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Lawmakers unveil education savings account act

By Eric Bradshaw
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Media Division
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Legislation that would provide education options to families across Oklahoma was unveiled Jan. 17 at a press conference at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Under House Bill 3398, by state Reps. Jason Nelson and Tom Newell, low-income public school students would be able to receive a portion of the state aid dedicated to their education and use it to expand their education options.

"This is an exciting and timely proposal that will help address one of our state's most pressing and challenging problems – the effects of poverty on our families," said Nelson, R-Oklahoma City. "Two thirds of the births of

children in our state are paid for by Medicaid. More than 60 percent of the public school students in our state are eligible for free or reduced price lunches. Educators I've talked to say that students living in poverty present the greatest challenge in our education system. This bill would begin to help these children and help schools with one of their greatest challenges."

"If you are a parent who has the means to pay for education alternatives, you have true freedom over how your child is educated," said Newell, R-Seminole. "If you have a lower income, your options are more limited. This legislation is about expanding those options for low-income families."

Under the legislation, students eligible for free or reduced price lunch under federal guidelines would be eligible to receive 90 percent

of the funding they would have generated at their resident public school through the school funding formula. Students in families whose household income is up to 1.5 times the threshold for free or reduced price lunch will be eligible to receive 60 percent of the amount they would have generated through the formula. Students in families whose household income is between of 1.5 times to 2 times the threshold will be eligible to receive 30 percent of what would have been generated through the formula.

The education savings account money could be used for tutoring, virtual school, higher education courses and private schools, Nelson said.

"There is not a private school in every community," Nelson said. "But there are alternative options to be found

in every community."

The president of a non-profit Oklahoma City school for impoverished and homeless children applauded the legislation.

Susan Agel, president of Positive Tomorrows, said the legislation could provide some funding for her students. Positive Tomorrows serves children who are homeless or in really difficult living situations.

"The Oklahoma City public school district estimates that there are about 2,000 homeless children in that school district," Agel said. "There are a number of them that are really living in some difficult situations. Those are the children that we can do the most for. So far this year, we've turned away about 50 kids. We've done this because we have a lack of space in our building and because of staffing considerations.

"Every child that we take relieves some pressure on the burdened public school system who has to be all things to all children. We can take children who need some special care and we can take care of those kids and in the end we can save everybody a lot of money."

Dr. Cris Carter, the superintendent of Oklahoma City Catholic Schools, said the Catholic Church has historically been an option for immigrants and the poor.

"We believe we have much to offer families who desire not only strong academics, but also a community rooted in a message of love and hope," Carter said. "Representative Nelson's previous legislation for special needs students has already begun to bear fruit. I have witnessed its impact most significantly at Good Shepherd Catholic School at Mercy, our school

for children with autism."

Lauren Marshall, member of the National Board on Public School Options and Tulsa resident, said parents need options.

"There are not enough school options right now for parents," Marshall said. "This legislation will expand those options and we are grateful for Representative Nelson's work on behalf of parents."

Pam Newby, executive director of Special Care, also spoke in support of the legislation.

"This bill is incredibly important to our families," Newby said. "Most of our families are single parents with children who have respiratory issues, or learning disabilities, or autism. They desperately need an education plan that is not one-size-fits-all. Education should not be one-size-fits-all."

LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Teacher workshop with Mr.

Henry's Book set for February

PENNY S. BAKER AKA PENNY SUE BAKER AKA PENNY S. HILL; SPOUSE, IF ANY, OF PENNY BAKER; JOHN DOE, OCCUPANT; AND LONNA ADAMS-WEBB

Defendant(s).

Case No. CJ-2012-2664

ALIAS NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

NOTICE IS GIVEN to Penny S. Baker; Spouse if any, of Penny Baker; John Doe, Occupant; Lonna Adams-Webb that on February 25, 2014, at 10:00 o'clock, a.m., at Room 119 of the County Courthouse in Tulsa, Tulsa County, Oklahoma, the Sheriff of said County will offer for sale and sell for cash at public auction to the highest and best bidder, with appraisement, all that certain real estate in Tulsa County, Oklahoma, to wit:

LOT TWENTY-ONE (21), BLOCK SEVEN (7), COUNTRY ESTATES V. AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF OWASSO, TULSA COUNTY, STATE OF OKLAHOMA, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 10804 E. 122nd Place Collinsville, OK 74021

subject to taxes and tax sales, said property being duly

LGXLG

judgment in the sum of \$142,840.18 together with interest at 5% per annum from November 1, 2010, including late charges \$1,800.00 for attorney's fee, \$700.00 advances for title search, taxes, insurance, property preservation and all costs of this action accrued and accruing.

The addresses of the Defendant(s), Lonna Adams-Webb, and her/his/their unknown successors are unknown to the Plaintiff.

WITNESS MY HAND this 9th day of January, 2014.

BY: Stanley Glanz, Sheriff

BY: /s/ E. Pierce Undersheriff/Deputy

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Oklahoma City, OK
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Attorneys for Plaintiff
File No. 12-113079

THIS IS YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

This newspaper urges every citizen to read and study these notices. We strongly advise those citizens seeking further information to exercise their right to access public records and attend public meetings. To view current and past legal notices published in a searchable format login to: oklahomanotices.com

Fourth- through eighth-grade teachers in Tulsa County are invited to attend the Mr. Henry's Books Teacher Workshop, Feb. 22, 9 a.m. - Noon, at Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E. 93rd St.

Registration is \$10 and includes a continental breakfast, 35 classroom copies of Newbery Award-winning book "Dead End in Norvelt" by Jack Gantos, winner of the 2014 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature, and lesson plans on how to use Gantos' books for a variety of school subjects. One lucky participant will win a classroom visit with Gantos on Aug. 22. Mr. Henry's Books began in 2003 and has provided nearly

with the 2014 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature for writing more than 40 books for children, teens and adults, many of which were recognized with distinguished national awards. He will receive the award during a presentation on Aug. 22, 7 p.m. at Hardesty Regional Library in Connor's Cove.

In 2012, he received the John Newbery Medal for his book "Dead End In Norvelt." His 2002 memoir, "Hole In My Life," won Michael L. Printz and Robert F. Sibert honors. He also is widely known for the "Rotten Ralph," "Jack Henry" and "Joey Pigza" series.

By his own admission, Gantos didn't start out as a vo-

strong emphasis on reading and writing. He recalls the teachers were friendly and made reading fun.

Gantos' family moved to Florida when he was in the sixth grade, where he discovered students were not as interested in his newfound love of books. He found solace in an abandoned bookmobile, with three flat tires, parked behind the school's baseball field.

His career as a professional writer began in 1976 with the publication of "Rotten Ralph," which he wrote with his illustrator friend, Nicole Rubel. While continuing to publish books at a rapid pace, he also taught creative writing, literature and publishing classes at Emerson

other writing-related topics, ranging from introductory classes to graduate-level seminars, at various universities.

Mr. Henry's Books is a program of the Tulsa City-County Library, sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust and TulsaKids Magazine, made possible by a grant from the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation.

Registration forms are due by Feb. 15. To download a form visit, http://www.tulsalibrary.org/sites/default/files/homeblocks/mr-henrys-books-teacher-workshop_13.pdf

For more information on Mr. Henry's Books Teacher Workshop, call the AskUs Hotline, 918-549-7323.

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