creates the Oklahoma Federal Official and Judicial Security and Privacy Act which allows high risk individuals to have their personal information kept confidential by state agencies upon request; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 11-07-25 H Carried Over

SB 1317	Dossett, Jo Anna(D) Provenzano, Melissa(D)	Modifies career teacher definitions to permit recognition of prior qualifying service when a teacher is employed by a different school district. Bill History: 04-27-26 H Set on the House Floor Agenda
SB 1338	Pugh, Adam(R) Caldwell, Chad(R)	Creates an Education Impact and Innovation Fund under the Dept. of Education; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-15-26 H Voted from committee - Do Pass as substituted House Oversight: Education
SB 1360	Seifried, Ally(R) Moore, Anthony(R)	Creates the Office of Mathematics Improvement within the State Dept of Education and authorizes the Superintendent of Public Instruction to appoint a Director focused on mathematics instruction for students in K-5; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-21-26 H Voted from committee - Do Pass as substituted House Appropriations
SB 1437	Pugh, Adam(R) Sterling, Danny(R)	Directs the Dept. of Education to set rules for the Presidential Fitness Test and requires school districts to administer the test with training, exemptions, and opt-out options. Bill History: 04-15-26 H Voted from committee - Do Pass House Oversight: Education
SB 1489	Pugh, Adam(R) Caldwell, Chad(R)	Requires additional IDEA-related training for principals and expands parental rights in special education meetings; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-27-26 H Set on the House Floor Agenda
SB 1546	Pugh, Adam(R) Caldwell, Chad(R)	Renames the Inspired to Teach Program as the New Educators for Excellence in Teaching and Education Program and updates related statutory references; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-14-26 H Voted from committee - Do Pass as substituted House Appropriations
SB 1630	Thompson, Kristen(R) Moore, Anthony(R)	Permits certain school days and hours to be counted towards required educational year totals for assessments conducted virtually if there is limited space or staff available to conduct such assessments safely and securely; EMERGENCY. Bill History: 04-27-26 H Set on the House Floor Agenda

[SB 1632](#) [Alvord, Jerry\(R\)](#)
[Hasenbeck, Toni\(R\)](#) Permits certain career-readiness assessments be conducted during grades ten through twelve and requires the Regents for Higher Education to set rules to allow college credit for assessment-based credentials and scores; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-27-26 H Set on the House Floor Agenda

[SB 1734](#) [Seifried, Ally\(R\)](#)
[Moore, Anthony\(R\)](#) Creates the Oklahoma Responsible Technology in Schools Act and limits use of artificial intelligence in public schools; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-27-26 H Set on the House Floor Agenda

[SB 1812](#) [Reinhardt, Aaron \(F\)\(R\)](#)
[Hall, Rob \(F\)\(R\)](#) Requires reporting of benchmark assessments by school districts to the Dept. of Education and requires such assessment results be made available to parents; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-27-26 H Set on the House Floor Agenda

[SB 1884](#) [Bullard, David\(R\)](#)
[Hasenbeck, Toni\(R\)](#) Gives educator groups equal access to school employees and lets employees quit an organization anytime; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-27-26 H Set on the House Floor Agenda

[SB 1894](#) [Reinhardt, Aaron \(F\)\(R\)](#)
[West, Tammy\(R\)](#) Adjusts the required professional development hours for teachers, with more experienced teachers requiring less total hours; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-13-26 H Voted from committee - Do Pass as substituted House Oversight: Education

[SB 2045](#) [Stanley, Brenda\(R\)](#)
[Lowe, Dick\(R\)](#) Sets mandatory minimum standards for school recess in grades K-5; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-13-26 H Voted from committee - Do Pass House Oversight: Education

Total Education Bills: 40

General Government Bills

[HB 3320](#) [Osburn, Mike\(R\)](#)
[Thompson, Kristen\(R\)](#) Removes sunset dates and Oklahoma Sunset Law references for multiple state boards, commissions, and programs; EMERGENCY.

Bill History: 04-20-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass
Senate Rules

[HB 3419](#) [Strom, Judd\(R\)](#)
[Stewart, Jack\(R\)](#) Makes it a felony for state or local government officials or contractors to misuse nonpublic information for personal gain.

Bill History: 04-14-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass
Senate Local & County Government

[HB 3648](#) [Stinson, Preston\(R\)](#)
[Woods, Tom\(R\)](#) Expands who may be treated as an employee for purposes of governmental tort liability.

Bill History: 04-23-26 S Senator Howard removed as sponsor, replaced by Senator Woods

Total General Government Bills: 3

OMES Bills

[HB 1752](#) [Harris, Erick\(R\)](#)
[Jech, Darcy\(R\)](#) Exempts the Attorney General's Office and the Oklahoma District Attorneys Council from state motor vehicle requisition requirements.

Bill History: 04-14-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass as amended
Senate Public Safety

[HB 3310](#) [Eaves, Ryan \(F\)\(R\)](#)
[Kern, Spencer \(F\)\(R\)](#) Strengthens enforcement of state purchasing rules by requiring compliance standards, public reporting, and disqualifying agency heads from pay increases or longevity pay for noncompliance.

Bill History: 04-07-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass
Senate Retirement & Government Resources

[HB 3414](#) [Strom, Judd\(R\)](#)
[Coleman, Bill\(R\)](#) OMES directed to create a reporting function to determine if contract services are service-driven or for staff augmentation.

Bill History: 04-07-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass
Senate Retirement & Government Resources

[HB 3415](#) [Strom, Judd\(R\)](#)
[Daniels, Julie\(R\)](#) Requires vendors and agencies to disclose who does contract work, post contract details publicly, and review contract performance.

Bill History: 04-07-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass
Senate Retirement & Government Resources

Total OMES Bills: 4

Open Meeting/Rules Bills

[HB 1409](#) [Crosswhite-Hader, Denise\(R\)](#)
[Sacchieri, Kendal \(F\)\(R\)](#) Permits public bodies subject to the Open Meeting Act which have a opt-in notice distribution system to require subscribers to such systems to biennially renew their participation.

Bill History: 03-17-26 S Passed/Adopted (Vote: Y: 32/N: 10)

[HB 2095](#) [Menz, Annie\(D\)](#)
[Kirt, Julia\(D\)](#) Requires public bodies to respond to an open records request within 30 business days of receipt.

Bill History: 11-07-25 S Carried Over

[HB 3278](#) [Pfeiffer, John\(R\)](#)
[Howard, Brent\(R\)](#) Expands Open Meeting Act enforcement by authorizing Attorney General consent orders, findings of violation, civil penalties, and court enforcement.

Bill History: 04-14-26 S Voted from committee - Do Pass
Senate Judiciary

[SB 1316](#) [Bergstrom, Micheal\(R\)](#)
[Kendrix, Gerrid\(R\)](#) Requires permanent rules of designated agencies, boards, and commissions to sunset on a rotating basis and mandates legislative review and approval for renewal.

Bill History: 04-07-26 H Voted from committee - Do Pass
House Administrative Rules

[SB 1433](#) [Bergstrom, Micheal\(R\)](#)
[Hall, Rob \(F\)\(R\)](#) Adjusts provisions related to administrative rules to create standards for guidance documents and

limit the power of agencies when not acting within statutory boundaries.

Bill History: 04-27-26 H Set on the House Floor Agenda

Total Open Meeting/Rules Bills: 5

Workforce Dev. Bills

[SB 1771](#)

[Thompson, Kristen\(R\)](#)
[Tedford, Mark\(R\)](#)

Permits the Workforce Commission to collect certain data.

Bill History: 04-14-26 H Voted from committee - Do Pass as substituted House Oversight: Government

Total Workforce Dev. Bills 1



Chief Financial Officer's Report

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 26

As of February 28, 2026

Agency Summary						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	94,950,151.00	49.6%	56,165,339.64	59.2%	37,416,702.50	98.6%
Travel	1,770,046.00	0.9%	913,541.21	51.6%	23,359.35	52.9%
General Operating	25,911,739.00	13.5%	11,046,431.54	42.6%	11,787,140.39	88.1%
Office Furniture & Equipment	2,662,973.00	1.4%	1,314,589.58	49.4%	389,754.29	64.0%
Client / General Assistance	55,879,813.00	29.2%	22,855,237.74	40.9%	29,503,033.30	93.7%
Indirect Cost	10,306,958.00	5.4%	6,296,353.94	61.1%	4,010,604.06	100.0%
Total	191,481,680.00	100.0%	98,591,493.65	51.5%	83,130,593.89	94.9%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 26

As of February 28, 2026

All Programs						
Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	30,745,704.00	32.6%	18,182,433.06	59.1%	11,917,652.79	97.9%
Travel	1,280,300.00	1.4%	671,512.39	52.4%	250.00	52.5%
General Operating	9,955,105.00	10.6%	5,199,923.50	52.2%	5,146,937.02	103.9%
Office Furniture & Equipment	1,336,063.00	1.4%	690,514.02	51.7%	217,236.64	67.9%
Client / General Assistance	46,730,813.00	49.6%	18,791,868.54	40.2%	24,565,241.25	92.8%
Indirect Cost	4,248,000.00	4.5%	2,587,534.67	60.9%	1,660,465.33	100.0%
Total	94,295,985.00	100.0%	46,123,786.18	48.9%	43,507,783.03	95.1%
<i>Vocational Rehabilitation Grant</i>						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	27,947,251.00	31.3%	16,511,482.17	59.1%	10,881,535.84	98.0%
Travel	1,245,300.00	1.4%	657,293.56	52.8%	250.00	52.8%
General Operating	9,271,581.00	10.4%	4,835,285.10	52.2%	4,819,554.48	104.1%
Office Furniture & Equipment	1,103,193.00	1.2%	601,239.51	54.5%	215,736.64	74.1%
Client / General Assistance	45,944,667.00	51.4%	18,531,342.19	40.3%	24,127,685.33	92.8%
Indirect Cost	3,858,836.00	4.3%	2,378,299.91	61.6%	1,480,536.09	100.0%
Total	89,370,828.00	100.0%	43,514,942.44	48.7%	41,525,298.38	95.2%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 26

As of February 28, 2026

All Programs Oklahoma School for the Blind						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	7,565,178.00	64.3%	4,789,488.71	63.3%	2,667,119.87	98.6%
Travel	92,200.00	0.8%	55,836.60	60.6%	420.00	61.0%
General Operating	2,822,702.00	24.0%	694,594.77	24.6%	1,264,468.25	69.4%
Office Furniture & Equipment	326,142.00	2.8%	187,179.11	57.4%	24,966.19	65.0%
Client / General Assistance	42,000.00	0.4%	21,601.67	51.4%	0.00	51.4%
Indirect Cost	912,770.00	7.8%	557,931.78	61.1%	354,838.22	100.0%
Total	11,760,992.00	100.0%	6,306,632.64	53.6%	4,311,812.53	90.3%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 26

As of February 28, 2026

All Programs						
Oklahoma School for the Deaf						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	9,578,719.00	53.8%	5,405,481.02	56.4%	3,930,056.20	97.5%
Travel	248,540.00	1.4%	122,080.45	49.1%	450.00	49.3%
General Operating	5,724,294.00	32.2%	1,991,768.63	34.8%	2,336,359.01	75.6%
Office Furniture & Equipment	584,505.00	3.3%	253,798.12	43.4%	146,244.81	68.4%
Client / General Assistance	522,000.00	2.9%	105,496.14	20.2%	285,897.00	75.0%
Indirect Cost	1,136,688.00	6.4%	698,930.56	61.5%	437,757.44	100.0%
Total	17,794,746.00	100.0%	8,577,554.92	48.2%	7,136,764.46	88.3%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 26

As of February 28, 2026

All Programs						
Disability Determination Services						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	38,154,742.00	68.5%	22,379,249.07	58.7%	15,705,547.42	99.8%
Travel	52,001.00	0.1%	9,392.52	18.1%	21,339.35	59.1%
General Operating	4,523,017.00	8.1%	1,821,642.31	40.3%	1,895,524.87	82.2%
Office Furniture & Equipment	381,164.00	0.7%	176,199.95	46.2%	0.00	46.2%
Client / General Assistance	8,585,000.00	15.4%	3,933,104.95	45.8%	4,651,895.05	100.0%
Indirect Cost	4,000,991.00	7.2%	2,447,063.68	61.2%	1,553,927.32	100.0%
Total	55,696,915.00	100.0%	30,766,652.48	55.2%	23,828,234.01	98.0%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 26

As of February 28, 2026

All Programs DRS Support Services						
	Budget	% of Total Budget	Expenditures	% Expended	Encumbrances	% Used
Personnel	8,905,808.00	74.6%	5,408,687.78	60.7%	3,196,326.22	96.6%
Travel	97,005.00	0.8%	54,719.25	56.4%	900.00	57.3%
General Operating	2,886,621.00	24.2%	1,338,502.33	46.4%	1,143,851.24	86.0%
Office Furniture & Equipment	35,099.00	0.3%	6,898.38	19.7%	1,306.65	23.4%
Client / General Assistance	0.00	0.0%	3,166.44	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
Indirect Cost	8,509.00	0.1%	4,893.25	57.5%	3,615.75	100.0%
Total	11,933,042.00	100.0%	6,816,867.43	57.1%	4,345,999.86	93.5%

Department of Rehabilitation Services Financial Status Report FY 26

As of February 28, 2026

Personnel

Salary Expense

Insurance Premium -Health-Life, etc

FICA-Retirement Contributions

Travel

Travel - Agency Direct

Travel - Reimbursements

General Operating

AFP Encumberances

Bond Indebtness and Expenses

Buildings-Purchase, Construction and Renovation

General Operating

Inter/Intre 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

OKLAHOMA COMMISSION FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ISSUE:

Review of the FY 2028 – FY 2035 Capital Outlay Request

BACKGROUND:

The DRS Chief Financial Officer has reviewed the FY 2028 – FY 2035 Capital Outlay Request and justifications as submitted by DRS Divisions.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests the Commission review, assign Agency priorities, and make recommendations for the FY 2028 – FY 2035 Capital Outlay Request.

BUDGET IMPACT:

FY 2028 – FY 2035 Capital Outlay Request

Division/Program	Number of Projects	Total Cost
OSB	3	\$3,995,000
OSD	1	3,000,000
TOTAL	4	\$6,995,000

**Department of Rehabilitation Services
FY 2028 - FY 2035 Capital Outlay Request**

Priority	Project #	Project Name	Amount
1	805-0068	OSB - New Cafeteria	2,000,000
2	805-0069	OSB - Auditorium Remodel	945,000
3	805-0026	OSB - New Maintenance and Auto/Carpentry Shop	1,050,000
4	805-0104	OSD - Griffing Hall Remodel	3,000,000
TOTAL REQUEST			\$6,995,000

Division/Program	Amount
OSB (3 Projects)	\$3,995,000
OSD (1 Projects)	\$3,000,000
Total Request (4 Projects)	\$6,995,000

DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES

FY 2028 - FY 2035 Capital Outlay Request

805-0068 OSB - New Cafeteria

Agency Priority 1 Amount \$2,000,000

This request is for the construction of a new school cafeteria. The existing cafeteria is built over original sewer and plumbing lines dating back to 1904. These systems are outdated and failing—floor drains do not function properly, and maintenance has had to make repeated, piecemeal repairs to the piping. Additionally, the water lines and grease traps are aging and require full replacement. The current facility also presents functional and safety challenges. The ceilings are low, lighting is inadequate, and multiple load-bearing columns throughout the dining area create obstacles, making it difficult for visually impaired students to navigate safely and independently. A new cafeteria would address these infrastructure and accessibility concerns while also providing expanded space for staff training sessions and special events. Repurposing the existing dining area would create an opportunity to renovate and convert the space into additional classrooms.

805-0069 OSB - Auditorium Remodel

Agency Priority 2 Amount \$945,000

This request proposes a comprehensive renovation of the school auditorium to upgrade flooring, lighting, sound systems, seating capacity, and HVAC infrastructure. The auditorium is currently insufficient to meet demand during graduation ceremonies and other major events. It routinely reaches full capacity, requiring many attendees, including families, friends, and dignitaries, to stand in aisles and doorways due to limited seating. In addition, the existing infrastructure has reached the end of its useful life. The current seating can no longer be securely anchored to the plywood subfloor due to dry rot, necessitating full subfloor replacement prior to the installation of new seating and carpeting. The carpeting, paint, and seating were last replaced approximately thirty-six years ago, and the sound system is approximately twenty years old. Lighting is inadequate for current performance and presentation needs. The HVAC system also requires modernization, including conversion from a 2-pipe to a 4-pipe system, to improve climate control efficiency and comfort during large events. The existing auditorium includes 265 seats within approximately 3,150 square feet, including balcony space. However, the current layout and infrastructure no longer meet functional or capacity needs.

805-0026 OSB - New Maintenance and Auto/Carpentry Shop

Agency Priority 3 Amount \$1,050,000

The current facility housing the auto shop and carpentry shop is outdated and undersized, making it inadequate for the school's instructional and operational needs. The limited space allows only one vehicle to be serviced at a time, significantly restricting efficiency and hands-on learning opportunities. As a result, the school's mechanic is often required to perform repairs outdoors, frequently working on the ground in all weather conditions while servicing school buses and other vehicles. In addition to space limitations, the existing building is located in a high-traffic student pedestrian area, creating safety concerns for both students and staff during vehicle movement and maintenance operations. The proposed project includes the construction of a new metal building measuring approximately 50' x 60'. The facility will also feature an attached carport extending the full 60' length of the front of the building, creating a 20' x 60' covered work area. This new facility will provide a safer, more efficient, and appropriately sized environment to support both automotive and carpentry programs while improving workflow, instructional capacity, and overall campus safety.

805-0104 OSD - Griffing Hall Remodel

Agency Priority 4 Amount \$3,000,000

This project is to remodel the second and third floors of the Griffing Hall Dormitory, as well as the first-floor bathrooms in the cafeteria. This will include creating additional walls on each floor, painting and remodeling the restrooms. It will also involve replacing the water lines, boiler, and variable air volume (VAV - a sophisticated type heating ventilation and air conditioning system that adjusts the amount of air delivered to different zones within a building space based on specific needs). The restrooms on the first floor in the cafeteria will also be remodeled.

TOTAL REQUEST \$6,995,000



Human Resources Report

PERSONNEL ACTIVITY REPORT AS OF APRIL 30, 2026

FILLED AND VACANT POSITIONS

Personnel Activity = 8 vacant positions filled / 43 positions in Announcement or Selection Process

Division	Title/PIN	Date Vacated	Location	Begin date	End date	Ann. #	Action/Incumbent	Date Filled
EXEC	Business Analyst / 0682	11/02/2025	EXEC	01/21/2026	03/04/2026	26-040	Currently Open	
FSD	Accountant / 0013	10/02/2025	FSD	03/23/2026	Continuous	26-044	Currently Open	
MSD	Contracting & Acquisitions Agent / 0502	04/30/2026	MSD	04/03/2026	Continuous	26-058	Currently Open	
MSD	Administrative Programs Officer / 1082	01/05/2026	MSD	01/09/2026	Continuous	26-041	Matthew Stanton	04/01/2026
VR/SBVI ADMIN	Programs Field Representative / 0376	12/31/2025	VR/SBVI	04/06/2026	04/10/2026	26-059	In Selection Process	
OSB	Housekeeping/Custodial Worker / 0822	03/09/2026	OSB	04/01/2026	Continuous	26-062	Currently Open	
OSB	LPN / 0420	04/08/2026	OSB	04/01/2026	Continuous	26-064	Currently Open	
OSB	Food Service Specialist / 0231, 0444	06/01/2026	OSB	04/03/2026	Continuous	26-065	Currently Open	
OSB	Independent Living Instructor / 0037	06/14/2022	OSB	04/17/2026	Continuous	26-066	Currently Open	
OSB	Independent Living Instructor / 0852	12/03/2025	OSB	12/20/2025	Continuous	26-037	Autum Reeve	04/01/2026
		10/09/2025					Lauren Brinsfield	04/01/2026
		10/21/2025					Allison Hawkins	04/01/2026
OSB	Direct Care Specialist / 0237,0586,0235	09/20/2025	OSB	07/08/2025	Continuous	26-002	Caitlin Lindsey	04/01/2026
OSD	Teacher / 0619	07/31/2026	OSD	04/03/2026	Continuous	26-060	Currently Open	
OSD	Administrative Assistant / 0353	03/26/2026	OSD	04/03/2026	Continuous	26-061	Currently Open	
OSD	Teacher / 0243	06/01/2026	OSD	04/03/2026	Continuous	26-063	Currently Open	
OSD	Food Service Specialist / 0655	03/05/2026	OSD	03/05/2026	Continuous	26-054	Currently Open	
OSD	Administrative Assistant / 0088	12/01/2025	OSD	02/27/2026	Continuous	26-053	Currently Open	
OSD	Housekeeping/Custodial Worker / 0712	02/23/2026	OSD	02/26/2026	Continuous	26-052	Currently Open	
OSD	Construction/Maintenance Tech / 0701	11/12/2025	OSD	12/05/2025	Continuous	26-035	Currently Open	
OSD	Teacher / 0423	06/01/2024	OSD	09/19/2025	Continuous	26-016	Currently Open	
OSD	Sign Language Interpreter / 0186	07/31/2025	OSD	08/18/2025	Continuous	26-007	Currently Open	
OSD	Speech Language Pathologist / P107653	NEW PIN	OSD	07/17/2025	Continuous	26-003	Currently Open	
OSD	Counselor / 1028	11/13/2024	OSD	01/24/2025	Continuous	25-062	Currently Open	
OSD	School Counselor / 1488	10/06/2022	OSD	07/15/2024	Continuous	25-007	Currently Open	
			OSD –					
OSD	Teacher / 0635	07/31/2024	Chickasha	04/15/2024	Continuous	24-083	Currently Open	
OSD	Sign Language Specialist, 2308 / 1090	07/20/2023	OSD	08/17/2023	Continuous	24-023	Currently Open	
OSD	Direct Care Specialist (Dorm) / 0115	08/20/2025	OSD	10/24/2023	Continuous	23-032	Currently Open	

OSD	Teacher, 2083 / 0890	08/01/2021	OSD	10/04/2023	Continuous	23-079	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0138	04/01/2026	VR47 – OKC	04/22/2026	04/28/2026	26-067	In Selection Process	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0671	04/30/2026	VR77 – Miami	04/24/2026	Continuous	26-068	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0011	04/21/2026	VR08 – Enid	04/29/2026	Continuous	26-069	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0516	03/17/2026	VR80 – Tulsa	03/24/2026	Continuous	26-056	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0690	04/01/2026	VR80 – Tulsa	02/20/2026	Continuous	26-047	Currently Open	
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0307	12/31/2025	VR86 – Ada	02/20/2026	Continuous	26-050	Hannah Mihelic	04/01/2026
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0846	02/28/2026	VR15 – Midwest City	02/23/2026	02/27/2026	26-049	Victoria Middleton	04/01/2026
VR	Rehabilitation Technician / 0437	11/17/2025	VR81 – Chickasha	11/19/2025	Continuous	26-032	Amanda Read	04/01/2026
VR	Job Placement Specialist / 0372	07/01/2025	VR47 – OKC	09/19/2025	Continuous	26-015	Currently Open	
VR	Programs Field Representative / 0786	08/31/2024	VR – TBD	05/01/2025	Continuous	25-093	Currently Open	
VR	Job Placement Specialist / 0925	05/31/2023	VR86 – Ada	05/09/2025	Continuous	25-098	Currently Open	
VR	Behavioral Health Clinician / 0165	03/01/2011	VR13 – McAlester	05/15/2025	Continuous	25-101	Currently Open	
VR	Assistive Technology Specialist / 0263	02/01/2025	VR36 – OKC	04/22/2025	Continuous	25-089	Currently Open	
VR	Assistive Technology Specialist / 0085	05/01/2024	VR36 – OKC	04/18/2025	Continuous	25-085	Currently Open	
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0567	09/01/2020	VR67 – Tulsa	11/01/2023	Continuous	21-028.1	Currently Open	
SBVI	Rehabilitation of the Blind Spec / 0812	03/06/2026	SBVI69 – Weatherford	03/25/2026	Continuous	26-055	Currently Open	
SBVI	Programs Manager (BEP Operations Coordinator) / 1209	07/01/2026	SBVI33 – OKC	03/25/2026	03/31/2026	26-057	Currently Open	
SBVI	Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist / 0938	01/30/2026	SBVI64 – Tulsa	02/20/2026	Continuous	26-046	Currently Open	
SBVI	Rehabilitation Technician / 0267	02/13/2026	SBVI64 – Tulsa	02/19/2026	Continuous	26-051	Currently Open	
SBVI	Mechanical Systems Technician / 0560	08/11/2017	SBVI33 – OKC	06/03/2025	Continuous	25-114	Currently Open	
SBVI	Rehabilitation of the Blind Specialist / 0754	10/01/2018	SBVI – TBD	05/23/2025	Continuous	25-107	Currently Open	

DISCHARGES/RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS = 13

As of April 30, 2026

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION (Executive/MSD/FSD)

Retirement = 1

1 = 19 years

Resignation = 1

1 = 3 months

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Resignation = 3

1 = 22 years 8 months

1 = 12 years 7 months

1 = 12 years

Death = 1

1 = 3 years 3 months

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED DIVISION

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Resignation = 1

1 = 2 months

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES

Discharge = 5

1 = 10 years 6 months

1 = 12 years 1 month

1 = 5 years 6 months

1 = 7 years 7 months

1 = 4 years 10 months

Death = 1

1 = 22 years 5 months

CURRENT FTE STATUS FY 2026

FTE as of April 30, 2026

<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)	82.5	78.00	3.00	(1.00)	80.00
Vocational Rehabilitation	230.0	217.00	12.00	0.00	229.00
Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired	113.0	104.00	6.00	0.00	110.00
VR/SBVI-DP	4.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	4.00
Oklahoma School for the Blind	100.0	94.00	5.00	0.00	99.00
Oklahoma School for the Deaf	131.5	115.00	16.00	0.00	131.00
Total (NON-EXEMPT)	660.80	611.00	43.00	(1.00)	653.00
Disability Determination Services (EXEMPT)	327.20	288.00	0.00	(288.00)	288.00
TOTAL NON-EXEMPT & EXEMPT	988.2	899.00	43.00	(289.00)	941.00

FY 26 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
 LaChelle Westfahl, Human Resources Program Director
 Mark Beutler, Director of Communications
 Kathleen Arrieta, Executive Assistant
 Brett Jones, Public Information Officer III



SBVI and VR Transition Services Report

Commission report for Transition updates – Fall 2025 – May 1st, 2026

❖ Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) Updates

Transition continues to maintain relationships and provide resources around the state to and with our Pre-ETS. The 41 (and growing – we have job announcements in Elgin and Weatherford currently) Pre-Employment Transition Specialists are still currently working with students and schools on providing Pre-ETS services in over 250 schools, including Central Tech and Kiamichi Tech. The 6 work skills trainers through the Pre-ETS contracts are increasing inclusion in the communities and competitive integrated workplaces. This allows students to work during high school and gain work experience with some support.

The Central Oklahoma Workforce Innovation Board (COWIB) will no longer be involved with the 2 work skills trainers effective sometime this summer or early August according to the Governor's office. This will eliminate the Oklahoma Inclusive Post Secondary Education Alliance (OKIPSE) next program support, but we are looking into exploring other options for that piece to continue.

1. Pre-ETS from Central Tech and Kiamichi – We continue to grow this program in the Northeastern part of the state including Bristow, Cleveland, Cushing, Davenport, Depew, Drumright, Hominy, Kellyville, Kiefer, Mannford, Mounds, Oilton, Olive, Prue, Ripley, Sapulpa, West Side Christian Academy, and Yale in partnership with the Central Technology Center. They have a staff of 8 providing services and supporting Pre-ETS. Kiamichi Tech Center began Pre-ETS at their campuses in August 2023. Kiamichi has 9 campuses, which are reaching some rural areas – Talihina, Durant, McAlister, Idabel, Stigler, Poteau, Hugo, Wilburton, and Atoka and they have 9 Pre-ETS providing these services to potentially eligible and DRS clients.

The Pre-ETS contract continues to work with Not Your Average Joe (NYAJ) and Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma (DASCO). We are also working with Safe Haven, a Vet Clinic, in Midwest City with the Work Based Learning (WBL) model. They continue to have students working through the WBL experience. Bridges in Tulsa are also utilizing this opportunity for those surrounding schools as well. We have had discussions with other possible employers such as Okie Goods, a PT Clinic, and Kendall's Restaurant to expand opportunities

- a. Not Your Average Joe (NYAJ), Safe Haven, and Bridges have a contract for Work Based Learning where students participating in a work-based learning experience is essential to empowering students with a disability to develop job skills, realize the benefits of earned income, explore different types of employment and work environments, and gain experience with competitive

integrated employment. We are reimbursing employers for those work-based learning opportunities based on hours worked, not to exceed 120 hours in one year.

- b. Down Syndrome of Central Oklahoma (DSACO) has a self-advocacy center where they have a staff that delivers Pre-ETS activities to those students throughout the year. They had a STEM camp in February where they made their own decorations (socks) for the DSACO annual luncheon to raise awareness of Down Syndrome.

❖ **Staff Updates**

Transition Support Services (my team) remains FULLY STAFFED. The Program Field Reps (PFRs) are assigned to each quadrant of the state. The Southeast Region is Kevin Randall, the Southwest Region is Jeff Newton, the Northeast Region is Tracy Keeley, and the Northwest Region is Porsheana Brown. Jessie Renteria is the administrative assistant, aka, my right-hand girl and Chris Compton is another PFR with duties included but not limited to School Work Study contracts, the Transition Newsletter, and most generally all things behind the scenes of summer programs, including application exports, etc.

SharePoint (aka, iDRS) Transition Page

Chris Compton has completed the updates to the Transition page on the SharePoint page for all internal staff. He will be keeping that information updated from this point forward.

❖ **Programming Updates**

Peer Mentoring

- a. National Center for Disability Education and Training (NCDET) and the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) continue the peer mentoring program, adapted from Peer MentoringWorks, for mentees (high-school students) aged 16-21 and mentors aged 18-26. Peer Mentoring - one-on-one relationship building between students and Pre-ETS or previous/current DRS clients or a person with a disability sharing knowledge and experience, promoting encouragement, offering problem solving skills, serving as a positive role model as well as providing an opportunity to learn from different perspectives.
 1. Pre-ETS Specialist, Peer Mentoring Coordinator, has been filled by Hailey Sharp with OU Pre-ETS. We have several undergrad students who are current or previous DRS clients/Pre-ETS clients, OU students or other students with disabilities.

National Peer Mentoring Project

The Transition Coordinator (TC) continues to work with the mentor program, as available.

School Work Study (SWS) Contracts

School Work Study contracts are being sent in steadily. We have, as of May 1st, 327 contracts that have been signed for FY26. We are seeing more rural areas reaching out for contracts. This time last year, we were at 329. We will get a few more probably for summer since students may need or want to work during the summer months and a contract will need to be in place to do so. Chris Compton keeps that information updated and does all the send outs!

Work Adjustment Training (WAT) Contracts

Work Adjustment Training Contracts are growing. We have 26 contracts as of May 1st, that have come back signed for FY26. That is up 19 last year at this time. We have several inquiries from schools across the state to begin WAT contracts. Those who have reached out are Bios, 4RKids, Tulsa, Sand Springs, Gatesway, Bethany, Durant, Noble, Broken Arrow, Muskogee – help with OSB, and some rural areas. Kevin Randall, Tracy Keeley, Porsheana Brown, and now Jeff Newton are all working with the schools on their proposals to submit to DRS for approval. We are seeing more rural areas reaching for WAT contracts as well.

Project Search (A one-year business-led transition program for ages 18-24)

We had ten sites beginning the 2025-2026 school year and we served approximately 60-65 students this FY26. We have a new opportunity in Ada, Ardmore, Lawton, Bethany Children's Hospital, and Duncan that is still being discussed!! We are looking forward to more opportunities!! We are on the move. Also, we had a meeting with Tinker AFB about a Project SEARCH, and they are very interested. Ardmore and Ada will begin Project SEARCH in the fall of 2026, if not sooner. Bethany Children's is looking to begin the fall of 2027 and will be a young adult program from 18-24.

OSU-IDD - Self-Determination Training Program

This program has completed its year 3. They changed the name to OSU-IDD Self Determination Training. We currently have 12 in the program.

Micro-Credentialing – ABLE Tech

ABLE Tech is still working through the needs of the micro-credentialing contract with DRS. Pre-ETS are being involved to be able to share this opportunity with youth with disabilities. Super exciting times. ABLE Tech has also provided make-n-take bags for BEST STEP with accessibility materials for each student attending.

A meeting with ABLE Tech and Project SEARCH has started to introduce micro-credentialing and/or badges for those students. We will continue the discussion and keep everyone posted. Those involved were ABLE Tech staff, Brandi Hurley, Orlando Williams, Annie Baghdayan, and Transition DRS staff.

Oklahoma Inclusive Postsecondary Education – (OKIPSE)

DRS has signed contracts to support clients in these programs below:

- OU SoonerWorks
- NSU RiverHawks
- OSU Opportunity Orange
- USAO in Chickasha – Neuro Diversity program

OCCC received a portion of the Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) to be able to have a pilot program at a Community College. Very exciting!! It will begin August 2026.

Competitive Employability Readiness Training (CERT) Culinary

Tulsa Technology Center CERT Culinary participants continue in the hospitality program learn how to work as a culinary assistant. The program provides them with technical training and experience in a variety of service occupations through hospitality curriculum.

A New Leaf

DRS continues to work with A New Leaf to provide those services to DRS clients.

DHS/OJA/DMHSAS – MOUs

MOUs continue to be discussed to provide support and services to students in DHS and OJA custody and other partners with different homeless alliances, Mental Health, and shelters in OKC and Tulsa. We continue more partnerships/initiatives around the state for the homeless, foster youth, Mental Health (including Red Rock), and DHS/ OJA custody.

THRIVE Summer Program with UCO – PUT ON HOLD FROM UCO

TC and UCO were in discussion to provide a new summer program that will be in expanding high-quality support for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We hope to try again next summer. It is a one-week, immersive college preview experience.

Rise Staffing

TC is working with Rise Staffing, Lisa Toth, to provide an on-the-job Pre-ETS Work-Based Learning (WBL) opportunity as a pilot with Jenks and Broken Arrow. The intent is to provide workplace readiness skills and work-based learning opportunities. This contract is not in place yet. Lisa and her staff are still advertising and revising the structure.

OU SPARK 360

SPARK360° is an Autism Support Program under the umbrella of the Zarrow Institute on Transition & Self-Determination. Launched in Fall 2023, the program is designed to support autistic students seeking an undergraduate degree as they navigate the hidden college curriculum. The program

provides full-circle support for participating students through academic planning, transition support, employment skills, independent living, and social development.

Central Oklahoma Juvenile Center (COJC) SWS

COJC utilizes the SWS program for those students to work and get paid. There is one dedicated counselor for that facility.

❖ Tutoring and Financial Literacy Contract Updates

Payne Education Center

A new contract has been developed to provide Certified Academic Language Therapists (CALTs) to students who have developmental dyslexia, a specific learning disability in reading, or severe reading deficiencies. The purpose of this reading therapy is to enable students to achieve and maintain better word recognition, reading fluency, reading comprehension, and aid in the transition from a therapy setting to “real world” learning.

ReadWrite Center

A new contract has been developed for ReadWrite as another type of training to provide another option for dyslexia evaluations and therapy.

Shimmer – ADHD Coaching

A new contract is being developed for ADHD coaching, as another type of training to provide another option for autism and ADHD evaluations and therapy.

Core of Knowledge

A new contract is being developed as another type of training to provide another option for dyslexia evaluations and therapy.

Behoove

A new contract is being developed as another type of training to provide another option for dyslexia evaluations and therapy.

Mathnasium

This contract was implemented on October 1st, 2025, for a workplace readiness program that relates to financial literacy. The goal is to help those students, aged 14-21, with pre-employment skills in a structured program that would include direct instruction in financial literacy by Mathnasium instructors, using their robust curriculum. The locations will be in Edmond, Deer Creek, and North Oklahoma City. We do have one client currently receiving the service and is doing great. There are a few others that are interested.

❖ **Summer Program Review:**

This Summer 2026 Transition Services of DRS (including Pre-ETS activities, VR/SBVI Counselors, LOOM, LLC – Yolanda Scott, Transition Program Field Reps, Pre-ETS specialists, and Work Skills Trainers) increased the skill sets of individuals with disabilities for successful employment around the state. Below are the preliminary results for Spring/Summer 2026.

- a. Science Technology Engineering Mathematics – STEM camps –
 1. Six Camps are planned for this summer – in person in Waukomis, Ada, Fargo, Noble, Miami, and Tulsa
- b. Building Employment Skills for Today (BEST) followed by Summer Transition Employment Program (STEP). Summer will be.

BEST STEP – Preliminary numbers

1. **907** applied for BEST STEP (625 accepted)
 1. **25 camps for OU – 1 mini-BEST for Laura Dester (ICF) in Tulsa**
 2. **1 camp for Central Technology Center**
 3. **8 camps for Kiamichi**
2. **35** locations including the one BEST ONLY camp
3. **127** DRS applications sent to PE students with disabilities* (from this year)
4. **45** new DRS clients as of 5/1/26 (from sending applications last summer)

What we don't know yet are the number of students who will attend and work, number of employers, and total internship hours worked! The last day of work for ALL interns is 8/1/26.

Tulsa alone had over 100 students again apply for BEST STEP, so we ended up having 2 different BEST STEP programs in Tulsa.

Our partnerships will include LOOM, LLC – A new company started by Yolanda Scott. With her knowledge and background from being a part of COWIB in the past, she can assist with being the Employer of Record again. With the partnership of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation and MetaFund, these are making it possible for this wonderful program to be a paid internship. The other 3 post-secondary institutions (Pre-ETS teams), and an ever-growing employer list is how we can ensure the students can work and gain such great skills during this summertime.

- c. **BEST** is one week of instruction - BEST provided opportunities to prepare students with disabilities, both DRS clients and potentially eligible students, ages 16-21, for real life jobs, careers, and situations. Engaging youth in job search activities, work readiness, access to employment and vocational opportunities, making networking/social connections and pre-employment transition skills (Pre-ETS).
- d. **STEP** is 4 weeks of paid work experience - STEP was the employment piece of the summer program. Teachers and paraprofessionals are

hired to assist with development and being a job skills trainer to ensure these students are getting the help needed in the community on the job. We have 85 Work Skills Trainers to assist through OU alone. Central Tech and Kiamichi have staff to be able to assist with this portion and they do hire a few temporary employees from different campuses. Students working during the summer get wages paid through LOOM, LLC partner.

1. Guest speakers are included again during the BEST portion of the camp during the lunch hour.
 2. ABLE Tech provides accessibility tool kits for the students so that they can have experience with requesting accommodation, etc.
- e. **Sooner Works Summer Academy** will be held in June at OU again this summer. It is a residential summer college experience for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) on the University of Oklahoma (OU) campus and DRS. DRS will support 15 students, so far. These students are current high school students who have completed the 10th grade (estimated ages 15-20) and are DRS clients or potentially eligible students with disabilities ("participating students") interested in attending a postsecondary education program with an emphasis on interest in PSE program.
- f. **Visually Impaired Blindness Empowerment (VIBE)** - The Transitional VIBE Program provides assessment and career/higher education exploration. This one-week program is designed to prepare the individual for higher education, competitive workforce, and independent living to the best of their ability. They learned Independent Living Skills, Communication Skills, Team Building, Travel/transportation, Career and Job Exploration, Interviews, Technology, Resume Skills, Exploration of College/Career and Tech/Workforce. The Pre-ETS specialists will continue to be involved in this as well. Applications are still being made for this summer.
- g. **Dale Rogers Training Center (DRTC)**, Safety and Policy Encounter DRTC Summer Academy (prior known as Camp Tumbleweed). Students will learn computer skills, communication skills, transportation skills, safety skills, and community skills.

❖ **Transition Newsletter**

If you have not subscribed to our external Transition Newsletter, please do. The subscription link is located at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/OKDRS/subscriber/new>. We always need Success Stories. Please send your leads stories / names to Tracy, Kevin, Porsheana, Jeff, and Chris for the Newsletters.

❖ Meetings and Activities

1. TC has attended many BEST STEP Meetings with staff, Transition Training event with counselors, techs, and Pre-ETS staff, Business Services Meetings, CSAVR transition committee meetings, Joining Forces Planning Meetings, School presentations and fairs, Down Syndrome Association Central Oklahoma meetings, OCCY Strengthening and Youth Custody Meetings, Project SEARCH meetings and partners meetings, Cimarron Public Transit board meetings, counselor / tech check-in meetings, Career Pathways meetings, OTC Meetings, NTACTION CTE/SpEd/VR Meetings, Pre-ETS Blindness CoP, Autism Foundation of Oklahoma Meetings, Collaborate for Change meetings, RSA – OPC Advisory Board meetings, OSB quarterly meetings, Pre-VR meetings, VR TAC Meetings, Policy Committee meetings, OU special education / transition department meetings in class, SNU boot camp presentations, OKIPSE meetings, CSAW meetings, CSAT meetings, DDS / DRS meetings, Micro-Credentialing meetings with ABLE Tech, VRTAC / RSA update meetings, OU Zarrow, DCDDT meetings, Pathway to Partnerships Meetings with OSDE, CBI meetings for the state plan for Oklahoma, Inclusive Communication Conference presentation prep, Arts Foundation presentation prep, conferences, and Education and Training Subcommittee Meetings.

If you have any questions, please let me know!

Thank you so much,

Respectfully submitted: Renee Sansom Briscoe



Disability Determination Services Report

Disability Determination Services Commission Report – May 2026

Disability Determination Services staff make the medical / vocational determination of eligibility for those applying for Social Security Disability. The DDS has two components – the main DDS who process a caseload of applicants from the State of Oklahoma while the Extended Service Team (EST) processes a caseload made up of applicants from other states as determined by SSA. For Federal Fiscal Year 2026, the two components together are processing cases from Oklahoma, Texas, and Georgia.

SSA sets benchmark targets for the DDS in Production, Processing Time, and Accuracy. These benchmarks are applied across three major groups of cases:

- Initial Cases (IN) – claimants making their first or a new application for benefits.
- Reconsideration (RC) – claimants appealing an unfavorable initial determination.
- Continuing Disability Reviews (CDR) – periodic review of claimants currently receiving disability benefits.

FY 2026 Production

As of the midyear point Federal Fiscal Year 2026 (March 27), the Oklahoma DDS is on track to meet all budgeted targets across all case categories:

FY 2026 Production							
OK DDS Production				OK EST Production			
	Target	YTD	Gap		Target	YTD	Gap
Initial	31,500	16,141	1.24%	Initial	13,077	6,011	-4.03%
Recon	6,000	3,845	14.08%	Recon	0	0	N/A
CDR	10,515	4,908	-3.32%	CDR	1,800	1,813	100.72%

Total Expected Production	62,892
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FY 2026 Processing Time

At the end of week 26, OK DDS overall average processing time was slightly below the National average:

FY 2026 Processing Time (Days)		
	OK	Nation
Initial	173.0	161.6
Recon	201.2	218.6
Average	187.1	190.1

Most of the DDS overall processing time occurs between case receipt and assignment, while the cases are in our backlog. With a freeze on new Examiner hires since FY 2024, it is unlikely this trend will reverse soon.

FY 2026 Accuracy

Oklahoma DDS continues to maintain high overall quality, remaining above the SSA threshold for both Initial and Reconsideration cases:

OK DDS Performance Accuracy			
	Target	DDS	Rank
Initial	90.6%	94.0%	26
Recon	90.0%	98.7%	3

OK DDS Decisional Accuracy			
	Target	DDS	Rank
Initial	97.00%	98.8%	10
Recon	97.00%	97.7%	14

FY 2026 Aged Cases

OK DDS continues to focus on processing aged cases and once again, we are well below the national percentage:

% of Pending Cases 180 Days or Older	
OK DDS	Nation
9.97%	21.86%

FY 2026 CE Rates

We continue to make great strides in lowering our CE rates:

CE Rates Comparison								
Initial			Reconsideration			CDR		
FY 2025	FY 2026	Difference	FY 2025	FY 2026	Difference	FY 2025	FY 2026	Difference
44.1%	32.5%	-11.6%	20.7%	7.7%	-13.0%	40.0%	25.2%	-14.8%

Lowering our CE rate by just 10% results in savings of \$500k per year as well as around 6,000 decisions potentially reaching our claimants 27 days sooner.

DDS Backlogs

Initial and Reconsideration level applications flow from the SSA Field Offices continuously throughout the year. SSA does not restrict this nor can the DDS control it. This results in at least some level of unassigned cases in almost all State DDS. The numbers vary widely with some states having very few to others with hundreds of thousands of cases backlogged for well over a year before being assigned.

OK DDS backlog of unassigned Initial and Reconsideration at the end in Week 26 of FY 2026 was:

S39 Backlogs							
IN		RC		CD		Total	
Total	Oldest	Total	Oldest	Total	Oldest	Total	Oldest
9,297	132	3342	133	6605	170	19244	170

Our backlogs account for most of our overall processing time. The ongoing hiring freeze implemented by SSA resulted in DDS' inability to replace the 25 Examiner staff we have lost since FY 2024. Without adequate staffing, both our backlogs and resulting processing time will likely continue to increase.

That said, we are exploring ways to utilize existing staff with casework experience to, at a minimum, slow the growth of our current backlogs.

Disability Adjudication Resource Team (DART)

Early in FY 2026, SSA developed DART and tasked them with visiting all DDS to gather best practices and business processes. OK DDS was the ninth of 52 DDS DART plans to visit. They interviewed members of our staff and provided some feedback during their visit. We are awaiting their final report.

Federalizing Continuing Disability Reviews


In March, DDSs learned that SSA plans to process all CDR cases at a federal level beginning in FY 2027. They have already begun hiring 350 Examiners (almost all of whom will come from a DDS) for this initiative.

It is very likely that the loss of CDR cases to the DDS will result in the same number of expected production of Initial and Reconsideration cases. The DDS Administrators have voiced our grave concerns with this plan but currently, SSA plans to move forward.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Tiller', written in a cursive style.

Keith Tiller
DDS Administrator



Oklahoma School for the Deaf Donation Report

OSD Donation Report April 2026

Donations Under \$500.00


Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Explanation	Property Value
4/2/2026	Toni Hignight	\$ 100.00	70100/10252-01	Justin Kale-YLM Camp	
4/8/2026	Heath Freeborn & Kara Floyd		PAC/OSD Campus	PAC Production-Fog Machine Liquid	\$ 14.99
4/8/2026	Anonymous		PAC/OSD Campus	PAC Production-Yellow Brick Road Runner	\$ 30.69
4/8/2026	The Blackbaud Giving Fund	\$ 5.00	70100/20601	Needy Pupil Fund	
Subtotal Cash Under \$500.00		\$ 105.00		Subtotal Property Under \$500.00	\$ 30.69

Donations Over \$500.00

Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Explanation	Property Value
4/8/2026	Metro Library System		OSD Campus	600 books for the OSD library & FEELS program	\$ 12,000.00
4/23/2026	Adventure Headstart/Health & Well		OSD Campus	Classroom furniture requested by B. Hicks	\$ 3,775.00
Subtotal Cash Over \$500.00		\$ -		Subtotal Property Over \$500.00	\$ 15,775.00
Subtotal Cash Combined		\$ 105.00		Subtotal Property Combined	\$ 15,805.69

Total donations for April 2026

\$15,910.69



Oklahoma School for the Blind Donation Report

OSB DONATION REPORT

April 2026 Donations

Donations under \$500

Date	Name	Cash	Fund	Property	Value
4/8/2026	Brenda & Thomas Gullikson / Space Camp	\$ 50.00	701		
4/13/2026	Billie Jean Meyer / Stephanie Glynn	\$ 50.00	701		
	Billie Jean Meyer, in memory of Marilyn				
4/14/2026	Patocka/FCCLA	\$ 50.00	701		
4/30/2026	Faye Miller / Choir	\$ 100.00	701		
Subtotal of Cash (under \$500) donated in April 2026		\$ 250.00		Subtotal prop.	\$ -
Donations \$500 and over		\$ -			
4/2/2026	Love Bottling/SCASB sjponsorship	\$ 1,000.00	216		
4/2/2026	Bar B Flowers & Gifts / prom corsages & boutonnieres			flowers	\$ 680.00
4/8/2026	Transcribing Mariners / Stephanie Glynn FCCLA	\$ 2,000.00	701		
4/8/2026	Patsi Nix Smith/SCASB Track	\$ 500.00	216		
Subtotal of Cash (\$500 and over) donated in April 2026		\$ 3,500.00		Subtotal prop.	\$ 680.00
TOTAL DONATION AMOUNTS April - 2026		\$4,430.00			



Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Donation Report

OLBPH April 2026 Donations

Donations under \$500

DATE	NAME	CASH	PROPERTY	VALUE
04/27/2026	Oklahomans for Special Library Services (OSLS)		Crafts for Summer Reading Program	\$119.38
Subtotal of Donations Under \$500		\$119.38		

Donations \$500 and over

DATE	NAME	CASH	PROPERTY	VALUE
04/09/2026	OSLS		Podcasting Equipment	\$2469.89
Subtotal of Donations \$500 and over		\$2469.89		

Total Donation Amount \$2,589.27



Commission Minutes



Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 8, 2026

Oklahoma School for the Deaf
1100 East Oklahoma Avenue, Auditorium
Sulphur, OK 73085

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Commissioner Flannery with a quorum present: Theresa Flannery, Kelsey Lee, Lance Robertson, Noel Tyler and Kevin Wallace.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Commission Assistant Kathleen Arrieta confirmed the Commission for Rehabilitation Services follows the Open Meetings Act.

PRESENTATION OF LONGEVITY CERTIFICATES

Theresa Flannery, Chair

There were no longevity certificates.

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF FROM THE OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Dr. Heather Laine

Dr. Laine announced that Denise Henry, an Art Teacher with OSD for 30 years, would be retiring soon. Ms. Henry taught art classes for every grade, including art history. She also taught yearbook classes for 10 years. She is much loved by all the students and everyone at OSD is going to miss her greatly.

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF REPORT

Dr. Heather Laine

Report Highlights:

- The OSD performing arts program will present The Wizard of Oz on Tuesday, April 14th and will feature a performance in ASL with voice interpretation.

3535 N.W. 58th Street, Suite 500, Oklahoma City, OK 73112
o: 405-951-3400 | f: 405 951-3529 | Oklahoma.gov | okdrs.gov

Executive Director Melinda Fruendt

Commissioners Janet Barresi, Theresa Flannery, Lindsay Hanna, Kelsey Lee, Noel Tyler, Lance Robertson and Kevin Wallace

- The Royal Nile Gala Prom is open to all deaf and hard of hearing students statewide and will be held on May 9th at OSD.
- The Esports team has advanced to the top 10 nationally and will travel to the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in early May to compete. There are 10 other deaf schools competing.
- The football and track field project should be completed in early April.
- The Griffing Hall elevator replacement is underway.

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS TO THE OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF (OSD)

Dr. Heather Laine, Superintendent

The donations for March 2026 totaled \$126,126.80.

Commissioner Lee made a motion to accept the March 2026 OSD donations. Commissioner Wallace seconded. All Commissioners voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Melinda Fruendt, Executive Director

Meetings and events attended in March and April:

- Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council Executive Committee meeting
- Council of State Administrators for Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) conference in Washington, D.C.

Report Highlights:

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) State Plan. Stephanie Roe gave an update on the state plan which is currently undergoing a two-year modification. The state plan was opened for public comment on March 12 through April 12th and is due to the federal government on April 30th. The proposed workforce system transformation includes moving to a single statewide workforce board, instead of local boards. The Commission stated a concern that removing local boards may reduce attention to local and disability-related needs. Ms. Roe replied that there have been meetings with multiple agencies to ensure inclusion of individuals with disabilities.
- Process Improvement – There are two requests from the Rehabilitation Services Administration: 1) missing wage data in the State Wage Interchange System (SWIS), which is a data glitch affecting multiple states, and 2) working with the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (OESC) for better wage match data integration.
- AWARE: A new version of AWARE was recently installed. The Vendor Portal project for Employment Support Services (ESS) is underway. Staff will begin testing with the ESS unit.
- Case Review: currently auditing 60 randomly selected cases.
- Relocation of DRS State Office – The current state office building has been sold, and DRS must vacate by August 31, 2026. Dusty Price and Jonathan Woodward gave an overview of the relocation process including site reviews, costs, and lease terms. The lease terms for the chosen site were shared with the Commission.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Kevin Statham, CFO

Financial Status Report for FY 2026. As of February 28, 2026, the agency spent \$98.6M of the \$191.5M budget, with remaining encumbrances of \$83.1M which represents 94.9% of the budget.

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

LaChelle Westfahl, Human Resources Programs Manager

As of March 31st, 10 vacant positions were filled, and 39 positions were open. There were 10 separations, which included retirements, resignations, and discharges. There were 905 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Jennifer Hardin, Legislative Liaison

- The Department of Rehabilitation Services Bill Request Bill (HB 3627) has unanimously passed out of the House Rules Committee and was passed/adopted on March 17 in the House. The bill was received in the Senate on March 23rd. The purpose of the legislation is to allow the State Committee of Blind Vendors to hold meetings and executive sessions via videoconference, making an exception to physical quorum requirements. This bill mirrors legislation passed during the 2025 legislative session for the Statewide Independent Living Council (See HB 1664).
- SB 1356 transfers some duties from the Office of Management and Enterprise Service (OMES) to state agencies. As of March 27, 2026, this bill is dead pursuant to the rules.
- HB 1836 modified the definition of persons with significant disabilities to include those with intellectual or developmental disabilities and only required them to work 50% of the labor hours offered by a qualified non-profit agency. The bill passed the House on March 26, 2026 and was formally presented to the Senate for consideration on April 1, 2026.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES (VR)

Mark Kinnison, Division Administrator

Priority Group Update

As of April 6, 2026:

- Priority Groups 1 and 2 are open.
- Priority Group 3 is closed; clients waiting: 15
- Total clients on waiting list: 15

On April 8th, all 16 clients were released off the Priority Group 3 waitlist.

Portal Referral Update for March 2026

- 55 applications received:
 - 23 active assignments
 - 16 pending assignments
 - 16 closed for reasons which include referrals to other agencies, no shows, already has a case or application, or refused services.

Report highlights:

- The Rehabilitation Services Administration has updated DRS's 2nd Quarter employment rate under the federal performance measures, bringing DRS's results in line with the national average.
- The agency's timeliness metrics are well within the Federal Law: The time from application to eligibility is 60 days under federal law; DRS averages 37 days. The time from Eligibility to Plan Development is 90 days under federal law; DRS averages 54 days.
- The 14c Task Force, which was created through HB 1833, prepares Oklahoma and its workforce for the transition away from Section 14c certificates which allows sub-minimum wages for individuals with disabilities. Mark Kinnison is on the taskforce, which will meet on April 24th.
- Staff attended the Consortia of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation (CANAR). DRS has a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to co-serve Native American people with disabilities.
- A self-employment training was conducted for counseling staff, program managers, and vocational evaluators to help clients who want to be or are self-employed.

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS TO THE OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND (OSB)

Brent Pearce, Superintendent

The donations for March 2026 totaled \$4,895.00.

Commissioner Lee made a motion to accept the March 2026 OSB donations. Commissioner Robertson seconded. All Commissioners voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS TO THE OKLAHOMA LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED (OLBPH)

Kevin Treese, Program Manager III, SBVI

The donations for March 2026 totaled \$1,057.38

Commissioner Tyler made a motion to accept the March 2026 OSB donations. Commissioner Lee seconded. All Commissioners voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried.

REVIEW OF THE MARCH 11, 2026 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Theresa Flannery, Chair

Commissioner Wallace moved to approve the March 11, 2026 minutes as submitted. Commissioner Lee seconded. Commissioner Robertson abstained. Commissioners, Flannery, Lee, Tyler and Wallace voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Theresa Flannery, Chair

There was no new business.

ADJOURN

Theresa Flannery, Chair

Commissioner Flannery made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Lee seconded. All Commissioners voted in the affirmative, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.