

1 ENGROSSED SENATE AMENDMENT  
TO  
2 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
BILL NO. 1727

By: Moore, McCane, Munson,  
Provenzano, Hill, Harris,  
Deck, Archer, West (Tammy)  
and Gise of the House

and

Pugh of the Senate

[ Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program -  
eligibility requirements - children of teachers -  
student agreements - financial qualification  
determination - Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
Education - employment status - effective date -  
emergency ]

AUTHOR: Add the following House Coauthors: Ranson, Waldron,  
Wolfley, Alonso-Sandoval, Rosecrants, and Townley

AUTHOR: Add the following Senate Coauthors: Pederson, Hicks, and  
Mann

AMENDMENT NO. 1. Page 1, strike the stricken title, enacting clause  
and entire bill and insert

"[ Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program -  
eligibility requirements - children of teachers -  
student agreements - financial qualification  
determination - Oklahoma State Regents for Higher

Education - employment status - effective date -  
emergency ]

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2603, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 274, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 2603), is amended to read as follows:

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

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

2. Be a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United States. A student who is not a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United States shall not be eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program and to qualify for an award notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3242 of this title. The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any student who

1 was enrolled in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program prior to  
2 the end of the 2006-2007 school year;

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

5 4. a. ~~have~~ Have graduated within the previous three (3)  
6 years from a high school accredited by the State Board  
7 of Education or the Oklahoma School of Science and  
8 Mathematics with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point  
9 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in  
10 grades nine through twelve,

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

17 c. ~~have~~ Have satisfactorily completed within the previous  
18 three (3) years an educational program that was  
19 provided through a means other than a public or  
20 private school and have achieved a composite score of  
21 22 or higher on the ACT test;

22 5. Have completed the curricular requirements for admission to  
23 an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.  
24 Students shall also have attained a 2.5 grade point average in the

1 core curriculum courses. Students who attended a high school which  
2 did not offer all the core curriculum courses or students who were  
3 educated by other means and were not offered all the core curriculum  
4 courses shall be allowed to satisfy this curriculum requirement by  
5 participating in a program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents  
6 for Higher Education for remediation of high school curricular  
7 deficiencies;

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

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

22 8. a. have established financial need according to the  
23 provisions of subsection D of Section 2605 of this  
24

- 1 title and standards and provisions promulgated by the  
2 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,
- 3 b. if the student was adopted between birth and twelve  
4 (12) years of age while in the permanent custody of  
5 the Department of Human Services, in the court-ordered  
6 custody of a licensed private nonprofit child-placing  
7 agency, or federally recognized Indian tribe, as  
8 defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of  
9 1978, have established financial need according to the  
10 provisions of paragraph 1 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 c. if the student was adopted between thirteen (13) and  
15 seventeen (17) years of age while in the permanent  
16 custody of the Department of Human Services, in the  
17 court-ordered custody of a licensed private nonprofit  
18 child-placing agency, or federally recognized Indian  
19 tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare  
20 Act of 1978, have established financial need according  
21 to the provisions of paragraph 2 of subsection E of  
22 Section 2605 of this title and standards and  
23 provisions promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents  
24 for Higher Education, ~~or~~

- 1           d.    if the student was placed in the custody of the  
2               Department of Human Services at any time during the  
3               eighth, ninth, tenth, or eleventh ~~grades~~ grade and  
4               enrolls in the program no later than his or her  
5               official date of high school graduation, have  
6               established financial need according to the provisions  
7               of paragraph 3 of subsection E of Section 2605 of this  
8               title and standards and provisions promulgated by the  
9               Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, or  
10           e.    if the student is the child of a certified classroom  
11               teacher and meets the provisions of paragraph 5 of  
12               subsection E of Section 2605 of this title. For the  
13               purposes of this paragraph, "certified classroom  
14               teacher" shall have the same meaning as provided in  
15               subparagraph d of paragraph 5 of subsection E of  
16               Section 2605 of this title.

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

- 23               a.    is a child of any person killed after January 1, 2000,  
24               in the line of duty in any branch of the United States

1 Armed Forces or who died after January 1, 2000, as a  
2 result of an injury sustained while in the line of  
3 duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces  
4 and the person who was killed or died filed an  
5 individual or joint Oklahoma income tax return for the  
6 tax year prior to the year during which the person was  
7 killed or died,

8 b. is a resident of this state or is enrolled in a school  
9 district located in this state that serves students  
10 who reside in both this state and an adjacent state  
11 pursuant to a contract as authorized in Section 5-  
12 117.1 of this title,

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

16 d. has satisfied admission standards as determined by the  
17 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-  
18 time-entering students for the appropriate type of  
19 institution, or, if attending a private institution,  
20 has satisfied admission standards as determined by the  
21 private institution. No student participating in the  
22 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall be  
23 admitted into an institution of higher education by  
24 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.  
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 semesters of  
24 high school coursework by a student.

1       SECTION 2.       AMENDATORY       70 O.S. 2021, Section 2605, as  
2 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 274, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp.  
3 2024, Section 2605), is amended to read as follows:

4       Section 2605. A. Each school year, every fifth- through  
5 eleventh-grade student in the public and private schools of this  
6 state and students who are educated by other means and are in the  
7 equivalent of the fifth through eleventh grade shall be apprised,  
8 together with the parent, custodial parent, or guardian of the  
9 student, of the opportunity for access to higher learning under the  
10 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program. The Oklahoma State Regents  
11 for Higher Education and the State Board of Education shall develop,  
12 promote, and coordinate a public awareness program to be utilized in  
13 making students and parents aware of the Oklahoma Higher Learning  
14 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-, tenth-, or eleventh-grade classes are taught.  
20 When requested by the State Regents, the State Board of Education  
21 shall assist the State Regents to ensure the designation of contact  
22 persons. Private schools shall also designate at least one school  
23 official as a contact person. For students who are educated by  
24

1 other means, a parent or guardian or other person approved by the  
2 State Regents 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 eleventh grade or prior to reaching the age of sixteen (16) 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-, tenth-, and eleventh-grade years, for students  
11 enrolled in a public or private school, or between the ages of  
12 thirteen (13) and sixteen (16), for students who are educated by  
13 other means, to enter into participation in the program by agreeing  
14 to, throughout the remainder of their school years or educational  
15 program:

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

1           f.    participate in program activities.

2           2.   Students who meet the eligibility qualification set forth in  
3 subparagraph a of paragraph 1 of subsection B of Section 2603 of  
4 this title after completing the eleventh grade or after reaching the  
5 age of seventeen (17) shall be given the opportunity prior to  
6 reaching the age of twenty-one (21) to enter into participation in  
7 the program and shall execute an agreement with provisions as  
8 determined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

9           3.   The contact person shall maintain the agreements, which  
10 shall be executed on forms provided by the Oklahoma State Regents  
11 for Higher Education and managed according to regulations  
12 promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and  
13 the contact person shall monitor compliance of the student with the  
14 terms of the agreement. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
15 Education are authorized to process student agreements and verify  
16 compliance with the agreements. Students failing to comply with the  
17 terms of the agreement shall not be eligible for the awards provided  
18 in Section 2604 of this title.

19          D.   Except as otherwise provided for in subsection E of this  
20 section and except for students who qualify pursuant to subsection B  
21 of Section 2603 of this title, a student shall not be found to be in  
22 financial need for purposes of the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access  
23 Program if:  
24

1        1. Beginning with eighth-, ninth-, or tenth-grade students who  
2 are enrolled in a public or private school or students between the  
3 ages of thirteen (13) and fifteen (15) who are educated by other  
4 means who apply for participation in the program in the 2017-2018  
5 school year, the federal adjusted gross income of the student's  
6 parent(s) exceeds Fifty-five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000.00) per year;

7        2. Beginning with eighth-, ninth-, tenth-, or eleventh-grade  
8 students who are enrolled in a public or private school or students  
9 between the ages of thirteen (13) and sixteen (16) who are educated  
10 by other means who apply for participation in the program in the  
11 2021-2022 school year, the federal adjusted gross income of the  
12 student's parent(s) exceeds Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) per  
13 year;

14       3. Beginning with eighth-, ninth-, tenth-, or eleventh-grade  
15 students who are enrolled in a public or private school or students  
16 between the ages of thirteen (13) and sixteen (16) who are educated  
17 by other means who apply for participation in the program in the  
18 2022-2023 school year:

- 19           a. the federal adjusted gross income of the student's  
20           parent(s), who have two or fewer dependent children,  
21           exceeds Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) per year,  
22           b. the federal adjusted gross income of the student's  
23           parent(s), who have three or four dependent children,

1 exceeds Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) per  
2 year, or

3 c. the federal adjusted gross income of the student's  
4 parent(s), who have five or more dependent children,  
5 exceeds Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000.00) per year;

6 4. Beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year, prior to  
7 receiving any Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award  
8 for any year during which the student is 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, the federal adjusted gross income of the student's  
15 parent(s) exceeds One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) per  
16 year.

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

20 a. is determined to be independent of the student's  
21 parents for federal financial aid purposes,

22 b. was in the permanent custody of the Department of  
23 Human Services at the time the student enrolled in the  
24 program, or

1           c.     was in the court-ordered custody of a federally  
2                 recognized Indian tribe, as defined by the federal  
3                 Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, at the time the  
4                 student enrolled in the program.

5           The provisions of this paragraph shall apply to any student who  
6     has received an Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit  
7     award after the 2017-2018 school year; and

8           5.   The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall review  
9     the determination of financial qualification as set forth in  
10    paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of this subsection if the income from taxable  
11    and nontaxable sources of the student's parent(s) includes income  
12    received from nontaxable military benefits or income received from  
13    the federal Social Security Administration due to the death or  
14    disability of the student's parent(s). If the income from taxable  
15    and nontaxable sources of the student's parent(s), excluding income  
16    received from nontaxable military benefits or income received from  
17    the federal Social Security Administration due to the death or  
18    disability of the student's parent(s), does not exceed the  
19    limitations set forth by paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of this subsection,  
20    the student shall be determined to have met the financial  
21    qualification set forth in paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of this  
22    subsection.

23          E.   1.   A student who was adopted between birth and twelve (12)  
24    years of age while in the permanent custody of the Department of

1 Human Services, in the court-ordered custody of a licensed private  
2 nonprofit child-placing agency, or federally recognized Indian  
3 tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978,  
4 shall not be found to be in financial need for purposes of the  
5 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program if at the time the student  
6 begins postsecondary education and prior to receiving any Oklahoma  
7 Higher Learning Access Program benefit award, the federal adjusted  
8 gross income of the student's parent(s) exceeds One Hundred Fifty  
9 Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) per year. The provisions of this  
10 paragraph shall not apply to any student who has received an  
11 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award prior to the  
12 2012-2013 school year.

13 2. A student who was adopted between thirteen (13) and  
14 seventeen (17) years of age while in the permanent custody of the  
15 Department of Human Services, in the court-ordered custody of a  
16 licensed private nonprofit child-placing agency, or federally  
17 recognized Indian tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child  
18 Welfare Act of 1978, shall not be found to be in financial need for  
19 purposes of the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program if at the  
20 time the student begins postsecondary education and prior to  
21 receiving any Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award,  
22 the federal adjusted gross income of the student's parent(s) exceeds  
23 Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) per year. The provisions  
24 of this paragraph shall not apply to any student who has received an



1 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award prior to the  
2 2012-2013 school year.

3 3. A student who was placed in the custody of the Department of  
4 Human Services at any time during the eighth, ninth, tenth, or  
5 eleventh ~~grades~~ grade and enrolls in the program no later than his  
6 or her official date of high school graduation shall not be found to  
7 be in financial need for purposes of the Oklahoma Higher Learning  
8 Access Program if the federal adjusted gross income of the student  
9 exceeds Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) per year.

10 4. Except for students who qualify pursuant to subsection B of  
11 Section 2603 of this title, the determination of financial  
12 qualification as set forth in this subsection shall be based on the  
13 income of the student, not the income of the parent(s), if the  
14 student is determined to be independent of the student's parent(s)  
15 for federal financial aid purposes. A determination of financial  
16 qualification shall not be required for the student who meets the  
17 criteria set forth in this subsection at the time the student  
18 applies for participation in the program. The provisions of this  
19 paragraph shall not apply to any student who has received an  
20 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award prior to the  
21 2008-2009 school year.

22 5. a. A student who is the child of a certified classroom  
23 teacher at the time the student applies for  
24 participation in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access

1        Program shall not be found to be in financial need for  
2        the purposes of the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access  
3        Program if, beginning with eighth-, ninth-, tenth-, or  
4        eleventh-grade students who are enrolled in a public  
5        or private school or students between thirteen (13)  
6        and sixteen (16) years of age who are educated by  
7        other means who apply for participation in the program  
8        in the 2025-2026 school year:

9        (1) the federal adjusted gross income of the  
10       student's parent(s), who have two or fewer  
11       dependent children, exceeds One Hundred Seventy-  
12       five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000.00) per year,

13       (2) the federal adjusted gross income of the  
14       student's parent(s), who have three or four  
15       dependent children, exceeds One Hundred Eighty-  
16       five Thousand Dollars (\$185,000.00) per year, or

17       (3) the federal adjusted gross income of the  
18       student's parent(s), who have five or more  
19       dependent children, exceeds One Hundred Ninety-  
20       five Thousand Dollars (\$195,000.00) per year.

21       b. Prior to receiving any Oklahoma Higher Learning Access  
22       Program benefit award for any year during which the  
23       student is enrolled in an institution that is a member  
24       of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, a

1 postsecondary vocational-technical program offered by  
2 a technology center school that meets the eligibility  
3 requirements 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, the federal adjusted gross income of the  
7 parent(s) of a student who qualifies pursuant to this  
8 paragraph shall not exceed Two Hundred Thousand  
9 Dollars (\$200,000.00) per year.

10 c. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall  
11 verify the full-time employment status of the  
12 student's parent(s) prior to a student who qualifies  
13 pursuant to this paragraph receiving any Oklahoma  
14 Higher Learning Access Program benefit award.

15 d. For the purposes of this paragraph, "certified  
16 classroom teacher" means a certified, full-time  
17 classroom teacher who has been employed as a teacher  
18 in a public school district classroom in this state  
19 for a minimum of ten (10) years prior to his or her  
20 child applying for participation in the program. The  
21 teacher is not required to have been employed by the  
22 same public school district for ten (10) consecutive  
23 years. Certified classroom teacher does not mean a  
24 certified teacher who is employed as a school district

superintendent, principal, or any other position  
within the administration of a public school district  
when his or her child applies for participation in the  
program or prior to his or her child receiving any  
Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award.

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

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

1. Assist the student in achieving compliance with the agreements;
2. Confer, when requested to do so, with the school contact person, other school personnel, and program mentors;
3. Provide information requested by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education or the State Board of Education; and
4. Assist the student in completing forms and reports required for program participation, making applications to institutions and schools of higher learning, and filing applications for student grants and scholarships.

1 H. 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 I. 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 J. 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 K. 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 State Regents shall keep  
21 the numbers confidential and use them only for administrative  
22 purposes.

23 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.  
24

SECTION 4. 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 8th day of May, 2025.

---

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
2025.

Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 1727

By: Moore, McCane, Munson,  
Provenzano, Hill, Harris,  
Deck, Archer, West (Tammy)  
and Gise of the House

4 and

5 Pugh of the Senate

6  
7  
8  
9  
10 [ Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program -  
11 eligibility requirements - children of teachers -  
12 student agreements - financial qualification  
13 determination - Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
14 Education - employment status - effective date -  
15 emergency ]

16  
17  
18  
19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

20 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2603, as  
21 amended by Section 1, Chapter 274, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024,  
22 Section 2603), is amended to read as follows:

23 Section 2603. A. Except as otherwise provided for in  
24 subsection B of this section and elsewhere in this section, to be

1 eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access  
2 Program and to qualify for an award which includes payment of an  
3 amount equivalent to resident tuition or other tuition pursuant to  
4 Section 2604 of this title for the first semester or other academic  
5 unit of postsecondary enrollment, a student shall:

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

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

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

20 4. a. have graduated within the previous three (3) years  
21 from a high school accredited by the State Board of  
22 Education or the Oklahoma School of Science and  
23 Mathematics with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point  
24



1 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in  
2 grades nine through twelve,

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

9 c. have satisfactorily completed within the previous  
10 three (3) years an educational program that was  
11 provided through a means other than a public or  
12 private school and have achieved a composite score of  
13 22 or higher on the ACT test;

14 5. Have completed the curricular requirements for admission to  
15 an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.  
16 Students shall also have attained a 2.5 grade point average in the  
17 core curriculum courses. Students who attended a high school which  
18 did not offer all the core curriculum courses or students who were  
19 educated by other means and were not offered all the core curriculum  
20 courses shall be allowed to satisfy this curriculum requirement by  
21 participating in a program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents  
22 for Higher Education for remediation of high school curricular  
23 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,

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, ~~or~~

16 d. if the student was placed in the custody of the  
17 Department of Human Services at any time during the  
18 eighth, ninth, tenth, or eleventh grades and enrolls  
19 in the program no later than his or her official date  
20 of high school graduation, have established financial  
21 need according to the provisions of paragraph 3 of  
22 subsection E of Section 2605 of this title and  
23 standards and provisions promulgated by the Oklahoma  
24 State Regents for Higher Education, or

1       e. if the student is the child of a certified classroom  
2       teacher, as provided for in paragraph 4 of subsection  
3       E of Section 2605 of this title. For the purposes of  
4       this paragraph, "certified classroom teacher" means  
5       any certified, full-time classroom teacher who has  
6       been employed as a teacher in a classroom by a public  
7       school district in this state for a minimum of ten  
8       (10) years. Certified classroom teacher does not mean  
9       a certified teacher who has been employed as a  
10       district superintendent, principal, or any other  
11       position within the administration of a public school  
12       district.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 3. Maintain satisfactory academic progress as required for  
19 eligibility for federal Title IV student financial aid programs.

20 The provisions of this paragraph shall become effective for the  
21 2012-2013 school year;

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

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 6.        AMENDATORY        70 O.S. 2021, Section 2605, as  
21 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 274, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp.  
22 2024, Section 2605), is amended to read as follows:

23       Section 2605. A. Each school year, every fifth- through  
24 eleventh-grade student in the public and private schools of this

1 state and students who are educated by other means and are in the  
2 equivalent of the fifth through eleventh grade shall be apprised,  
3 together with the parent, custodial parent, or guardian of the  
4 student, of the opportunity for access to higher learning under the  
5 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program. The Oklahoma State Regents  
6 for Higher Education and the State Board of Education shall develop,  
7 promote, and coordinate a public awareness program to be utilized in  
8 making students and parents aware of the Oklahoma Higher Learning  
9 Access Program.

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

21 C. 1. Students who qualify on the basis of financial need  
22 according to subsection D or E of this section or who meet the  
23 eligibility qualification set forth in subparagraph a of paragraph 1  
24 of subsection B of Section 2603 of this title prior to entering the



1 eleventh grade or prior to reaching the age of sixteen (16) and the  
2 standards and provisions promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents  
3 for Higher Education shall be given the opportunity throughout the  
4 eighth-, ninth-, tenth-, and eleventh-grade years, for students  
5 enrolled in a public or private school, or between the ages of  
6 thirteen (13) and sixteen (16), for students who are educated by  
7 other means, to enter into participation in the program by agreeing  
8 to, throughout the remainder of their school years or educational  
9 program:

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

20 2. Students who meet the eligibility qualification set forth in  
21 subparagraph a of paragraph 1 of subsection B of Section 2603 of  
22 this title after completing the eleventh grade or after reaching the  
23 age of seventeen (17) shall be given the opportunity prior to  
24 reaching the age of twenty-one (21) to enter into participation in

1 the program and shall execute an agreement with provisions as  
2 determined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

3 3. The contact person shall maintain the agreements, which  
4 shall be executed on forms provided by the Oklahoma State Regents  
5 for Higher Education and managed according to regulations  
6 promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and  
7 the contact person shall monitor compliance of the student with the  
8 terms of the agreement. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
9 Education are authorized to process student agreements and verify  
10 compliance with the agreements. Students failing to comply with the  
11 terms of the agreement shall not be eligible for the awards provided  
12 in Section 2604 of this title.

13 D. Except as otherwise provided for in subsection E of this  
14 section and except for students who qualify pursuant to subsection B  
15 of Section 2603 of this title, a student shall not be found to be in  
16 financial need for purposes of the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access  
17 Program if:

18 1. Beginning with eighth-, ninth-, or tenth-grade students who  
19 are enrolled in a public or private school or students between the  
20 ages of thirteen (13) and fifteen (15) who are educated by other  
21 means who apply for participation in the program in the 2017-2018  
22 school year, the federal adjusted gross income of the student's  
23 parent(s) exceeds Fifty-five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000.00) per year;

1        2. Beginning with eighth-, ninth-, tenth-, or eleventh-grade  
2 students who are enrolled in a public or private school or students  
3 between the ages of thirteen (13) and sixteen (16) who are educated  
4 by other means who apply for participation in the program in the  
5 2021-2022 school year, the federal adjusted gross income of the  
6 student's parent(s) exceeds Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) per  
7 year;

8        3. Beginning with eighth-, ninth-, tenth-, or eleventh-grade  
9 students who are enrolled in a public or private school or students  
10 between the ages of thirteen (13) and sixteen (16) who are educated  
11 by other means who apply for participation in the program in the  
12 2022-2023 school year:

13            a. the federal adjusted gross income of the student's  
14            parent(s), who have two or fewer dependent children,  
15            exceeds Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) per year,

16            b. the federal adjusted gross income of the student's  
17            parent(s), who have three or four dependent children,  
18            exceeds Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) per  
19            year, or

20            c. the federal adjusted gross income of the student's  
21            parent(s), who have five or more dependent children,  
22            exceeds Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000.00) per year;

23        4. Beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year, prior to  
24 receiving any Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award

1 for any year during which the student is enrolled in an institution  
2 which is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education,  
3 a postsecondary vocational-technical program offered by a technology  
4 center school that meets the requirements to be eligible for federal  
5 student financial aid, or a private institution of higher learning  
6 located within this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of  
7 this title, the federal adjusted gross income of the student's  
8 parent(s) exceeds One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) per  
9 year.

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

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

22 The provisions of this paragraph shall apply to any student who  
23 has received an Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit  
24 award after the 2017-2018 school year; and

1        5. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall review  
2 the determination of financial qualification as set forth in  
3 paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of this subsection if the income from taxable  
4 and nontaxable sources of the student's parent(s) includes income  
5 received from nontaxable military benefits or income received from  
6 the federal Social Security Administration due to the death or  
7 disability of the student's parent(s). If the income from taxable  
8 and nontaxable sources of the student's parent(s), excluding income  
9 received from nontaxable military benefits or income received from  
10 the federal Social Security Administration due to the death or  
11 disability of the student's parent(s), does not exceed the  
12 limitations set forth by paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of this subsection,  
13 the student shall be determined to have met the financial  
14 qualification set forth in paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of this  
15 subsection.

16        E. 1. A student who was adopted between birth and twelve (12)  
17 years of age while in the permanent custody of the Department of  
18 Human Services, in the court-ordered custody of a licensed private  
19 nonprofit child-placing agency, or federally recognized Indian  
20 tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, shall not  
21 be found to be in financial need for purposes of the Oklahoma Higher  
22 Learning Access Program if at the time the student begins  
23 postsecondary education and prior to receiving any Oklahoma Higher  
24 Learning Access Program benefit award, the federal adjusted gross

1 income of the student's parent(s) exceeds One Hundred Fifty Thousand  
2 Dollars (\$150,000.00) per year. The provisions of this paragraph  
3 shall not apply to any student who has received an Oklahoma Higher  
4 Learning Access Program benefit award prior to the 2012-2013 school  
5 year.

6 2. A student who was adopted between thirteen (13) and  
7 seventeen (17) years of age while in the permanent custody of the  
8 Department of Human Services, in the court-ordered custody of a  
9 licensed private nonprofit child-placing agency, or federally  
10 recognized Indian tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child  
11 Welfare Act, shall not be found to be in financial need for purposes  
12 of the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program if at the time the  
13 student begins postsecondary education and prior to receiving any  
14 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award, the federal  
15 adjusted gross income of the student's parent(s) exceeds Two Hundred  
16 Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) per year. 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 2012-2013 school year.

20 3. A student who was placed in the custody of the Department of  
21 Human Services at any time during the eighth, ninth, tenth, or  
22 eleventh grades and enrolls in the program no later than his or her  
23 official date of high school graduation shall not be found to be in  
24 financial need for purposes of the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access

1 Program if the federal adjusted gross income of the student exceeds  
2 Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) per year.

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

15 5. a. A determination of financial qualification is not  
16 required for a student who is the child of a certified  
17 classroom teacher at the time the student applies for  
18 participation in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access  
19 Program and prior to receiving any Oklahoma Higher  
20 Learning Access Program benefit award for any year  
21 during which the student is enrolled in an institution  
22 which is a member of The Oklahoma State System of  
23 Higher Education, a postsecondary vocational-technical  
24 program offered by a technology center school that

1 meets the eligibility requirements for federal student  
2 financial aid, or a private institution of higher  
3 learning located within this state and accredited  
4 pursuant to Section 4103 of this title. The Oklahoma  
5 State Regents for Higher Education shall verify the  
6 full-time employment status of the student's parent(s)  
7 prior to the student receiving any Oklahoma Higher  
8 Learning Access Program benefit award. The provisions  
9 of this paragraph shall apply to eighth-, ninth-, or  
10 tenth-grade students who are enrolled in a public or  
11 private school or students between the ages of  
12 thirteen (13) and fifteen (15) who are educated by  
13 other means who apply for participation in the program  
14 after the 2023-2024 school year, and

15 b. For the purposes of this paragraph, "certified  
16 classroom teacher" means any certified, full-time  
17 classroom teacher who has been employed as a teacher  
18 in a classroom by a public school district in this  
19 state for a minimum of ten (10) years. The teacher is  
20 not required to have been employed by the same public  
21 school district for ten (10) years, and the ten (10)  
22 years of employment do not have to be consecutive.  
23 Certified classroom teacher does not mean a certified  
24 teacher who has been employed as a district



1                    superintendent, principal, or any other position  
2                    within the administration of a public school district.

3            F. The financial qualification of a student as set forth in  
4 subsections D and E of this section shall be certified by the  
5 contact person or by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education  
6 on the agreement form provided by the Oklahoma State Regents for  
7 Higher Education. The form shall be retained in the permanent  
8 record of the student and a copy forwarded to the Oklahoma State  
9 Regents for Higher Education.

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

12           1. Assist the student in achieving compliance with the  
13 agreements;

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

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

18           4. Assist the student in completing forms and reports required  
19 for program participation, making applications to institutions and  
20 schools of higher learning, and filing applications for student  
21 grants and scholarships.

22           H. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall  
23 promulgate rules for the determination of student compliance with  
24 agreements made pursuant to this section.

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

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

14 K. Students participating in the Oklahoma Higher Learning  
15 Access Program shall provide their Social Security number or their  
16 student identification number used by their school to the Oklahoma  
17 State Regents for Higher Education. The Regents shall keep the  
18 numbers confidential and use them only for administrative purposes.

19 SECTION 7. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

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

1 Passed the House of Representatives the 6th day of March, 2025.

2  
3 \_\_\_\_\_  
4 Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

5 Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

6  
7  
8 \_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer of the Senate