

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

HOUSE BILL 3482

By: Martinez

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to education grants; creating the Digital Wallet Program Act; describing program purpose; defining terms; directing the Governor or designee to administer the program; providing for distribution of grant funding; requiring submission of an annual report of the program; prescribing contents of report; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-201 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Digital Wallet Program Act".

B. There is hereby created the Digital Wallet Program to increase learning opportunities for students, establish new flexibilities for families, empower families to create education solutions that fit the unique needs of their children, and to empower and encourage the state to directly support families.

1 C. As used in this act:

2 1. "Federal poverty level" means a measure of annualized income
3 that is published annually in the Federal Register by the United
4 States Department of Health and Human Services;

5 2. "Grant" means the amount of money allocated to a parent;

6 3. "Grant funding" means the amount of funding in the Digital
7 Wallet Program that is not allocated for administrative purposes;

8 4. "Parent" means any person who is the parent or legal
9 guardian of a child who is entitled to receive a free and
10 appropriate public education according to state statutes; and

11 5. "Student" means any person who is entitled to receive a free
12 and appropriate public education according to state statutes.

13 D. The Digital Wallet Program shall be administered by the
14 Governor, or his or her designee, to provide funds directly to
15 parents for educational supplies, tutoring, technology needs, or
16 other educational expenses.

17 E. The Governor, or his or her designee, shall annually
18 distribute all available grant funding to parents in the Digital
19 Wallet Program in the following order:

20 1. On or after July 1 and before August 1 of each year, grants
21 shall only be distributed to parents whose household income is equal
22 to or less than one hundred eighty-five percent (185%) of the
23 federal poverty level;

1 2. On or after August 1 and before September 1 of each year,
2 and if there are available funds, grants shall only be distributed
3 to parents whose household income is equal to or less than three
4 hundred percent (300%) of the federal poverty level;

5 3. On or after September 1 and before October 1 of each year,
6 and if there are available funds, grants shall only be distributed
7 to parents whose household income is equal to or less than three
8 hundred fifty percent (350%) of the federal poverty level; and

9 4. On or after October 1 of each year, and if there are
10 available funds, grants shall be distributed to parents of all
11 income levels until all available funds in the program are
12 distributed.

13 F. On or by December 31 of each year, the Governor, or his or
14 her designee, shall submit an annual report on the Digital Wallet
15 Program to the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate
16 and the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives. The
17 contents of the report shall include, but are not limited to, the
18 following information:

19 1. The number of grants awarded to parents in each month of the
20 year;

21 2. The number of grants awarded to parents by income level;

22 3. The average amount of funds distributed to parents and the
23 median amount of funds distributed to parents;

24 4. The number of applicants for grants; and

1 5. The amount of funds expended for the administration of the
2 program.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2022.

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

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9 58-2-9060 EK 12/17/21