

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

3 SENATE BILL 1274

By: Dahm

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Higher Learning  
8 Access Program; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2603,  
9 which relates to eligibility for the program;  
10 requiring certain students to achieve certain  
11 composite score beginning in certain school year to  
12 be eligible for the program; providing an effective  
13 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2603, is  
16 amended to read as follows:

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

24 1. Be a resident of this state or be enrolled in a school  
district located in this state that serves students who reside in

1 both this state and an adjacent state pursuant to a contract as  
2 authorized in Section 5-117.1 of this title;

3 2. Be a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United  
4 States. A student who is not a United States citizen or lawfully  
5 present in the United States shall not be eligible to participate in  
6 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program and to qualify for an  
7 award notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3242 of this title.  
8 The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any student who  
9 was enrolled in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program prior to  
10 the end of the 2006-2007 school year;

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

13 4. a. have graduated within the previous three (3) years  
14 from a high school accredited by the State Board of  
15 Education, or the Oklahoma School of Science and  
16 Mathematics with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point  
17 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in  
18 grades nine through twelve and, beginning with  
19 students who enroll in the Oklahoma Higher Learning  
20 Access Program in the 2022-2023 school year, have  
21 achieved a composite score of 22 or higher on the ACT  
22 test,

23 b. have graduated within the previous three (3) years  
24 from a high school not accredited by the State Board

1 of Education with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point  
2 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in  
3 grades nine through twelve and have achieved a  
4 composite score of 22 or higher on the ACT test, or  
5 c. have satisfactorily completed within the previous  
6 three (3) years an educational program that was  
7 provided through a means other than a public or  
8 private school and have achieved a composite score of  
9 22 or higher on the ACT test;

10 5. Have completed the curricular requirements for admission to  
11 an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education  
12 and one additional unit or set of competencies in a course that  
13 meets college admission requirements. The curriculum requirements  
14 shall include two units or sets of competencies in foreign or non-  
15 English language or technology courses that meet the college  
16 admission requirements and one unit or set of competencies of a fine  
17 arts course. Students shall also have attained a 2.5 grade point  
18 average in the core curriculum courses. Students who attended a  
19 high school which did not offer all the core curriculum courses or  
20 students who were educated by other means and were not offered all  
21 the core curriculum courses shall be allowed to satisfy this  
22 curriculum requirement by participating in a program approved by the  
23 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for remediation of high  
24 school curricular deficiencies;

1           6. Have satisfied admission standards as determined by the  
2 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-time-entering  
3 students for the appropriate type of institution, or, if attending a  
4 private institution, have satisfied admission standards as  
5 determined by the private institution. No student participating in  
6 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall be admitted into  
7 an institution of higher education by special admission standards;

8           7. Have secured admission to, and enrolled in, an institution  
9 which is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education,  
10 a postsecondary vocational-technical program offered by a technology  
11 center school that meets the requirements to be eligible for federal  
12 student financial aid, or a private institution of higher learning  
13 located within this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of  
14 this title; and

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

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

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

5 c. if the student was adopted between thirteen (13) and  
6 seventeen (17) years of age while in the permanent  
7 custody of the Department of Human Services, in the  
8 court-ordered custody of a licensed private nonprofit  
9 child-placing agency, or federally recognized Indian  
10 tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare  
11 Act, have established financial need according to the  
12 provisions of paragraph 2 of subsection E of Section  
13 2605 of this title and standards and provisions  
14 promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
15 Education.

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

22 a. is a child of any person killed after January 1, 2000,  
23 in the line of duty in any branch of the United States  
24 Armed Forces or who died after January 1, 2000, as a

1 result of an injury sustained while in the line of  
2 duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces  
3 and the person who was killed or died filed an  
4 individual or joint Oklahoma income tax return for the  
5 tax year prior to the year during which the person was  
6 killed or died,

7 b. is a resident of this state or is enrolled in a school  
8 district located in this state that serves students  
9 who reside in both this state and an adjacent state  
10 pursuant to a contract as authorized in Section 5-  
11 117.1 of this title,

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

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

1 e. has secured admission to, and enrolled in, an  
2 institution which is a member of The Oklahoma State  
3 System of Higher Education, a postsecondary  
4 vocational-technical program offered by a technology  
5 center school that meets the requirements to be  
6 eligible for federal student financial aid, or a  
7 private institution of higher learning located within  
8 this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of  
9 this title, and

10 f. executes an agreement pursuant to subsection C of  
11 Section 2605 of this title.

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

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

17 1. Meet the requirements for retention and degree completion as  
18 established by the institution in which the student is enrolled;

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.

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 semesters of  
24 high school coursework by a student.

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

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