

1 "SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 2602, is
2 amended to read as follows:
3 Section 2602. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Higher
4 Learning Access Program. The program shall also be known as
5 "Oklahoma's Promise". The purpose of the program is to provide an
6 award to students who meet the criteria set forth in the Oklahoma
7 Higher Learning Access Act, ~~Section 2601 et seq. of this title,~~ and
8 who are pursuing studies in this state leading to an associate or
9 baccalaureate degree or who are pursuing studies in a postsecondary
10 vocational-technical program or course offered pursuant to a duly
11 approved cooperative agreement between a technology center school
12 and an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education,~~7~~
13 and who are in good academic standing in the institution of higher
14 education or technology center school in which enrolled~~7~~. The award
15 in an amount calculated as provided for in Section 2604 of this
16 title is to be used to relieve ~~them~~ eligible students of the burden
17 of paying all or some portion of the nonguaranteed resident tuition
18 at institutions of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, ~~to~~
19 ~~relieve them of the burden of paying~~ all or some portion of the
20 tuition for enrollment in postsecondary programs of the technology
21 center districts, or ~~to relieve them of~~ all or some portion of the
22 burden of paying such fees or tuition, pursuant to the provisions of
23 ~~this act~~ the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Act, as may be required
24 of enrollees at private institutions of higher education which are

1 accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this title. The further
2 purpose of this program is to establish and maintain a variety of
3 support services whereby a broader range of the general student
4 population of this state will be prepared for success in
5 postsecondary endeavors.

6 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 2603, as
7 amended by Section 24, Chapter 11, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2013,
8 Section 2603), is amended to read as follows:

9 Section 2603. A. Except as otherwise provided for in
10 subsection B of this section and elsewhere in this section, to be
11 eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
12 Program and to qualify for an award which includes payment of an
13 amount ~~equivalent to resident tuition or other tuition~~ calculated
14 pursuant to Section 2604 of this title for the first semester or
15 other academic unit of postsecondary enrollment, a student shall:

16 1. Be a resident of this state or be enrolled in a school
17 district located in this state that serves students who reside in
18 both this state and an adjacent state pursuant to a contract as
19 authorized in Section 5-117.1 of this title;

20 2. Be a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United
21 States. A student who is not a United States citizen or lawfully
22 present in the United States shall not be eligible to participate in
23 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program and to qualify for an
24 award notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3242 of this title.

1 The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any student who
2 was enrolled in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program prior to
3 the end of the 2006-2007 school year;

4 3. Have a record of satisfactory compliance with agreements
5 executed pursuant to Section 2605 of this title;

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

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

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

23 5. Have completed the curricular requirements for admission to
24 an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education

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

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

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

1 school and an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher
2 Education, or a private institution of higher learning located
3 within this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this
4 title; and

5 8. a. have established financial need according to the
6 provisions of subsection D of Section 2605 of this
7 title and standards and provisions promulgated by the
8 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,

9 b. if the student was adopted between birth and twelve
10 (12) years of age while in the permanent custody of
11 the Department of Human Services, in the court-ordered
12 custody of a licensed private nonprofit child-placing
13 agency, or federally recognized Indian tribe, as
14 defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, have
15 established financial need according to the provisions
16 of paragraph 1 of subsection E of Section 2605 of this
17 title and standards and provisions promulgated by the
18 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, or

19 c. if the student was adopted between thirteen (13) and
20 seventeen (17) years of age while in the permanent
21 custody of the Department of Human Services, in the
22 court-ordered custody of a licensed private nonprofit
23 child-placing agency, or federally recognized Indian
24 tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare

1 Act, have established financial need according to the
2 provisions of paragraph 2 of subsection E of Section
3 2605 of this title and standards and provisions
4 promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
5 Education.

6 B. 1. A student shall be eligible to participate in the
7 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program and to qualify for an award
8 which includes payment of an amount equivalent to resident tuition
9 or other tuition pursuant to Section 2604 of this title for the
10 first semester or other academic unit of postsecondary enrollment if
11 the student meets all of the following criteria:

12 a. is a child of any person killed after January 1, 2000,
13 in the line of duty in any branch of the United States
14 Armed Forces or who died after January 1, 2000, as a
15 result of an injury sustained while in the line of
16 duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces
17 and the person who was killed or died filed an
18 individual or joint Oklahoma income tax return for the
19 tax year prior to the year during which the person was
20 killed or died,

21 b. is a resident of this state or is enrolled in a school
22 district located in this state that serves students
23 who reside in both this state and an adjacent state
24

1 pursuant to a contract as authorized in Section 5-
2 117.1 of this title,

3 c. enrolls in an institution within The Oklahoma State
4 System of Higher Education prior to reaching the age
5 of twenty-one (21),

6 d. has satisfied admission standards as determined by the
7 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-
8 time-entering students for the appropriate type of
9 institution, or, if attending a private institution,
10 has satisfied admission standards as determined by the
11 private institution. No student participating in the
12 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall be
13 admitted into an institution of higher education by
14 special admission standards,

15 e. has secured admission to, and enrolled in, an
16 institution which is a member of The Oklahoma State
17 System of Higher Education, a postsecondary
18 vocational-technical program offered pursuant to a
19 duly approved cooperative agreement between a
20 technology center school and an institution of The
21 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, or a
22 private institution of higher learning located within
23 this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of
24 this title, and

1 f. executes an agreement pursuant to subsection C of
2 Section 2605 of this title.

3 2. A student who is eligible to participate in the program
4 pursuant to this subsection shall not be required to meet the
5 eligibility requirements set forth in subsection A of this section.

6 C. To retain eligibility while pursuing the program of higher
7 learning in which enrolled, the student shall:

8 1. Achieve a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a
9 4.0 scale or its equivalent for courses taken through the student's
10 sophomore year and achieve a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a
11 4.0 scale or its equivalent for courses taken during the student's
12 junior year and thereafter. The provisions of this paragraph shall
13 not apply to any student who has received an Oklahoma Higher
14 Learning Access Program benefit award prior to the 2012-2013 school
15 year;

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

19 3. Maintain satisfactory academic progress as required for
20 eligibility for federal Title IV student financial aid programs.
21 The provisions of this paragraph shall become effective for the
22 2012-2013 school year;

23 4. Enroll in a minimum of thirty (30) credit hours each
24 calendar year;

1 5. Comply with the standards related to maintenance of
2 eligibility as promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
3 Education; and

4 ~~5.~~ 6. Refrain from conduct that leads to expulsion or
5 suspension of more than one semester from an institution of higher
6 education. A student who violates the provisions of this paragraph
7 shall permanently lose eligibility for program benefits. The
8 provisions of this paragraph shall become effective January 1, 2008.

9 D. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the
10 State Board of Career and Technology Education shall promulgate
11 rules relating to maintenance of eligibility under the Oklahoma
12 Higher Learning Access Act by a student.

13 E. It is the intent of the Legislature that students in the
14 ninth grade for the 1992-93 school year who are determined to be
15 eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access students pursuant to the
16 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Act shall be the first students
17 eligible for benefits from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust
18 Fund.

19 F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are
20 authorized to study, develop and propose criteria for determining
21 award eligibility based upon the completion of seven (7) semesters
22 of high school coursework by a student.

23 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 2604, is
24 amended to read as follows:

1 Section 2604. A. Subject to the availability of funds, for
2 each eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program student who
3 enrolls in the program prior to the 2014-2015 school year, the
4 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall award from the
5 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund the following:

6 1. For each eligible student enrolled at an institution in The
7 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education an amount equivalent to
8 the nonguaranteed resident tuition for which an eligible ~~Oklahoma~~
9 ~~Higher Learning Access Program~~ student is obligated at an
10 institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education ~~shall~~
11 ~~be awarded by allocation from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access~~
12 ~~Trust Fund.;~~

13 ~~B. Subject to the availability of funds, for~~ 2. For each
14 ~~eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program~~ student enrolled at
15 a private institution of higher learning located within this state
16 and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this title, ~~the Oklahoma~~
17 ~~State Regents for Higher Education shall award from the Oklahoma~~
18 ~~Higher Learning Access Trust Fund~~ an amount equivalent to the amount
19 of resident tuition for which the student would be eligible if the
20 student were enrolled in a comparable program at a comparable
21 institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.
22 Comparability shall be determined by the State Regents-; or

23 ~~C. Subject to the availability of funds, an amount equivalent~~
24 ~~to the tuition for any~~ 3. For each eligible Oklahoma Higher

1 ~~Learning Access Program~~ student enrolled in a public postsecondary
2 vocational-technical program or course for the purpose set forth in
3 Section 2602 of this title ~~shall be awarded by allocation from the~~
4 ~~Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund.~~ Provided, such
5 ~~allocation shall~~ an amount not to exceed the amount a student would
6 have received for comparable enrollment at a two-year institution
7 within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

8 B. 1. Subject to the availability of funds, for each eligible
9 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program student who enrolls in the
10 program during or after the 2014-2015 school year, the Oklahoma
11 State Regents for Higher Education shall award from the Oklahoma
12 Higher Learning Access Trust Fund an amount equivalent to:

- 13 a. a system average calculated based on an average of the
14 nonguaranteed resident tuition for each institution
15 with The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education
16 plus Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00), or
17 b. the nonguaranteed resident tuition for which an
18 eligible student is obligated at an institution within
19 The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, the
20 resident tuition for which an eligible student is
21 obligated at a private institution of higher learning
22 located within this state and accredited pursuant to
23 Section 4103 of this title, or the cost of enrollment
24 in a public postsecondary vocational-technical program

1 or course for which an eligible student is obligated
2 if such amount is less than the amount calculated
3 pursuant to subparagraph a of this paragraph.

4 2. The State Regents shall calculate the system average prior
5 to the beginning of each school year and if necessary shall adjust
6 the amount of the award paid during that school year.

7 ~~D.~~ C. 1. An award allowed by this section shall not be allowed
8 for courses or other postsecondary units taken in excess of the
9 requirements for completion of a baccalaureate program or taken more
10 than five (5) years after the student's first semester of
11 postsecondary enrollment. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
12 Education may award the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program
13 benefits for courses of postsecondary units taken more than five (5)
14 years after the student's first semester of postsecondary enrollment
15 only in hardship circumstances; provided, however, no Oklahoma
16 Higher Learning Access Program participant may receive benefits
17 beyond a cumulative time period of five (5) years.

18 2. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may award
19 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefits for a student's
20 first semester or other academic unit of postsecondary enrollment
21 taken more than three (3) years after the student graduates from
22 high school or completes an educational program equivalent to high
23 school graduation as authorized in subsection A of Section 2603 of
24 this title or after the student turns twenty-one (21) years of age

1 as authorized in subsection B of Section 2603 of this title if the
2 student is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, the
3 Reserve Corps of the Armed Forces of the United States, or the
4 Oklahoma National Guard, and is ordered to active duty or active
5 duty for special work or training and due to the duty commitment the
6 student is unable to enroll prior to the end of the three-year
7 period or before the student reaches twenty-one (21) years of age.
8 The period shall be extended by the length of the term of duty.

9 3. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may
10 establish a maximum limit on the number of courses or other
11 postsecondary units to which Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program
12 benefits will apply.

13 4. An award for eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
14 Program students enrolled in cooperative programs pursuant to
15 agreements between technology center schools and institutions of The
16 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education shall be satisfied for
17 both vocational-technical and college work in which enrolled
18 pursuant to such cooperative program.

19 ~~F.~~ D. Benefits awarded under the Oklahoma Higher Learning
20 Access Program shall be awarded to all eligible applicants without
21 any limitation on the number of awards in any year other than the
22 amount of funds available for the program and the number of eligible
23 applicants. Subject to the provisions of subsection ~~F.~~ E. of this
24 section, if funds are not sufficient to provide awards for all

1 eligible applicants, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
2 shall make awards on the basis of need. Provided, the Oklahoma
3 State Regents for Higher Education shall take into consideration
4 other grants and scholarships received by an eligible applicant when
5 making awards.

6 ~~F.~~ E. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may, at
7 the time an award is made on behalf of an Oklahoma Higher Learning
8 Access Program student, set aside in the Oklahoma Higher Learning
9 Access Trust Fund funds for the full commitment made to such Higher
10 Learning Access Program student. For all academic years, students
11 who have previously received awards under the provisions of the
12 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Act, ~~Section 2601 et seq. of this~~
13 ~~title,~~ and who have continued at all times to fulfill the
14 requirements for eligibility to receive awards provided pursuant to
15 this program shall be given an absolute priority for continued
16 financial support by the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program
17 superior to any students who are applying for such benefits for the
18 first time."

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