

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 HOUSE BILL 1015

By: West (Rick)

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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 program eligibility; modifying
10 minimum ACT score for certain students; and providing
11 an effective date.

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
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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,

19 b. have graduated within the previous three (3) years
20 from a high school not accredited by the State Board
21 of Education with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point
22 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in
23 grades nine through twelve and have achieved a
24 composite score of ~~22~~ 19 or higher on the ACT test, or

1 c. have satisfactorily completed within the previous
2 three (3) years an educational program that was
3 provided through a means other than a public or
4 private school and have achieved a composite score of
5 ~~22~~ 19 or higher on the ACT test;

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

21 6. Have satisfied admission standards as determined by the
22 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-time-entering
23 students for the appropriate type of institution, or, if attending a
24 private institution, have satisfied admission standards as

1 determined by the private institution. No student participating in
2 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall be admitted into
3 an institution of higher education by special admission standards;

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

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

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

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

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

18 a. is a child of any person killed after January 1, 2000,
19 in the line of duty in any branch of the United States
20 Armed Forces or who died after January 1, 2000, as a
21 result of an injury sustained while in the line of
22 duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces
23 and the person who was killed or died filed an
24 individual or joint Oklahoma income tax return for the

1 tax year prior to the year during which the person was
2 killed or died,

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

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

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

20 e. has secured admission to, and enrolled in, an
21 institution which is a member of The Oklahoma State
22 System of Higher Education, a postsecondary
23 vocational-technical program offered by a technology
24 center school that meets the requirements to be

1 eligible for federal student financial aid, or a
2 private institution of higher learning located within
3 this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of
4 this title, and

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 4. Comply with the standards related to maintenance of
22 eligibility as promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
23 Education; and
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1 5. Refrain from conduct that leads to expulsion or suspension
2 of more than one semester from an institution of higher education.
3 A student who violates the provisions of this paragraph shall
4 permanently lose eligibility for program benefits. The provisions
5 of this paragraph shall become effective January 1, 2008.

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

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

16 F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are
17 authorized to study, develop and propose criteria for determining
18 award eligibility based upon the completion of seven semesters of
19 high school coursework by a student.

20 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

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