

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 POLICY COMMITTEE
4 RECOMMENDATION

5 FOR

6 HOUSE BILL NO. 2950

7 By: Woolley

8 POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

9 An Act relating to postsecondary education; defining
10 terms; prohibiting postsecondary institutions from
11 having differentiated standardized test score
12 requirements based on a prospective student's primary
13 or secondary educational background; authorizing
14 State Regents for Higher Education and State Board of
15 Career and Technology Education to ensure compliance
16 and promulgate rules; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section
17 2603, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 485,
18 O.S.L. 2025 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 2603), which
19 relates to the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
20 Program eligibility requirements; removing
21 differentiated grade point average and standardized
22 test score requirements based on educational means;
23 amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2605, as last amended
24 by Section 2, Chapter 485, O.S.L. 2025 (70 O.S. Supp.
2025, Section 2605), which relates to Oklahoma Higher
Learning Access Program student agreements; modifying
age requirements to be the same for all students
regardless of mode of education; updating statutory
language; providing for codification; providing an
effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

4 A. As used in this section:

5 1. "Postsecondary institution" means:

6 a. any public university, college, or other postsecondary
7 institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher
8 Education, and

9 b. any technology center school or college governed by
10 the State Board of Career and Technology Education;
11 and

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

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

20 1. General undergraduate admission;

21 2. Assured admission;

22 3. Program-specific admission;

23 4. Concurrent enrollment eligibility; or

24 5. Scholarship or financial aid eligibility administered by the

1 postsecondary institution.

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

5 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2603, as
6 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 485, O.S.L. 2025 (70 O.S. Supp.
7 2025, Section 2603), is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

24 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 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.
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 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2605, as
2 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 485, O.S.L. 2025 (70 O.S. Supp.
3 2025, 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
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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 no later than December
7 31 of their twelfth-grade year or prior to reaching the age of
8 ~~seventeen (17)~~ eighteen (18) and who qualify on the basis of the
9 standards and provisions promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents
10 for Higher Education shall be given the opportunity throughout the
11 eighth-, ninth-, tenth-, and eleventh-grade years and no later than
12 December 31 of the twelfth-grade year, ~~for students enrolled in a~~
13 ~~public or private school, or between the ages of thirteen (13) and~~
14 ~~seventeen (17), for students who are educated by other means, or~~
15 prior to reaching the age of eighteen (18) to enter into
16 participation in the program by agreeing to, throughout the
17 remainder of their school years or educational program:

- 18 a. attend school or an educational program regularly and
- 19 do homework regularly,
- 20 b. refrain from substance abuse,
- 21 c. refrain from commission of crimes or delinquent acts,
- 22 d. have school work and school records reviewed by
- 23 mentors designated pursuant to the program,
- 24

1 e. provide information requested by the Oklahoma State
2 Regents for Higher Education or the State Board of
3 Education, and

4 f. participate in program activities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 2. Beginning with eighth-, ninth-, tenth-, or eleventh-grade
20 students who are enrolled in a public or private school or students
21 between the ages of thirteen (13) and sixteen (16) who are educated
22 by other means who apply for participation in the program in the
23 2021-2022 school year, the federal adjusted gross income of the
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1 student's ~~parent(s)~~ parents exceeds Sixty Thousand Dollars
2 (\$60,000.00) per 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)~~ parents, who have two or fewer dependent
10 children, exceeds Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00)
11 per year,

12 b. the federal adjusted gross income of the student's
13 ~~parent(s)~~ parents, who have three or four dependent
14 children, exceeds Seventy Thousand Dollars
15 (\$70,000.00) per year, or

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

20 4. Beginning with eighth-, ninth-, tenth-, or eleventh-grade
21 students or twelfth-grade students no later than December 31 of
22 their twelfth-grade year ~~who are enrolled in a public or private~~
23 ~~school or students between the ages of thirteen (13) and seventeen~~
24 ~~(17) who are educated by other means~~ or prior to reaching the age of

1 eighteen (18) who apply for participation in the program in the
2 2025-2026 school year:

3 a. the federal adjusted gross income of the student's
4 ~~parent(s)~~ parents, who have two or fewer dependent
5 children, exceeds Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00)
6 per year,

7 b. the federal adjusted gross income of the student's
8 ~~parent(s)~~ parents, who have three or four dependent
9 children, exceeds Seventy Thousand Dollars
10 (\$70,000.00) per year, or

11 c. the federal adjusted gross income of the student's
12 ~~parent(s)~~ parents, who have five or more dependent
13 children, exceeds Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000.00)
14 per year;

15 5. Beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year, prior to
16 receiving any Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award
17 for any year during which the student is enrolled in an institution
18 which is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education,
19 a postsecondary vocational-technical program offered by a technology
20 center school that meets the requirements to be eligible for federal
21 student financial aid, or a private institution of higher learning
22 located within this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of
23 this title, the federal adjusted gross income of the student's

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1 ~~parent(s)~~ parents exceeds One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00)
2 per year.

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

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

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

18 6. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall review
19 the determination of financial qualification as set forth in
20 paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this subsection if the income from
21 taxable and nontaxable sources of the student's ~~parent(s)~~ parents
22 includes income received from nontaxable military benefits or income
23 received from the federal Social Security Administration due to the
24 death or disability of the student's ~~parent(s)~~ parent or parents.

1 If the income from taxable and nontaxable sources of the student's
2 ~~parent(s)~~ parents, excluding income received from nontaxable
3 military benefits or income received from the federal Social
4 Security Administration due to the death or disability of the
5 student's ~~parent(s)~~ parent or parents, does not exceed the
6 limitations set forth by paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this
7 subsection, the student shall be determined to have met the
8 financial qualification set forth in paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 of
9 this subsection.

10 E. 1. A student who was adopted between birth and twelve (12)
11 years of age while in the permanent custody of the Department of
12 Human Services, in the court-ordered custody of a licensed private
13 nonprofit child-placing agency, or federally recognized Indian
14 tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978,
15 shall not be found to be in financial need for purposes of the
16 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program if at the time the student
17 begins postsecondary education and prior to receiving any Oklahoma
18 Higher Learning Access Program benefit award, the federal adjusted
19 gross income of the student's ~~parent(s)~~ parents exceeds One Hundred
20 Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) per year. The provisions of
21 this paragraph shall not apply to any student who has received an
22 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award prior to the
23 2012-2013 school year.

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1 2. A student who was adopted between thirteen (13) and
2 seventeen (17) years of age while in the permanent custody of the
3 Department of Human Services, in the court-ordered custody of a
4 licensed private nonprofit child-placing agency, or federally
5 recognized Indian tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child
6 Welfare Act of 1978, shall not be found to be in financial need for
7 purposes of the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program if at the
8 time the student begins postsecondary education and prior to
9 receiving any Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award,
10 the federal adjusted gross income of the student's ~~parent(s)~~ parents
11 exceeds Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) per year. The
12 provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any student who has
13 received an Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award
14 prior to the 2012-2013 school year.

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

22 4. Except for students who qualify pursuant to subsection B of
23 Section 2603 of this title, the determination of financial
24 qualification as set forth in this subsection shall be based on the

1 income of the student, not the income of the ~~parent(s)~~ parents, if
2 the student is determined to be independent of the student's
3 ~~parent(s)~~ parents for federal financial aid purposes. A
4 determination of financial qualification shall not be required for
5 the student who meets the criteria set forth in this subsection at
6 the time the student applies for participation in the program. The
7 provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any student who has
8 received an Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award
9 prior to the 2008-2009 school year.

10 5. a. A student who is the child of a certified classroom
11 teacher at the time the student applies for
12 participation in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
13 Program shall not be found to be in financial need for
14 the purposes of the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
15 Program if, beginning with eighth-, ninth-, tenth-, or
16 eleventh-grade students or twelfth-grade students no
17 later than December 31 of their twelfth-grade year
18 ~~who are enrolled in a public or private school or~~
19 ~~students between thirteen (13) and seventeen (17)~~
20 ~~years of age who are educated by other means~~ or prior
21 to reaching the age of eighteen (18) who apply for
22 participation in the program in the 2025-2026 school
23 year, the household income of the student's ~~parent(s)~~

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1 parents is equal to or greater than seven hundred
2 percent (700%) of the federal poverty level (FPL).

3 b. Prior to receiving any Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
4 Program benefit award for any year during which the
5 student is enrolled in an institution that is a member
6 of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, a
7 postsecondary vocational-technical program offered by
8 a technology center school that meets the eligibility
9 requirements for federal student financial aid, or a
10 private institution of higher learning located within
11 this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of
12 this title, the household income of the ~~parent(s)~~
13 parents of a student who qualifies pursuant to this
14 paragraph shall not be equal to or greater than seven
15 hundred percent (700%) of the federal poverty level
16 (FPL).

17 c. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
18 verify the full-time employment status of the
19 student's ~~parent(s)~~ parent or parents prior to a
20 student who qualifies pursuant to this paragraph
21 receiving any Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program
22 benefit award.

23 d. For the purposes of this paragraph, "certified
24 classroom teacher" means a certified, full-time

1 classroom teacher who has been employed as a teacher
2 in a public school district classroom in this state
3 for a minimum of ten (10) years prior to his or her
4 child applying for participation in the program. The
5 teacher is not required to have been employed by the
6 same public school district for ten (10) consecutive
7 years. Certified classroom teacher does not mean a
8 certified teacher who is employed as a school district
9 superintendent, principal, or any other position
10 within the administration of a public school district
11 when his or her child applies for participation in the
12 program or prior to his or her child receiving any
13 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award.

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

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

23 1. Assist the student in achieving compliance with the
24 agreements;

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

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

5 4. Assist the student in completing forms and reports required
6 for program participation, making applications to institutions and
7 schools of higher learning, and filing applications for student
8 grants and scholarships.

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

12 I. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
13 designate personnel to coordinate tracking of program records for
14 the years when students participating in the program are still in
15 the schools or are being educated by other means, provide staff
16 development for contact persons in the schools, and provide liaison
17 with the State Board of Education and local organizations and
18 individuals participating in the program.

19 J. The school district where an Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
20 Program student is enrolled when the student begins participation in
21 the program and any subsequent school district where the student
22 enrolls shall forward information regarding participation by the
23 student in the program to a school to which the student transfers
24 upon the request of the school for the records of the student.

1 K. Students participating in the Oklahoma Higher Learning
2 Access Program shall provide their Social Security number or their
3 student identification number used by their school to the Oklahoma
4 State Regents for Higher Education. The State Regents shall keep
5 the numbers confidential and use them only for administrative
6 purposes.

7 L. The State Regents may provide an exception to the age limits
8 provided for in paragraphs 1 and 2 of subsection C of this section
9 to a student due to hardship circumstances and allow an application
10 to the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program for twelfth-grade
11 students enrolled in a public or private school and students who are
12 educated by other means and are in the equivalent of twelfth grade.
13 Provided, however, the exception due to hardship circumstances shall
14 not apply to:

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

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

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

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

22 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

23 SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
24 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby

1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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4 60-2-16228 AQH 02/10/26

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