

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 51st Legislature (2007)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 1299

6 By: Terrill

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 (schools - Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program -
9 modifying eligibility requirements -
10 emergency)

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14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 2603, as
16 amended by Section 1, Chapter 293, O.S.L. 2002 (70 O.S. Supp. 2006,
17 Section 2603), is amended to read as follows:

18 Section 2603. A. To be eligible to participate in the Oklahoma
19 Higher Learning Access Program and to qualify for an award which
20 includes payment of an amount equivalent to resident tuition or
21 other tuition pursuant to Section 2604 of this title for the first
22 semester or other academic unit of postsecondary enrollment, a
23 student shall:

24 1. Be a resident of this state;

1 2. Have a record of satisfactory compliance with agreements
2 executed pursuant to Section 2605 of this title;

3 3. a. Have graduated within the previous three (3) years
4 from a high school accredited by the State Board of
5 Education, or the Oklahoma School of Science and
6 Mathematics with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point
7 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in
8 grades nine through twelve, ~~or~~

9 b. Have graduated within the previous three (3) years
10 from a high school not accredited by the State Board
11 of Education with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point
12 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in
13 grades nine through twelve and have achieved a
14 composite score of 22 or higher on the American
15 College Test, or

16 c. Have satisfactorily completed within the previous
17 three (3) years an educational program that was
18 provided through a means other than a public or
19 private school and have achieved a composite score of
20 22 or higher on the American College Test;

21 4. Have completed the curricular requirements for admission to
22 an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education
23 and one additional unit or set of competencies in a course that
24 meets college admission requirements; ~~provided the~~ The curriculum

1 requirements shall include two units or sets of competencies in
2 foreign or non-English language or technology courses that meet the
3 college admission requirements and one unit or set of competencies
4 of a fine arts course. Students shall also have attained a 2.5
5 grade point average in the core curriculum courses; ~~provided that~~
6 ~~students.~~ Students who attended a high school which did not offer
7 all the core curriculum courses or students who were educated by
8 other means and were not offered all the core curriculum courses
9 shall be allowed to satisfy this curriculum requirement by
10 participating in a program approved by the State Regents for
11 remediation of high school curricular deficiencies;

12 5. Have satisfied admission standards as determined by the
13 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-time-entering
14 students for the appropriate type of institution, or, if attending a
15 private institution, have satisfied admission standards as
16 determined by the private institution; provided, no student
17 participating in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall
18 be admitted into an institution of higher education by special
19 admission standards;

20 6. Have secured admission to, and enrolled in, an institution
21 which is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education,
22 a postsecondary vocational-technical program offered pursuant to a
23 duly approved cooperative agreement between a technology center
24 school and an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher

1 Education, or a private institution of higher learning located
2 within this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this
3 title; and

4 7. Have established financial need during the eighth-grade
5 year, ninth-grade year or tenth-grade year according to the
6 standards and provisions promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents
7 for Higher Education; ~~a.~~ For a student who is educated by other
8 means, financial need shall be established between the ages of
9 thirteen (13) and fifteen (15). A student who satisfies the

10 financial need criteria upon initial participation in the Oklahoma
11 Higher Learning Access Program ~~during the eighth, ninth, or tenth~~
12 ~~grade~~ shall not later be denied participation in the Oklahoma Higher
13 Learning Access Program on grounds that the student does not meet
14 the financial need criteria.

15 B. To retain eligibility while pursuing the program of higher
16 learning in which enrolled, the student shall:

17 1. Maintain good academic standing and satisfactory academic
18 progress according to standards of the Oklahoma State Regents for
19 Higher Education; and

20 2. Comply with the standards related to maintenance of
21 eligibility as promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
22 Education.

23 C. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the
24 State Board of Career and Technology Education shall promulgate

1 rules relating to maintenance of eligibility under this act by a
2 student.

3 D. It is the intent of the Legislature that students in the
4 ninth grade for the 1992-93 school year who are determined to be
5 eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access students pursuant to this
6 act shall be the first students eligible for benefits from the
7 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund.

8 E. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are
9 authorized to study, develop and propose criteria for determining
10 students' award eligibility based upon the completion of seven (7)
11 semesters of high school coursework.

12 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 2605, as
13 amended by Section 1, Chapter 134, O.S.L. 2003 (70 O.S. Supp. 2006,
14 Section 2605), is amended to read as follows:

15 Section 2605. A. Each school year, every fifth- through ninth-
16 grade student in the public and private schools of this state and
17 students who are educated by other means and are in the equivalent
18 of the fifth- through ninth-grade shall be apprised, together with
19 the student's parent, custodial parent, or guardian, of the
20 student's opportunity for access to higher learning under the
21 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program. The Oklahoma State Regents
22 for Higher Education and the State Board of Education shall develop,
23 promote, and coordinate a public awareness program to be utilized in
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1 making students and parents aware of the Oklahoma Higher Learning
2 Access Program.

3 B. On a form provided by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
4 Education, every public school district shall designate at least one
5 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program contact person, who shall be
6 a counselor or teacher, at each public school site in this state in
7 which eighth-, ninth- or tenth-grade classes are taught. When
8 requested by the State Regents, the State Board of Education shall
9 assist the State Regents to ensure the designation of contact
10 persons. For students enrolled in a private school or who are
11 educated by other means, a parent or guardian or other person
12 approved by the State Regents shall be designated the contact
13 person.

14 C. Students who qualify on the basis of financial need
15 according to the standards and provisions promulgated by the
16 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall be given the
17 opportunity throughout the eighth-, ninth-, and tenth-grade years,
18 for students enrolled in a public or private school, or between
19 thirteen (13) through fifteen (15) years of age, for students who
20 are educated by other means, to enter into participation in the
21 program by agreeing to, throughout the remainder of their school
22 years or educational program:

23 1. Attend school or an educational program regularly and do
24 homework regularly;

- 1 2. Refrain from substance abuse;
- 2 3. Refrain from commission of crimes or delinquent acts;
- 3 4. Have school work and school records reviewed by mentors
- 4 designated pursuant to the program;
- 5 5. Provide information requested by the Oklahoma State Regents
- 6 for Higher Education or the State Board of Education; and
- 7 6. Participate in program activities.

8 The contact person ~~at the school~~ shall maintain the agreements,
9 which shall be executed on forms provided by the Oklahoma State
10 Regents for Higher Education and managed according to regulations
11 promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and
12 the contact person shall monitor the student's compliance with the
13 terms of the agreement. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
14 Education are authorized to process student agreements and verify
15 compliance with the agreements. Students failing to comply with the
16 terms of the agreement shall not be eligible for the awards provided
17 in Section 2604 of this title.

18 D. A student shall not be found to be in financial need for
19 purposes of the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program if the
20 income from taxable and nontaxable sources of the student's
21 parent(s) exceeds Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) per year. The
22 student's financial qualification shall be certified by the contact
23 person ~~at the school~~ or by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
24 Education on the agreement form provided by the Oklahoma State

1 Regents for Higher Education, ~~the~~ the. The form shall be retained in
2 the student's permanent record and a copy forwarded to the Oklahoma
3 State Regents for Higher Education.

4 E. Agreements shall be witnessed by the student's parent,
5 custodial parent, or guardian, who shall further agree to:

6 1. Assist the student in achieving compliance with the
7 agreements;

8 2. Confer, when requested to do so, with the school contact
9 person, other school personnel, and program mentors;

10 3. Provide information requested by the Oklahoma State Regents
11 for Higher Education or the State Board of Education; and

12 4. Assist the student in completing forms and reports required
13 for program participation, making applications to institutions and
14 schools of higher learning, and filing applications for student
15 grants and scholarships.

16 F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
17 promulgate rules for the determination of student compliance with
18 agreements made pursuant to this section.

19 G. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
20 designate personnel to coordinate tracking of program records for
21 the years when students participating in the program are still in
22 the ~~public~~ public schools or are being educated by other means, provide
23 staff development for contact persons in the ~~public~~ public schools, and
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1 provide liaison with the State Board of Education and local
2 organizations and individuals participating in the program.

3 H. The school district where an Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
4 Program student is enrolled when the student begins participation in
5 the program and any subsequent school district where the student
6 enrolls shall forward information regarding the student's
7 participation in the program to a school to which the student
8 transfers upon the school's request for the student's records.

9 I. Students participating in the Oklahoma Higher Learning
10 Access Program shall provide their social security number or their
11 student identification number used by their school to the Oklahoma
12 State Regents for Higher Education. The Regents shall keep the
13 numbers confidential and use them only for administrative purposes.

14 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
15 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
16 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
17 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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