

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 1096

By: Hasenbeck of the House

3 and

4 Pugh of the Senate
5
6

7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
8 Sections 6-194, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter
9 15, O.S.L. 2023, 6-195.1, 11-107.1, 1210.508, 2403,
10 and 2603, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 440,
11 O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Sections 6-194 and
12 2603), which relate to student testing; changing
13 certain testing achievement goals in professional
14 development programs; changing continuing education
15 program source recommendations for mathematics core
16 curriculum; adding consideration of CLT exam scores
17 to remedial class options; modifying exams used in
18 establishing goals to improve state average scores;
19 modifying test qualifications for the Oklahoma State
20 Regents' Academic Scholars Program; adding CLT exam
21 scores to award eligibility in the Oklahoma Higher
22 Learning Access Program; requiring students to take
23 the Classical Learning Test exam at a testing center;
24 providing for codification; providing an effective
date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-194, as
last amended by Section 2, Chapter 15, O.S.L. 2023 (70 O.S. Supp.
2024, Section 6-194), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-194. A. The district boards of education of this
state shall establish professional development programs for the

1 certified teachers and administrators of the district. Programs
2 shall be adopted by each board based upon recommendations of a
3 professional development committee appointed by the board of
4 education for the district.

5 B. Each professional development committee shall include
6 classroom teachers, administrators, school counselors or licensed
7 mental health providers, and parents, guardians or custodians of
8 children in the school district and shall consult with a higher
9 education faculty. A majority of the members of the professional
10 development committee shall be composed of classroom teachers. The
11 teacher members shall be selected by a designated administrator of
12 the school district from a list of names submitted by the teachers
13 in the school district. The members selected shall be subject to
14 the approval of a majority vote of the teachers in the district.

15 C. In developing program recommendations, each professional
16 development committee shall annually utilize a data-driven approach
17 to analyze student data and determine district and school
18 professional development needs. The professional development
19 programs adopted shall be directed toward development of
20 competencies and instructional strategies in the core curriculum
21 areas for the following goals:

- 22 1. Increasing the academic performance data scores for the
23 district and each school site;
- 24 2. Closing achievement gaps among student subgroups;

1 3. Increasing student achievement as demonstrated on state-
2 mandated tests and ~~the ACT~~ nationally norm-referenced college
3 entrance exams;

4 4. Increasing high school graduation rates; and

5 5. Decreasing college remediation rates.

6 Each program may also include components on classroom management
7 and student discipline strategies, outreach to parents, guardians or
8 custodians of students, special education, and racial and ethnic
9 education, which all personnel defined as teachers in Section 1-116
10 of this title shall be required to complete at a frequency as
11 determined by the board of education. The State Board of Education
12 shall provide guidelines to assist school districts in developing
13 and implementing racial and ethnic education components into
14 professional development programs.

15 D. A program which includes the following information shall be
16 completed the first year a certified teacher is employed by a school
17 district, and then once every fifth academic year:

18 1. Training on recognition of child abuse and neglect;

19 2. Recognition of child sexual abuse;

20 3. Proper reporting of suspected abuse; and

21 4. Available resources.

22 E. One time per year, beginning in the 2009-2010 school year,
23 training in the area of autism shall be offered and all resident
24 teachers of students in early childhood programs through grade three

1 shall be required to complete the autism training during the
2 resident year and at least one time every three (3) years
3 thereafter. All other teachers and education support professionals
4 of students in early childhood programs through grade three shall be
5 required to complete the autism training at least one time every
6 three (3) years. The autism training shall include a minimum
7 awareness of the characteristics of autistic children, resources
8 available and an introduction to positive behavior supports to
9 challenging behavior. Each adopted program shall allow school
10 counselors to receive at least one-third (1/3) of the hours or
11 credit required each year through programs or courses specifically
12 designed for school counselors.

13 Districts are authorized to utilize any means for professional
14 development that is not prohibited by law including, but not limited
15 to, professional development provided by the district, any state
16 agency, institution of higher education, or any private entity.

17 F. One time per year, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, a
18 dyslexia awareness program shall be offered. Beginning in the 2023-
19 2024 school year, the program shall include information and training
20 in dysgraphia. At a minimum, the program shall include:

21 1. Training in awareness of dyslexia characteristics in
22 students;

23 2. Training in effective classroom instruction to meet the
24 needs of students with dyslexia; and

1 3. Available dyslexia resources for teachers, students and
2 parents.

3 G. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, each
4 certified teacher in this state shall be required by the district
5 board of education to meet the professional development requirements
6 established by the board, or established through the negotiation
7 process. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, the
8 professional development requirements established by each board of
9 education shall require every teacher to annually complete a minimum
10 number of the total number of points required to maintain
11 employment; provided, no more than a total of one hundred fifty
12 (150) hours of local, state, or federal professional development or
13 training shall be required for classroom teachers during any five-
14 year period. Failure of any teacher to meet district board of
15 education professional development requirements may be grounds for
16 nonrenewal of such teacher's contract by the board. Such failure
17 may also be grounds for nonconsideration of salary increments
18 affecting the teacher. Teachers shall maintain written
19 documentation of all their completed professional development.

20 H. Each district shall annually submit a report to the State
21 Department of Education on the district level professional
22 development needs, activities completed, expenditures, and results
23 achieved for each school year by each goal as provided in subsection
24 C of this section. If a school district elects not to adopt and

1 offer a professional development program as provided for in
2 subsection A of this section, the district shall not be required to
3 submit an annual report as required pursuant to this subsection but
4 shall report to the State Department of Education its election not
5 to offer a program and all professional development activities
6 completed by teachers and administrators of the school district.

7 I. Subject to the availability of funds, the Department shall
8 develop an online system for reporting as required in subsection H
9 of this section. The Department shall also make such information
10 available on its website.

11 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-195.1, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 Section 6-195.1. A. It is hereby declared to be the intent of
14 the Legislature to establish a continuing education program whereby
15 teachers employed to teach mathematics may obtain certification in
16 mathematics and teachers certified to teach mathematics in the state
17 may take higher education courses in order to obtain the
18 competencies needed to enable the teacher to successfully complete
19 the subject area examinations and become certified to teach any of
20 the core curriculum mathematics courses recommended by the ~~American~~
21 ~~College-Test~~ State Department of Education. The program shall pay
22 up to One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per credit hour up to a maximum
23 of twenty-four (24) credit hours for a teacher to take higher
24 education courses in mathematics. Teachers required to gain

1 certification as provided in Section 6-189.1 of this title shall be
2 given priority in the funding for the continuing education program.
3 The purpose of the program is to improve the knowledge and skills of
4 teachers and to ensure that the children of the state are taught by
5 professional educators, fully prepared in the area of mathematics.

6 B. Implementation of this section shall be contingent upon the
7 appropriation of state funds by the Legislature for the specific
8 purpose of implementing this section. Nothing in this section shall
9 prevent the State Board of Education or a school district board of
10 education from utilizing private, local, or federal funds to
11 implement this section.

12 C. Implementation of this section shall be delayed until the
13 current expenditure per pupil in average daily attendance in public
14 elementary and secondary schools in unadjusted dollars for the 1998-
15 99 school year or any school year thereafter for Oklahoma, as
16 reported by the National Center for Education Statistics annually in
17 the Digest of Education Statistics, reaches at least ninety percent
18 (90%) of the regional average expenditure for that same year, and
19 funds are provided. For purposes of this section, the regional
20 average expenditure shall consist of the current expenditure per
21 pupil in average daily attendance in public elementary and secondary
22 schools in unadjusted dollars for each of the following states:
23 Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and
24 Texas, averaged together. By January 1 of each year, the State

1 Board of Education shall report whether or not the ninety-percent
2 expenditure level has been reached based on information reported
3 annually in the Digest of Education Statistics by the National
4 Center for Education Statistics. This section shall be implemented
5 on July 1 after the first January 1 report verifies that the ninety-
6 percent expenditure level has been reached and funds have been
7 provided for the specific purposes of this section.

8 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 11-107.1, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 Section 11-107.1. A. Each school district in this state may
11 offer a remediation course for high school students who score below
12 a nineteen (19) on the American College Testing (ACT) exam or below
13 an equivalent score on the ~~SAT exam~~ Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT)
14 or Classical Learning Test (CLT) exams.

15 B. Nothing in subsection A of this section shall be construed
16 to require that a teacher providing instruction in the remediation
17 course be certified in any subject matter that is tested on the ACT
18 ~~or, SAT exam,~~ or CLT exams.

19 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.508, is
20 amended to read as follows:

21 Section 1210.508. A. 1. By no later than December 31, 2016,
22 the State Board of Education shall adopt a statewide system of
23 student assessments in compliance with the Elementary and Secondary
24

1 Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as reauthorized and amended by P.L.
2 No. 114-95, also known as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

3 2. The statewide student assessment system adopted by the Board
4 pursuant to this subsection shall be aligned with the Oklahoma
5 Academic Standards as adopted by the Board and which prepare
6 students for college and careers.

7 B. 1. The Board shall issue a request for proposals for the
8 selection of assessments to be administered to students in grades
9 three through twelve as a part of the statewide student assessment
10 system adopted by the Board pursuant to this section.

11 2. The Board shall adopt assessments from the selected
12 proposals that were submitted pursuant to paragraph 1 of this
13 subsection. The adopted assessments shall be administered by the
14 Board for a period that is in coordination with the six-year subject
15 area textbook adoption cycle unless the vendor does not fulfill the
16 terms of the contract or fails to comply with or violates the terms
17 of the contract. The Board shall administer the assessments
18 beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

19 C. The statewide student assessment system adopted by the Board
20 pursuant to this section shall include assessments that:

21 1. Are aligned with the Oklahoma subject matter standards as
22 adopted by the Board;

23 2. Provide a measure of comparability among other states;
24

1 3. Yield both norm-referenced scores and criterion-referenced
2 scores;

3 4. Have a track record of statistical reliability and accuracy;
4 and

5 5. For assessments administered in high school, provide a
6 measure of future academic performance.

7 D. For the 2016-2017 school year, the Board shall administer
8 assessments in:

9 1. English Language Arts or Reading and Mathematics in grades
10 three through eight and at least once in high school, during the
11 grade span of nine through twelve;

12 2. Science not less than once during each grade span of three
13 through five, six through nine and ten through twelve; and

14 3. United States History not less than once during the grade
15 span of nine through twelve.

16 E. 1. Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, the statewide
17 student assessment system shall include assessments in:

18 a. English Language Arts and Mathematics in grades three
19 through eight and at least once in high school, during
20 the grade span of nine through twelve,

21 b. Science not less than once during each grade span of
22 three through five, six through nine and ten through
23 twelve, and
24

1 c. United States History, with an emphasis on civics, not
2 less than once during the grade span of nine through
3 twelve.

4 2. Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, the statewide
5 student assessment system may include:

6 a. assessments in Reading and Writing in certain grades
7 as determined by the Board, and

8 b. contingent upon the availability of funds, an
9 additional nationally recognized college- and career-
10 readiness assessment or assessments as recommended by
11 the State Department of Education which will be
12 administered to students in high school at no cost to
13 the student.

14 F. 1. Beginning with students entering the ninth grade in the
15 2017-2018 school year, each student shall take the assessment or
16 assessments included in the statewide student assessment system
17 adopted by the Board pursuant to subsection A of this section in
18 order to graduate from a public high school with a standard diploma.
19 All students shall take the assessment or assessments prior to
20 graduation, unless otherwise exempt by law.

21 2. Beginning with students entering the ninth grade in the
22 2017-2018 school year, each student, in addition to taking the
23 assessment or assessments included in the statewide student
24 assessment system adopted by the Board pursuant to subsection A of

1 this section, shall meet any other high school graduation
2 requirements adopted by the Board pursuant to Section 5 of Enrolled
3 House Bill No. 3218 of the 2nd Session of the 55th Oklahoma
4 Legislature in order to graduate from a public high school with a
5 standard diploma.

6 3. For students who start the ninth grade prior to or during
7 the 2016-2017 school year, school districts shall adopt a plan that
8 establishes the assessment or assessments those students are
9 required to take in order to graduate from a public high school with
10 a standard diploma. The plan may also include any or all of the
11 other high school graduation requirements adopted by the Board
12 pursuant to Section 5 of Enrolled House Bill No. 3218 of the 2nd
13 Session of the 55th Oklahoma Legislature that those students will be
14 required to meet in order to graduate from a public high school with
15 a standard diploma.

16 4. The Board shall promulgate rules to ensure that students who
17 transfer into an Oklahoma school district from out-of-state after
18 the junior year of high school shall not be denied the opportunity
19 to be awarded a standard diploma due to differing testing
20 requirements.

21 G. In order to provide an indication of the levels of
22 competency attained by the student in a permanent record for
23 potential future employers and institutions of higher education,
24 school districts shall report on the high school transcript of the

1 student the highest-achieved score on the assessment or assessments
2 included in the statewide student assessment system adopted by the
3 Board pursuant to subsection A of this section and any business- and
4 industry-recognized endorsements attained.

5 H. Students who do not perform at a proficiency level on
6 assessments shall be remediated as established in the assessment
7 requirements adopted by the Board pursuant to Section 5 of Enrolled
8 House Bill No. 3218 of the 2nd Session of the 55th Oklahoma
9 Legislature, subject to the availability of funding.

10 I. 1. All assessments required by this section shall measure
11 academic competencies in correlation with the subject matter
12 standards adopted by the Board pursuant to Sections 11-103.6 and 11-
13 103.6a of this title and referred to as the Oklahoma Academic
14 Standards. The State Board of Education shall evaluate the subject
15 matter standards to ensure the competencies reflect high standards,
16 are specific, well-defined, measurable, challenging, and will
17 prepare elementary students for next-grade-level course work and
18 secondary students for postsecondary studies at institutions of
19 higher education or technology center schools without the need for
20 remediation. All subject matter standards shall reflect the goals
21 as set forth in Section 11-103.6 of this title and of improving the
22 state average ~~ACT score~~ of college entrance exam scores.

23 2. The State Department of Education shall annually evaluate
24 the results of the assessments. The State Board of Education shall

1 ensure that preliminary results for all statewide assessments are
2 reported to districts no later than June 20 of each year and are
3 presented in a manner that yields detailed, diagnostic information
4 for the purpose of guiding instruction and student remediation. As
5 improvements are made to the assessments required by this section,
6 the Board shall seek to increase the depth of knowledge assessed for
7 each subject. The State Board of Education shall seek to ensure
8 that data yielded from the assessments required in this section are
9 utilized at the school district level to inform instruction,
10 professional development, school improvement and remediation for
11 students.

12 3. The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability
13 shall determine the cut scores for the performance levels on all
14 statewide assessments. The Commission shall conduct an ongoing
15 review to compare the statewide assessment content and performance
16 descriptors with those of other states. Upon receipt of the review,
17 the Commission may adjust the cut scores as necessary.

18 4. The State Board of Education, for the purposes of conducting
19 reliability and validity studies, monitoring contractor adherence to
20 professionally accepted testing standards, and providing
21 recommendations for testing program improvement, shall retain the
22 services of an established, independent agency or organization that
23 is nationally recognized for its technical expertise in educational
24 testing but is not engaged in the development of aptitude or

1 achievement tests for elementary or secondary level grades. These
2 national assessment experts shall annually conduct studies of the
3 reliability and validity of the statewide assessments administered
4 pursuant to this section. Validity studies shall include studies of
5 decision validity and concurrent validity.

6 J. 1. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules
7 setting the assessment window dates for each statewide assessment so
8 that the assessments are administered according to recommended
9 testing protocols, and so that the assessment results are reported
10 back to school districts in a timely manner. The vendor shall
11 provide a final electronic data file of all school site, school
12 district, and state results to the State Department of Education and
13 the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability prior to August
14 20 of each year. The Department shall forward the final data files
15 for each school district and each school site in that district to
16 the school district. The Board shall ensure the contract with the
17 vendor includes a provision that the vendor report assessment
18 results directly to the Office of Educational Quality and
19 Accountability at the same time it is reported to the Board.

20 2. State, district, and site level results of all assessments
21 required in this section shall be disaggregated by gender, race,
22 ethnicity, disability status, migrant status, English proficiency,
23 and status as economically disadvantaged, except that such
24 disaggregation shall not be required in a case in which the number

1 of students in a category is insufficient to yield statistically
2 reliable information or the results would reveal personally
3 identifiable information about an individual student. Each school
4 site shall notify the student's parents of the school's performance
5 levels in the Oklahoma School Testing Program as reported in the
6 Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program at the end of each school
7 year.

8 K. The State Board of Education shall be responsible for the
9 field-testing and validation of the statewide assessment system
10 required in subsection A of this section.

11 L. The State Board of Education shall develop, administer, and
12 incorporate as a part of the Oklahoma School Testing Program, other
13 assessment programs or procedures, including appropriate
14 accommodations for the assessment of students with disabilities as
15 required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA),
16 20 U.S.C., Section 1400 et seq.

17 M. For purposes of developing and administering alternate
18 assessments for students with the most significant cognitive
19 disabilities, the State Board of Education shall not be subject to
20 subsections D and E of Section 11-103.6a of this title.

21 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.508-7 of Title 70, unless
23 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 Oklahoma students taking the Classical Learning Test (CLT) shall
2 only take the test in a brick-and-mortar testing center.

3 SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2403, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 2403. A. No person shall be eligible to participate in
6 the Oklahoma State Regents' Academic Scholars Program unless the
7 person:

8 1. Has complied with all of the rules promulgated by the
9 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education pursuant to the
10 provisions of the Oklahoma State Regents' Academic Scholars Act,
11 Section 2401 et seq. of this title, for the award, regulation, and
12 administration of scholarships; and

13 2. Qualifies as one of the following:

14 a. an Individual Applicant Qualified Student, which shall
15 mean a student who is a resident of the State of
16 Oklahoma whose ~~American College Testing Program score~~
17 ~~or whose Scholastic Aptitude Test score~~ on a
18 nationally norm-referenced college entrance exam falls
19 within the 99.5 to 100.0 percentile levels as
20 administered in the State of Oklahoma and whose grade
21 point average and/or class rank is exceptional, as
22 determined by the State Regents,

23 b. a Presidential Scholar, which shall mean a student
24 selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars

administered by the United States Department of
Education,

- c. a National Merit Scholar, which shall mean a student designated as a National Merit Scholar by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation,
- d. a National Merit Finalist, which shall mean a student designated as a National Merit Finalist by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, or
- e. after October 1, 1999, an Institutional Nominee, which shall mean a student nominated by an institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education:

- (1) whose ~~American College Testing Program or Scholastic Aptitude Test~~ score on a nationally norm-referenced college entrance exam falls within the 95.0 to 99.49 percentile levels, or

- (2) who shows exceptional academic achievement as evidenced by factors, including, but not limited to, grade point average, class rank, national awards, scholastic achievements, honors, and who shows exceptional promise based on documentation that may include, but not be limited to, teacher recommendations, extracurricular activities, and evidence of overcoming economic and social obstacles as determined by the State Regents.

1 The State Regents shall ensure that standards of
2 high academic ability are documented.
3 Scholarship awards to Institutional Nominees
4 shall become effective when appropriate
5 documentation is verified by the State Regents.

6 B. No person shall be eligible to receive a scholarship
7 pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma State Regents' Academic
8 Scholars Program unless the person is enrolled as a full-time
9 student at a public or private accredited institution of higher
10 education in Oklahoma.

11 C. The Oklahoma State Regents' Academic Scholars Program shall
12 provide a scholarship in an amount not to exceed the average costs
13 of all enrollment fees, tuition and other fees, room and board, and
14 all required textbooks or materials for up to five (5) years of
15 undergraduate and/or graduate study at an accredited public or
16 private institution of higher education in Oklahoma as provided in
17 subsection E of this section. The State Regents may establish
18 separate scholarship award levels for each qualifying category.

19 D. If a person identifies himself or herself as a student with
20 a disability and requests consideration for a scholarship under the
21 Academic Scholars Program by means other than standard testing
22 procedures, the State Regents shall determine what means of
23 assessment are appropriate and upon the basis of said assessment
24 results, determine what level of award, if any, shall be made.

1 E. 1. If the student is attending an institution of The
2 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, the total funding for the
3 scholarship provided in this section, exclusive of any internships,
4 shall not exceed the costs for items specified in subsection C of
5 this section at the institution attended as determined annually by
6 the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

7 2. If the student is attending a private institution of higher
8 education, the total funding for the scholarship provided in this
9 section, exclusive of any internships, shall not exceed the costs
10 for items specified in subsection C of this section at an
11 institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education of
12 comparable type which has the highest general enrollment fees of its
13 type institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education as
14 determined annually by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
15 Education.

16 SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2603, as
17 amended by Section 1, Chapter 440, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024,
18 Section 2603), is amended to read as follows:

19 Section 2603. A. Except as otherwise provided for in
20 subsection B of this section and elsewhere in this section, to be
21 eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
22 Program and to qualify for an award which includes payment of an
23 amount equivalent to resident tuition or other tuition pursuant to
24

1 Section 2604 of this title for the first semester or other academic
2 unit of postsecondary enrollment, a student shall:

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

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

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

- 17 4. a. have graduated within the previous three (3) years
18 from a high school accredited by the State Board of
19 Education or the Oklahoma School of Science and
20 Mathematics with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point
21 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in
22 grades nine through twelve,
23 b. have graduated within the previous three (3) years
24 from a high school not accredited by the State Board

1 of Education with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point
2 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in
3 grades nine through twelve and have achieved a
4 composite score of 22 or higher on the ACT test or an
5 equivalent score on the SAT or CLT, or

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

12 5. Have completed the curricular requirements for admission to
13 an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education
14 and one additional unit or set of competencies in a course that
15 meets college admission requirements; or have completed the core
16 curriculum and be seeking admission to a technology center school
17 overseen by the State Board of Career and Technology Education. The
18 curriculum requirements for admission to an institution within The
19 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education shall include two units or
20 sets of competencies in foreign or non-English language or
21 technology courses that meet the college admission requirements and
22 one unit or set of competencies of a fine arts course. Students
23 shall also have attained a 2.5 grade point average in the core
24 curriculum courses. Students who attended a high school which did

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

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

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

21 8. a. have established financial need according to the
22 provisions of subsection D of Section 2605 of this
23 title and standards and provisions promulgated by the
24 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,

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

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

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

1 or other tuition pursuant to Section 2604 of this title for the
2 first semester or other academic unit of postsecondary enrollment if
3 the student meets all of the following criteria:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 8. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

8 SECTION 9. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
9 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
10 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
11 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

12 Passed the House of Representatives the 11th day of March, 2025.

13
14 _____
15 Presiding Officer of the House
16 of Representatives

17 Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2025.

18
19 _____
20 Presiding Officer of the Senate
21
22
23
24