

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 2950

By: Woolley and Hall of the
House

6 and

7 McIntosh of the Senate

8
9
10 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

11 An Act relating to postsecondary education; defining
12 terms; prohibiting postsecondary institutions from
13 having differentiated standardized test score
14 requirements based on a prospective student's primary
15 or secondary educational background; authorizing
16 State Regents for Higher Education and State Board of
17 Career and Technology Education to ensure compliance
18 and promulgate rules; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section
19 2603, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 485,
20 O.S.L. 2025 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 2603), which
21 relates to the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
22 Program eligibility requirements; removing
23 differentiated grade point average and standardized
24 test score requirements based on educational means;
providing for codification; providing an effective
date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4316 of Title 70, unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. As used in this section:

2 1. "Postsecondary institution" means:

3 a. any public university, college, or other postsecondary
4 institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher
5 Education, and

6 b. any technology center school or college governed by
7 the State Board of Career and Technology Education;
8 and

9 2. "Standardized test score requirement" means any minimum
10 composite or sub-score on the ACT test, SAT, CLT, or any equivalent
11 assessment used for admission, placement, or scholarship purposes.

12 B. No postsecondary institution shall have differentiated
13 standardized test score requirements based on a prospective
14 student's primary or secondary educational background, including the
15 type of school, whether the school was accredited or unaccredited,
16 the program, or the mode of education, for purposes of:

17 1. General undergraduate admission;

18 2. Assured admission;

19 3. Program-specific admission;

20 4. Concurrent enrollment eligibility; or

21 5. Scholarship or financial aid eligibility administered by the
22 postsecondary institution.

1 C. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the
2 State Board of Career and Technology Education shall ensure
3 compliance with this section and may promulgate rules as necessary.

4 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2603, as
5 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 485, O.S.L. 2025 (70 O.S. Supp.
6 2025, Section 2603), is amended to read as follows:

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

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

18 2. Be a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United
19 States. A student who is not a United States citizen or lawfully
20 present in the United States shall not be eligible to participate in
21 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program and to qualify for an
22 award notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3242 of this title.
23 The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any student who
24

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 graduated within the previous three (3) years
6 ~~from a high school accredited by the State Board of~~
7 ~~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 graduated within the previous three (3) years~~
12 ~~from a high school not accredited by the State Board~~
13 ~~of Education with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point~~
14 ~~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 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,

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 grade and enrolls in
4 the program no later than his or her official date of
5 high school graduation, have established financial
6 need according to the provisions of paragraph 3 of
7 subsection E of Section 2605 of this title and
8 standards and provisions promulgated by the Oklahoma
9 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.
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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 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

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

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