

For Immediate Release:
April 15th, 2003

Oklahoma County District One
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Oklahoma County To Help Public Schools

This past week, Governor Brad Henry signed Senate Bill 237 into law. The bill allows Counties and County Officers to allocate resources, materials and equipment to assist local public school districts.

County Government can now assist in paying for specific improvements on school grounds. Prior to this legislation, the County Government could assist schools; however, the school district would have to pay back all expenditures related to labor, equipment and materials.

South Oklahoma City Legislative members, Democrats Senator Keith Leftwich and Representative Bill Paulk, authored the legislation at the request of newly elected District One County Commissioner Jim Roth. Although, authored by Democrats, SB 237 received overwhelming support from Republicans too. The House passed SB 237 96-5 and the Senate passed it 42-3.

Oklahoma County Commissioner Jim Roth said, "this initiative comes at an excellent time, when our schools are desperate with limited funds, and now Counties can really help. This could not be possible without the strong support and vision from Senator Leftwich and Rep. Paulk, who along with school officials, are working to enhance our County's public education systems. The new law makes it possible for us to help schools with their capital costs, and will thereby allow schools to use their already limited funds in other areas that will enhance education for our County's children."

The statutory law will take effect November 3, 2003.

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