

1 who are pursuing studies in this state leading to an associate or
2 baccalaureate degree, ~~or~~ who are pursuing studies in a postsecondary
3 vocational-technical program or course offered pursuant to a duly
4 approved cooperative agreement between a technology center school
5 and an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education,
6 or who are pursuing certification in a postsecondary vocational-
7 technical program offered at a technology center school or program
8 offered at an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher
9 Education identified by the Executive Director of the Oklahoma
10 Department of Commerce, and who are in good academic standing in the
11 institution of higher education or technology center school in which
12 enrolled, to relieve them of the burden of paying nonguaranteed
13 resident tuition at institutions of The Oklahoma State System of
14 Higher Education, to relieve them of the burden of paying tuition
15 for enrollment in postsecondary programs of the technology center
16 districts, or to relieve them of some portion of the burden of
17 paying such fees or tuition, pursuant to the provisions of ~~this act~~
18 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Act, as may be required of
19 enrollees at private institutions of higher education which are
20 accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this title. The further
21 purpose of this program is to establish and maintain a variety of
22 support services whereby a broader range of the general student
23 population of this state will be prepared for success in
24 postsecondary endeavors.

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

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

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

15 2. Be a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United
16 States. A student who is not a United States citizen or lawfully
17 present in the United States shall not be eligible to participate in
18 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program and to qualify for an
19 award notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3242 of this title.
20 The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any student who
21 was enrolled in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program prior to
22 the end of the 2006-2007 school year;

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

- 1 4. a. have graduated within the previous three (3) years
2 from a high school accredited by the State Board of
3 Education, or the Oklahoma School of Science and
4 Mathematics with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point
5 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in
6 grades nine through twelve,
- 7 b. have graduated within the previous three (3) years
8 from a high school not accredited by the State Board
9 of Education 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 and have achieved a
12 composite score of 22 or higher on the ACT test, or
13 c. have satisfactorily completed within the previous
14 three (3) years an educational program that was
15 provided through a means other than a public or
16 private school and have achieved a composite score of
17 22 or higher on the ACT test;

18 5. Have completed the curricular requirements for admission to
19 an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education
20 and one additional unit or set of competencies in a course that
21 meets college admission requirements. The curriculum requirements
22 shall include two units or sets of competencies in foreign or non-
23 English language or technology courses that meet the college
24 admission requirements and one unit or set of competencies of a fine

1 arts course. Students shall also have attained a 2.5 grade point
2 average in the core curriculum courses. Students who attended a
3 high school which did not offer all the core curriculum courses or
4 students who were educated by other means and were not offered all
5 the core curriculum courses shall be allowed to satisfy this
6 curriculum requirement by participating in a program approved by the
7 State Regents for remediation of high school curricular
8 deficiencies;

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

16 7. Have secured admission to, and enrolled in, an institution
17 which is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education,
18 a postsecondary vocational-technical program offered pursuant to a
19 duly approved cooperative agreement between a technology center
20 school and an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher
21 Education, a postsecondary vocational-technical program offered at a
22 technology center school or program offered at an institution of
23 higher education identified by the Executive Director of the
24 Oklahoma Department of Commerce pursuant to Section 6 of this act,

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

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

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

17 c. if the student was adopted between thirteen (13) and
18 seventeen (17) years of age while in the permanent
19 custody of the Department of Human Services, in the
20 court-ordered custody of a licensed private nonprofit
21 child-placing agency, or federally recognized Indian
22 tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare
23 Act, have established financial need according to the
24 provisions of paragraph 2 of subsection E of Section

1 2605 of this title and standards and provisions
2 promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
3 Education.

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

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

19 b. is a resident of this state or is enrolled in a school
20 district located in this state that serves students
21 who reside in both this state and an adjacent state
22 pursuant to a contract as authorized in Section 5-
23 117.1 of this title,

- 1 c. enrolls in an institution within The Oklahoma State
2 System of Higher Education prior to reaching the age
3 of twenty-one (21),
- 4 d. has satisfied admission standards as determined by the
5 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-
6 time-entering students for the appropriate type of
7 institution, or, if attending a private institution,
8 has satisfied admission standards as determined by the
9 private institution. No student participating in the
10 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall be
11 admitted into an institution of higher education by
12 special admission standards,
- 13 e. has secured admission to, and enrolled in, an
14 institution which is a member of The Oklahoma State
15 System of Higher Education, a postsecondary
16 vocational-technical program offered pursuant to a
17 duly approved cooperative agreement between a
18 technology center school and an institution of The
19 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, a
20 postsecondary vocational-technical program offered at
21 a technology center school or program offered at an
22 institution of higher education identified by the
23 Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of
24 Commerce pursuant to Section 6 of this act, or a

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

4 f. executes an agreement pursuant to subsection C of
5 Section 2605 of this title.

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

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

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

19 2. Maintain good academic standing and satisfactory academic
20 progress according to standards of the Oklahoma State Regents for
21 Higher Education;

22 3. Maintain satisfactory academic progress as required for
23 eligibility for federal Title IV student financial aid programs.
24

1 The provisions of this paragraph shall become effective for the
2 2012-2013 school year;

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 Section 2604. A. Subject to the availability of funds, an
4 amount equivalent to the nonguaranteed resident tuition for which an
5 eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program student is
6 obligated at an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher
7 Education shall be awarded by allocation from the Oklahoma Higher
8 Learning Access Trust Fund.

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

19 C. Subject to the availability of funds, an amount equivalent
20 to the tuition for any eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
21 Program student enrolled in a public postsecondary vocational-
22 technical program or course for the ~~purpose~~ purposes set forth in
23 Section 2602 of this title shall be awarded by allocation from the
24 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund. Provided, such

1 allocation shall not exceed the amount a student would have received
2 for comparable enrollment at a two-year institution within The
3 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

4 D. Subject to the availability of funds, an amount equal to the
5 in-district tuition and fees for any eligible Oklahoma Higher
6 Learning Access Program student enrolled in a public postsecondary
7 vocational-technical program or course offered at a technology
8 center school or program offered at an institution of higher
9 education for the purposes set forth in Section 6 of this act shall
10 be awarded by allocation from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
11 Trust Fund.

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

23 2. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may award
24 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefits for a student's

1 first semester or other academic unit of postsecondary enrollment
2 taken more than three (3) years after the student graduates from
3 high school or completes an educational program equivalent to high
4 school graduation as authorized in subsection A of Section 2603 of
5 this title or after the student turns twenty-one (21) years of age
6 as authorized in subsection B of Section 2603 of this title if the
7 student is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, the
8 Reserve Corps of the Armed Forces of the United States, or the
9 Oklahoma National Guard, and is ordered to active duty or active
10 duty for special work or training and due to the duty commitment the
11 student is unable to enroll prior to the end of the three-year
12 period or before the student reaches twenty-one (21) years of age.
13 The period shall be extended by the length of the term of duty.

14 3. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may
15 establish a maximum limit on the number of courses or other
16 postsecondary units to which Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program
17 benefits will apply.

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

24

1 ~~E.~~ F. Benefits awarded under the Oklahoma Higher Learning
2 Access Program shall be awarded to all eligible applicants without
3 any limitation on the number of awards in any year other than the
4 amount of funds available for the program and the number of eligible
5 applicants. Subject to the provisions of subsection ~~F~~ G of this
6 section, if funds are not sufficient to provide awards for all
7 eligible applicants, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
8 shall make awards on the basis of need. Provided, the Oklahoma
9 State Regents for Higher Education shall take into consideration
10 other grants and scholarships received by an eligible applicant when
11 making awards.

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

1 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 2605, as
2 amended by Section 26, Chapter 11, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2012,
3 Section 2605), is amended to read as follows:

4 Section 2605. A. Each school year, every fifth- through ninth-
5 grade student in the public and private schools of this state and
6 students who are educated by other means and are in the equivalent
7 of the fifth through ninth grade shall be apprised, together with
8 the parent, custodial parent, or guardian of the student, of the
9 opportunity for access to higher learning under the Oklahoma Higher
10 Learning Access Program. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
11 Education, the State Board of Career and Technology Education and
12 the State Board of Education shall develop, promote, and coordinate
13 a public awareness program to be utilized in making students and
14 parents aware of the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program.

15 B. On a form provided by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
16 Education, every public school district shall designate at least one
17 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program contact person, who shall be
18 a counselor or teacher, at each public school site in this state in
19 which eighth-, ninth- or tenth-grade classes are taught. When
20 requested by the State Regents, the State Board of Education and the
21 State Board of Career and Technology Education shall assist the
22 State Regents to ensure the designation of contact persons. Private
23 schools shall also designate at least one school official as a
24 contact person. For students who are educated by other means, a

1 parent or guardian or other person approved by the State Regents
2 shall be designated the contact person.

3 C. 1. Students who qualify on the basis of financial need
4 according to subsection D or E of this section or who meet the
5 eligibility qualification set forth in subparagraph a of paragraph 1
6 of subsection B of Section 2603 of this title prior to entering the
7 tenth grade or prior to reaching the age of fifteen (15) and the
8 standards and provisions promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents
9 for Higher Education shall be given the opportunity throughout the
10 eighth-, ninth-, and tenth-grade years, for students enrolled in a
11 public or private school, or between the ages of thirteen (13) and
12 fifteen (15), for students who are educated by other means, to enter
13 into participation in the program by agreeing to, throughout the
14 remainder of their school years or educational program:

- 15 a. attend school or an educational program regularly and
16 do homework regularly,
- 17 b. refrain from substance abuse,
- 18 c. refrain from commission of crimes or delinquent acts,
- 19 d. have school work and school records reviewed by
20 mentors designated pursuant to the program,
- 21 e. provide information requested by the Oklahoma State
22 Regents for Higher Education or the State Board of
23 Education, and
- 24 f. participate in program activities.

1 2. Students who meet the eligibility qualification set forth in
2 subparagraph a of paragraph 1 of subsection B of Section 2603 of
3 this title after completing the tenth grade or after reaching the
4 age of sixteen (16) shall be given the opportunity prior to reaching
5 the age of twenty-one (21) to enter into participation in the
6 program and shall execute an agreement with provisions as determined
7 by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

8 3. The contact person shall maintain the agreements, which
9 shall be executed on forms provided by the Oklahoma State Regents
10 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 compliance of the student 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. Except as otherwise provided for in subsection E of this
19 section and except for students who qualify pursuant to subsection B
20 of Section 2603 of this title, a student shall not be found to be in
21 financial need for purposes of the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
22 Program if:

23 1. At the time the student applies for participation in the
24 Program during the eighth, ninth or tenth grade for students

1 enrolled in a public or private school, or between the ages of
2 thirteen (13) and fifteen (15), for students who are educated by
3 other means, the income from taxable and nontaxable sources of the
4 student's parent(s) exceeds Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) per
5 year; and

6 2. At the time the student begins postsecondary education and
7 prior to receiving any Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program
8 benefit award, the federal adjusted gross income of the student's
9 parent(s) exceeds One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) per
10 year.

11 The determination of financial qualification as set forth in
12 this paragraph shall be based on the income of the student, not the
13 income of the parent(s), if a student:

- 14 a. is determined to be independent of the student's
15 parents for federal financial aid purposes,
- 16 b. was in the permanent custody of the Department of
17 Human Services at the time the student enrolled in the
18 program, or
- 19 c. was in the court-ordered custody of a federally
20 recognized Indian tribe, as defined by the federal
21 Indian Child Welfare Act, at the time the student
22 enrolled in the program.

23
24

1 The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any student
2 who has received an Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit
3 award prior to the 2012-2013 school year.

4 E. 1. A student who was adopted between birth and twelve (12)
5 years of age while in the permanent custody of the Department of
6 Human Services, in the court-ordered custody of a licensed private
7 nonprofit child-placing agency, or federally recognized Indian
8 tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, shall not
9 be found to be in financial need for purposes of the Oklahoma Higher
10 Learning Access Program if at the time the student begins
11 postsecondary education and prior to receiving any Oklahoma Higher
12 Learning Access Program benefit award, the federal adjusted gross
13 income of the student's parent(s) exceeds One Hundred Fifty Thousand
14 Dollars (\$150,000.00) per year. The provisions of this paragraph
15 shall not apply to any student who has received an Oklahoma Higher
16 Learning Access Program benefit award prior to the 2012-2013 school
17 year.

18 2. A student who was adopted between thirteen (13) and
19 seventeen (17) years of age while in the permanent custody of the
20 Department of Human Services, in the court-ordered custody of a
21 licensed private nonprofit child-placing agency, or federally
22 recognized Indian tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child
23 Welfare Act, shall not be found to be in financial need for purposes
24 of the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program if at the time the

1 student begins postsecondary education and prior to receiving any
2 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award, the federal
3 adjusted gross income of the student's parent(s) exceeds Two Hundred
4 Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) per year. The provisions of this
5 paragraph shall not apply to any student who has received an
6 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award prior to the
7 2012-2013 school year.

8 3. Except for students who qualify pursuant to subsection B of
9 Section 2603 of this title, the determination of financial
10 qualification as set forth in this subsection shall be based on the
11 income of the student, not the income of the parent(s), if the
12 student is determined to be independent of the student's parents for
13 federal financial aid purposes. A determination of financial
14 qualification shall not be required for the student who meets the
15 criteria set forth in this subsection at the time the student
16 applies for participation in the program. The provisions of this
17 paragraph shall not apply to any student who has received an
18 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award prior to the
19 2008-2009 school year.

20 F. The financial qualification of a student as set forth in
21 subsections D and E of this section shall be certified by the
22 contact person or by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
23 on the agreement form provided by the Oklahoma State Regents for
24 Higher Education. The form shall be retained in the permanent

1 record of the student and a copy forwarded to the Oklahoma State
2 Regents for Higher Education.

3 G. Agreements shall be witnessed by the parent, custodial
4 parent, or guardian of the student, who shall further agree to:

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

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

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

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

15 H. Students who are enrolled in a school district located in
16 this state that serves students who reside in both this state and an
17 adjacent state pursuant to a contract as authorized in Section 5-
18 117.1 of this title, are in the eleventh and twelfth grades during
19 the 2006-2007 school year, and who were denied participation in the
20 program shall be allowed to enter or reenter into participation in
21 the program by entering into agreements as set forth in subsections
22 C and D of this section by June 1, 2008.

23

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1 I. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
2 promulgate rules for the determination of student compliance with
3 agreements made pursuant to this section.

4 J. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
5 designate personnel to coordinate tracking of program records for
6 the years when students participating in the program are still in
7 the schools or are being educated by other means, provide staff
8 development for contact persons in the schools, and provide liaison
9 with the State Board of Education and local organizations and
10 individuals participating in the program.

11 K. The school district where an Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
12 Program student is enrolled when the student begins participation in
13 the program and any subsequent school district where the student
14 enrolls shall forward information regarding participation by the
15 student in the program to a school to which the student transfers
16 upon the request of the school for the records of the student.

17 L. Students participating in the Oklahoma Higher Learning
18 Access Program shall provide their social security number or their
19 student identification number used by their school to the Oklahoma
20 State Regents for Higher Education. The Regents shall keep the
21 numbers confidential and use them only for administrative purposes.

22 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
23 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2606 of Title 70, unless there
24 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 Sections 5 and 6 of this act shall be known and may be cited as
2 "Oklahoma's Career Promise Act".

3 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2607 of Title 70, unless there
5 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 A. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of
7 Commerce, in consultation with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
8 Education, shall publish no later than October 1, 2013, and by June
9 30 each year thereafter, a list of critical industry certification
10 areas that meet the guidelines of the identified core competencies
11 of the state based on wealth generation, growth potential and
12 competitive advantage.

13 B. The State Regents for Higher Education, in consultation with
14 the State Board of Career and Technology Education, shall identify
15 postsecondary vocational-technical programs offered at technology
16 center schools and programs offered at institutions within The
17 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education that correlate to industry
18 certification areas identified by the Executive Director of the
19 Oklahoma Department of Commerce. The programs shall:

- 20 1. Meet the requirements for federal financial aid; and
- 21 2. Include a minimum of nine hundred (900) contact hours or
22 include a minimum of twenty-four (24) college credit equivalent
23 hours.

1 C. The State Board of Career and Technology Education and State
2 Regents for Higher Education shall annually identify the total cost
3 of in-district tuition and fees broken down by each school and
4 institution of all industry certification areas identified by the
5 Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. An award
6 for eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program students
7 enrolled in qualifying postsecondary vocational-technical programs
8 offered at technology center schools or programs offered by an
9 institution of higher education shall include payment of an amount
10 equivalent to in-district tuition and fees at the technology center
11 school or institution of higher education, as identified by the
12 State Board of Career and Technology Education.

13 D. Students who meet the eligibility requirements for the
14 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program and enroll in qualifying
15 postsecondary vocational-technical programs offered at technology
16 center schools or programs offered by an institution of higher
17 education identified by the Executive Director of the Oklahoma
18 Department of Commerce during the 2013-2014 school year and
19 thereafter are eligible for an Oklahoma's Career Promise award
20 provided pursuant to this section.

21 E. If the qualifying postsecondary vocational-technical program
22 or higher education institution program consists of two semesters,
23 fifty percent (50%) of the award shall be provided to the technology
24 center school or higher education institution during the first

1 semester and forty percent (40%) of the award shall be provided to
2 the technology center school or higher education institution during
3 the second semester. The remaining ten percent (10%) of the award
4 shall be provided to the technology center school or higher
5 education institution upon completion of the program and receipt of
6 industry certification by the student. If the qualifying
7 postsecondary vocational-technical program or higher education
8 institution program consists of more than two semesters, fifty
9 percent (50%) of the award shall be provided to the technology
10 center school or higher education institution during the first
11 semester and forty percent (40%) of the award shall be provided to
12 the technology center school or higher education institution when
13 the student has satisfactorily completed one-half (1/2) of the
14 program. The remaining ten percent (10%) of the award shall be
15 provided to the technology center school or higher education
16 institution upon the completion of the program and receipt of
17 industry certification by the student.

18 F. Benefits awarded according to this section through the
19 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program to students attending
20 qualifying postsecondary vocational-technical programs or higher
21 education institution programs shall be awarded on a first-come,
22 first-serve basis to all eligible applicants, up to a maximum of Ten
23 Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) annually.

24

1 G. A student who meets the eligibility qualifications of the
2 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program as set forth in Section 2603
3 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes and enrolls in a qualifying
4 postsecondary vocational-technical program or higher education
5 institution program according to this section may complete the
6 prescribed coursework for industry certification, regardless of
7 whether the program is included on the most current list published
8 by the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, as
9 long as certification is achieved within five (5) years of the
10 student's first enrollment in the program.

11 H. In order to ensure the availability of Oklahoma Higher
12 Learning Access Program awards for students enrolling in qualifying
13 postsecondary vocational-technical programs and higher education
14 institution programs in the 2013-2014 academic year, the Oklahoma
15 State Regents for Higher Education shall estimate the amount of
16 revenue deemed necessary to fund the awards allowed under this
17 section for the fiscal year which begins July 1, 2013, and provide
18 the estimate to the State Board of Equalization within thirty (30)
19 days of passage and approval of this act. Thereafter, the estimates
20 shall be provided annually to the State Board of Equalization as
21 required by Section 34.87 of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

22 I. The State Regents for Higher Education, the State Board of
23 Career and Technology Education and the Executive Director of the
24

1 Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall promulgate rules as necessary
2 to implement the provisions of this section.

3 J. Not later than the end of each calendar year, the State
4 Regents for Higher Education, in consultation with the State Board
5 of Career and Technology Education, shall submit a report to the
6 Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President
7 Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Executive Director of the Oklahoma
8 Department of Commerce containing the number and types of
9 certificates achieved by students who received benefits awarded
10 under Oklahoma's Career Promise.

11 SECTION 7. This act shall become effective July 1, 2013.

12 SECTION 8. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
13 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
14 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
15 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

16
17 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated
18 04/11/2013 - DO PASS, As Amended.