

05/27/2025 12:29:41 PM

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President:  
Mr. Speaker:

The Conference Committee, to which was referred

**HB1727**

By: Moore of the House and Pugh of the Senate

Title: Higher education; Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program; eligibility for children of certain teachers; effective date; emergency.

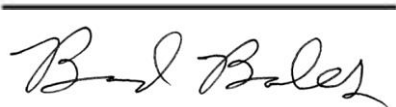








Together with Engrossed Senate Amendments thereto, beg leave to report that we have had the same under consideration and herewith return the same with the following recommendations:

1. That the Senate recede from its amendment; and
2. That the attached Conference Committee Substitute be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

House Action \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Senate Action \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

HB1727 CCR (A)  
**HOUSE CONFEREES**

Bashore, Steve		Bennett, Forrest	
Blancett, Meloyde		Boles, Brad	
Burns, Ty		Caldwell, Chad	
Caldwell, Trey		Fetgatter, Scott	
Ford, Ross		Fugate, Andy	
Grego, Jim		Hill, Brian	
Kane, John		Kendrix, Gerrid	
Kerbs, Dell		Lawson, Mark	
Luttrell, Ken		Manger, Robert	
Miller, Nicole		Moore, Anthony	
Munson, Cyndi		Newton, Carl	
Osburn, Mike		Pae, Daniel	
Pfeiffer, John		Provenzano, Melissa	
Ranson, Trish		Sterling, Danny	
Stinson, Preston		Strom, Judd	
West, Josh		West, Kevin	

West, Tammy

*Tammy West*

HB1727 CCR A

**SENATE CONFEREES: GCCA (must be signed out at a Senate GCCA meeting)**

Brooks

Dossett

Gollihare

Goodwin

Green

Hall

Haste

Hicks

Howard

Jech

Kirt

Murdock

Pederson

Prieto

Pugh

Rader

Reinhardt

Rosino

Sacchieri

Seifried

Stanley

Stewart

Thompson

Weaver

Woods

House Action \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Senate Action \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**AUTHOR(s)/COAUTHOR(s) CURRENTLY IN THE QUEUE for HB1727**

**As of 5/27/2025 12:25:11 PM**

Add as coauthor Representative Pogemiller

Add as coauthor Representative Hasenbeck

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE  
SUBSTITUTE  
FOR ENGROSSED  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1727

By: Moore, McCane, Munson,  
Provenzano, Hill, Harris,  
Deck, Archer, West (Tammy)  
Gise, Ranson, Waldron,  
Wolfley, Alonso-Sandoval,  
Rosecrants, and Townley of  
the House

and

Pugh, Pederson, Hicks, and  
Mann of the Senate

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Higher Learning  
Access Program; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2603,  
as amended by Section 1, Chapter 274, O.S.L. 2024 (70  
O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 2603), which relates to  
eligibility requirements; providing eligibility for  
children of certified classroom teachers; amending 70  
O.S. 2021, Section 2605, as last amended by Section  
2, Chapter 274, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024,  
Section 2605), which relates to student agreements;  
updating statutory references; extending time period  
for eligible students to enter into an agreement to  
participate in the program; allowing the Oklahoma  
State Regents for Higher Education to provide an  
exception to certain age limits; prohibiting students  
who are certain age or older from being eligible to  
enter into participation; providing income  
eligibility for certain students who apply for  
participation beginning in certain school year;  
finding students of certified classroom teachers to  
not have financial need if household income is over  
certain percentage of the federal poverty level;

1 requiring parent household income be below certain  
2 percentage of the federal poverty level during the  
3 program; requiring the Oklahoma State Regents for  
4 Higher Education to verify parent employment status;  
5 defining term; allowing the State Regents to provide  
6 an exception to certain age limits under certain  
7 circumstances; requiring State Regents promulgate  
8 rules; providing an effective date; and declaring an  
9 emergency.

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

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

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

21 1. Be a resident of this state or be enrolled in a school  
22 district located in this state that serves students who reside in  
23 both this state and an adjacent state pursuant to a contract as  
24 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

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

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

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

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

21 c. ~~have~~ Have satisfactorily completed within the previous  
22 three (3) years an educational program that was  
23 provided through a means other than a public or  
24

1 private school and have achieved a composite score of  
2 22 or higher on the ACT test;

3 5. Have completed the curricular requirements for admission to  
4 an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.  
5 Students shall also have attained a 2.5 grade point average in the  
6 core curriculum courses. Students who attended a high school which  
7 did not offer all the core curriculum courses or students who were  
8 educated by other means and were not offered all the core curriculum  
9 courses shall be allowed to satisfy this curriculum requirement by  
10 participating in a program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents  
11 for Higher Education for remediation of high school curricular  
12 deficiencies;

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

20 7. Have secured admission to, and enrolled in, an institution  
21 which is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education,  
22 a postsecondary vocational-technical program offered by a technology  
23 center school that meets the requirements to be eligible for federal  
24 student financial aid, or a private institution of higher learning



1 located within this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of  
2 this title; and

3 8. a. ~~have~~ Have established financial need according to the  
4 provisions of subsection D of Section 2605 of this  
5 title and standards and provisions promulgated by the  
6 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,

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

18 c. ~~if~~ If the student was adopted between thirteen (13)  
19 and seventeen (17) years of age while in the permanent  
20 custody of the Department of Human Services, in the  
21 court-ordered custody of a licensed private nonprofit  
22 child-placing agency, or federally recognized Indian  
23 tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare  
24 Act of 1978, have established financial need according

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

5 d. ~~if~~ If the student was placed in the custody of the  
6 Department of Human Services at any time during the  
7 eighth, ninth, tenth, or eleventh ~~grades~~ grade and  
8 enrolls in the program no later than his or her  
9 official date of high school graduation, have  
10 established financial need according to the provisions  
11 of paragraph 3 of subsection E of Section 2605 of this  
12 title and standards and provisions promulgated by the  
13 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, or

14 e. If the student is the child of a certified classroom  
15 teacher and meets the provisions of paragraph 5 of  
16 subsection E of Section 2605 of this title. For the  
17 purposes of this paragraph, "certified classroom  
18 teacher" shall have the same meaning as provided in  
19 subparagraph d of paragraph 5 of subsection E of  
20 Section 2605 of this title.

21 B. 1. A student shall be eligible to participate in the  
22 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program and to qualify for an award  
23 which includes payment of an amount equivalent to resident tuition  
24 or other tuition pursuant to Section 2604 of this title for the

1 first semester or other academic unit of postsecondary enrollment if  
2 the student meets all of the following criteria:

- 3       a.    is a child of any person killed after January 1, 2000,  
4            in the line of duty in any branch of the United States  
5            Armed Forces or who died after January 1, 2000, as a  
6            result of an injury sustained while in the line of  
7            duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces  
8            and the person who was killed or died filed an  
9            individual or joint Oklahoma income tax return for the  
10           tax year prior to the year during which the person was  
11           killed or died,
- 12       b.   is a resident of this state or is enrolled in a school  
13            district located in this state that serves students  
14            who reside in both this state and an adjacent state  
15            pursuant to a contract as authorized in Section 5-  
16            117.1 of this title,
- 17       c.   enrolls in an institution within The Oklahoma State  
18            System of Higher Education prior to reaching the age  
19            of twenty-one (21),
- 20       d.   has satisfied admission standards as determined by the  
21            Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-  
22            time-entering students for the appropriate type of  
23            institution, or, if attending a private institution,  
24            has satisfied admission standards as determined by the

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

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

14 f. executes an agreement pursuant to subsection C of  
15 Section 2605 of this title.

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

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

21 1. Meet the requirements for retention and degree completion as  
22 established by the institution in which the student is enrolled;  
23  
24

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

4        3. Maintain satisfactory academic progress as required for  
5 eligibility for federal Title IV student financial aid programs.  
6 The provisions of this paragraph shall become effective for the  
7 2012-2013 school year;

8        4. Comply with the standards related to maintenance of  
9 eligibility as promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
10 Education; and

11       5. Refrain from conduct that leads to expulsion or suspension  
12 of more than one semester from an institution of higher education.  
13 A student who violates the provisions of this paragraph shall  
14 permanently lose eligibility for program benefits. The provisions  
15 of this paragraph shall become effective January 1, 2008.

16       D. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the  
17 State Board of Career and Technology Education shall promulgate  
18 rules relating to maintenance of eligibility under the Oklahoma  
19 Higher Learning Access Act by a student.

20       E. It is the intent of the Legislature that students in the  
21 ninth grade for the 1992-93 school year who are determined to be  
22 eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access students pursuant to the  
23 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Act shall be the first students  
24

1 eligible for benefits from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust  
2 Fund.

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

7 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2605, as  
8 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 274, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp.  
9 2024, Section 2605), is amended to read as follows:

10 Section 2605. A. Each school year, every fifth- through  
11 eleventh-grade student in the public and private schools of this  
12 state and students who are educated by other means and are in the  
13 equivalent of the fifth through eleventh grade shall be apprised,  
14 together with the parent, custodial parent, or guardian of the  
15 student, of the opportunity for access to higher learning under the  
16 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program. The Oklahoma State Regents  
17 for Higher Education and the State Board of Education shall develop,  
18 promote, and coordinate a public awareness program to be utilized in  
19 making students and parents aware of the Oklahoma Higher Learning  
20 Access Program.

21 B. On a form provided by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
22 Education, every public school district shall designate at least one  
23 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program contact person, who shall be  
24 a counselor or teacher, at each public school site in this state in

1 which eighth-, ninth-, tenth-, or eleventh-grade classes are taught.  
2 When requested by the State Regents, the State Board of Education  
3 shall assist the State Regents to ensure the designation of contact  
4 persons. Private schools shall also designate at least one school  
5 official as a contact person. For students who are educated by  
6 other means, a parent or guardian or other person approved by the  
7 State Regents shall be designated the contact person.

8 C. 1. Students who qualify on the basis of financial need  
9 according to subsection D or E of this section or who meet the  
10 eligibility qualification set forth in subparagraph a of paragraph 1  
11 of subsection B of Section 2603 of this title ~~prior to entering the~~  
12 ~~eleventh-grade~~ no later than December 31 of their twelfth-grade year  
13 or prior to reaching the age of ~~sixteen (16)~~ seventeen (17) and who  
14 qualify on the basis of the standards and provisions promulgated by  
15 the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall be given the  
16 opportunity throughout the eighth-, ninth-, tenth-, and eleventh-  
17 grade years, and no later than December 31 of the twelfth-grade  
18 year, for students enrolled in a public or private school, or  
19 between the ages of thirteen (13) and ~~sixteen (16)~~ seventeen (17),  
20 for students who are educated by other means, to enter into  
21 participation in the program by agreeing to, throughout the  
22 remainder of their school years or educational program:

- 23 a. attend school or an educational program regularly and  
24 do homework regularly,

- b. refrain from substance abuse,
- c. refrain from commission of crimes or delinquent acts,
- d. have school work and school records reviewed by mentors designated pursuant to the program,
- e. provide information requested by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education or the State Board of Education, and
- f. participate in program activities.

2. Students who meet the eligibility qualification set forth in subparagraph a of paragraph 1 of subsection B of Section 2603 of this title after ~~completing the eleventh grade~~ December 31 of their twelfth-grade year or after reaching the age of ~~seventeen (17)~~ eighteen (18) shall be given the opportunity prior to reaching the age of twenty-one (21) to enter into participation in the program and shall execute an agreement with provisions as determined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

3. The contact person shall maintain the agreements, which shall be executed on forms provided by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and managed according to regulations promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and the contact person shall monitor compliance of the student with the terms of the agreement. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are authorized to process student agreements and verify compliance with the agreements. Students failing to comply with the



1 terms of the agreement shall not be eligible for the awards provided  
2 in Section 2604 of this title.

3 4. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may provide  
4 an exception to the age limits provided for in paragraphs 1 and 2 of  
5 this subsection pursuant to subsection L of this section.

6 5. Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 5-132 and 5-132.1  
7 of this title, a student who is age twenty-one (21) or older shall  
8 not be eligible to enter into participation in the program.

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

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

20 2. Beginning with eighth-, ninth-, tenth-, or eleventh-grade  
21 students who are enrolled in a public or private school or students  
22 between the ages of thirteen (13) and sixteen (16) who are educated  
23 by other means who apply for participation in the program in the  
24 2021-2022 school year, the federal adjusted gross income of the

1 student's parent(s) exceeds Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) per  
2 year;

3 3. Beginning with eighth-, ninth-, tenth-, or eleventh-grade  
4 students who are enrolled in a public or private school or students  
5 between the ages of thirteen (13) and sixteen (16) who are educated  
6 by other means who apply for participation in the program in the  
7 2022-2023 school year:

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

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

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

18 4. Beginning with eighth-, ninth-, tenth-, or eleventh-grade  
19 students or twelfth-grade students no later than December 31 of  
20 their twelfth-grade year who are enrolled in a public or private  
21 school or students between the ages of thirteen (13) and seventeen  
22 (17) who are educated by other means who apply for participation in  
23 the program in the 2025-2026 school year:  
24

- a. the federal adjusted gross income of the student's parent(s), who have two or fewer dependent children, exceeds Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) per year,
- b. the federal adjusted gross income of the student's parent(s), who have three or four dependent children, exceeds Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) per year, or
- c. the federal adjusted gross income of the student's parent(s), who have five or more dependent children, exceeds Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000.00) per year;

5. Beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year, prior to receiving any Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award for any year during which the student is enrolled in an institution which is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, a postsecondary vocational-technical program offered by a technology center school that meets the requirements to be eligible for federal student financial aid, or a private institution of higher learning located within this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this title, the federal adjusted gross income of the student's parent(s) exceeds One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) per year.

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

- a. is determined to be independent of the student's parents for federal financial aid purposes,
- b. was in the permanent custody of the Department of Human Services at the time the student enrolled in the program, or
- c. was in the court-ordered custody of a federally recognized Indian tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, at the time the student enrolled in the program.

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

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

1 subsection, the student shall be determined to have met the  
2 financial qualification set forth in paragraphs 1, 2, ~~and 3,~~ and 4  
3 of this subsection.

4 E. 1. A student who was adopted between birth and twelve (12)  
5 years of age while in the permanent custody of the Department of  
6 Human Services, in the court-ordered custody of a licensed private  
7 nonprofit child-placing agency, or federally recognized Indian  
8 tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978,  
9 shall not be found to be in financial need for purposes of the  
10 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program if at the time the student  
11 begins postsecondary education and prior to receiving any Oklahoma  
12 Higher Learning Access Program benefit award, the federal adjusted  
13 gross income of the student's parent(s) exceeds One Hundred Fifty  
14 Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) per year. The provisions of this  
15 paragraph shall not apply to any student who has received an  
16 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award prior to the  
17 2012-2013 school year.

18 2. A student who was adopted between thirteen (13) and  
19 seventeen (17) years of age while in the permanent custody of the  
20 Department of Human Services, in the court-ordered custody of a  
21 licensed private nonprofit child-placing agency, or federally  
22 recognized Indian tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child  
23 Welfare Act of 1978, shall not be found to be in financial need for  
24 purposes of the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program if at the

1 time the student begins postsecondary education and prior to  
2 receiving any Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award,  
3 the federal adjusted gross income of the student's parent(s) exceeds  
4 Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) per year. The provisions  
5 of this paragraph shall not apply to any student who has received an  
6 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award prior to the  
7 2012-2013 school year.

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

15 4. Except for students who qualify pursuant to subsection B of  
16 Section 2603 of this title, the determination of financial  
17 qualification as set forth in this subsection shall be based on the  
18 income of the student, not the income of the parent(s), if the  
19 student is determined to be independent of the student's parent(s)  
20 for federal financial aid purposes. A determination of financial  
21 qualification shall not be required for the student who meets the  
22 criteria set forth in this subsection at the time the student  
23 applies for participation in the program. The provisions of this  
24 paragraph shall not apply to any student who has received an

Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award prior to the 2008-2009 school year.

5. a. A student who is the child of a certified classroom teacher at the time the student applies for participation in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall not be found to be in financial need for the purposes of the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program if, beginning with eighth-, ninth-, tenth-, or eleventh-grade students or twelfth-grade students no later than December 31 of their twelfth-grade year who are enrolled in a public or private school or students between thirteen (13) and seventeen (17) years of age who are educated by other means who apply for participation in the program in the 2025-2026 school year, the household income of the student's parent(s) is equal to or greater than seven hundred percent (700%) of the federal poverty level (FPL).

b. Prior to receiving any Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award for any year during which the student is enrolled in an institution that is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, a postsecondary vocational-technical program offered by a technology center school that meets the eligibility requirements for federal student financial aid, or a

1 private institution of higher learning located within  
2 this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of  
3 this title, the household income of the parent(s) of a  
4 student who qualifies pursuant to this paragraph shall  
5 not be equal to or greater than seven hundred percent  
6 (700%) of the federal poverty level (FPL).

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

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



1                   program or prior to his or her child receiving any  
2                   Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award.

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 State Regents shall keep  
18 the numbers confidential and use them only for administrative  
19 purposes.

20 L. The State Regents may provide an exception to the age limits  
21 provided for in paragraphs 1 and 2 of subsection C of this section  
22 to a student due to hardship circumstances and allow an application  
23 to the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program for twelfth-grade  
24 students enrolled in a public or private school and students who are

1 educated by other means and are in the equivalent of twelfth grade.

2 Provided, however, the exception due to hardship circumstances shall  
3 not apply to:

4 1. A student enrolled in a public or private school after the  
5 student's official date of high school graduation;

6 2. A student educated by other means who is age nineteen (19)  
7 or older; or

8 3. Any student who is age twenty-one (21) or older.

9 The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall promulgate  
10 rules to implement the provisions of this subsection.

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

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

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