

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 1328

By: Gollihare of the Senate

3 and

4 Vancuren of the House

5
6 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Higher Learning
7 Access Program; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2603,
8 which relates to eligibility; providing eligibility
9 for students who complete certain core curriculum;
10 updating statutory language; providing an effective
11 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 4. a. have graduated within the previous three (3) years
12 from a high school accredited by the State Board of
13 Education⁷ or the Oklahoma School of Science and
14 Mathematics 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,

17 b. have graduated within the previous three (3) years
18 from a high school not accredited by the State Board
19 of Education with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point
20 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in
21 grades nine through twelve and have achieved a

22 composite score of 22 or higher on the ACT test, or

23 c. have satisfactorily completed within the previous
24 three (3) years an educational program that was

1 provided through a means other than a public or
2 private school and have achieved a composite score of
3 22 or higher on the ACT test;

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

23 6. Have satisfied admission standards as determined by the
24 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-time-entering

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

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

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

17 b. if the student was adopted between birth and twelve
18 (12) years of age while in the permanent custody of
19 the Department of Human Services, in the court-ordered
20 custody of a licensed private nonprofit child-placing
21 agency, or federally recognized Indian tribe, as
22 defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, have
23 established financial need according to the provisions
24 of paragraph 1 of subsection E of Section 2605 of this

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

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

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

1 and the person who was killed or died filed an
2 individual or joint Oklahoma income tax return for the
3 tax year prior to the year during which the person was
4 killed or died,

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

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

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

22 e. has secured admission to, and enrolled in, an
23 institution which is a member of The Oklahoma State
24 System of Higher Education, a postsecondary

1 vocational-technical program offered by a technology
2 center school that meets the requirements to be
3 eligible for federal student financial aid, or a
4 private institution of higher learning located within
5 this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of
6 this title, and

7 f. executes an agreement pursuant to subsection C of
8 Section 2605 of this title.

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

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

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

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;

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

4 5. Refrain from conduct that leads to expulsion or suspension
5 of more than one semester from an institution of higher education.
6 A student who violates the provisions of this paragraph shall
7 permanently lose eligibility for program benefits. The provisions
8 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 semesters of
22 high school coursework by a student.

23 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.
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SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the Senate the 4th day of March, 2024.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
2024.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives