

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 17, 2026

3 **AS AMENDED**

4 SENATE BILL NO. 1272

By: Hines of the Senate

and

Hasenbeck of the House

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7
8 **[higher education - Oklahoma Tuition Equalization**
9 **Grant - eligibility - effective date -**
10 **emergency]**

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

12 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2632, as
13 amended by Section 1, Chapter 129, O.S.L. 2025 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025,
14 Section 2632), is amended to read as follows:

15 Section 2632. A. To be eligible for an Oklahoma Tuition
16 Equalization Grant, a student shall:

17 1. Be ~~an Oklahoma~~ a resident of this state as defined by the
18 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education;

19 2. Have enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student in an
20 eligible institution of higher education as prescribed in subsection
21 D of this section;

22 3. Meet the income eligibility level, which is the student's
23 parents' income from taxable sources which shall not be more than
24 ~~Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00)~~ Eighty Thousand Dollars

1 (\$80,000.00) per year or the student's income if the student is
2 independent and self-supporting as determined by the State Regents
3 consistent with federal financial aid regulations;

4 4. Pay more tuition than is required at a comparable public
5 institution of higher education and pay no less than the regular
6 tuition required of all students enrolled at the institution ~~where~~
7 in which the student is enrolled; and

8 5. Maintain at least minimum standards of academic performance
9 as required by the enrolling institution.

10 B. The enrolling institution shall forward a completed student
11 application, documentation of full-time enrollment status, and
12 certification of resident status to the State Regents no later than
13 October 15 for the fall semester and March 15 for the spring
14 semester of each academic year.

15 C. Subject to the availability of funds in the Oklahoma Tuition
16 Equalization Grant Trust Fund, an Oklahoma Tuition Equalization
17 Grant in the amount of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) per academic
18 year, or One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per academic semester
19 shall be awarded by the State Regents by allocation from the
20 Oklahoma Tuition Equalization Grant Trust Fund, beginning with
21 eligible students enrolled in the 2003-2004 school year. No grants
22 pursuant to ~~this act~~ the Oklahoma Tuition Equalization Grant Act
23 shall be provided to students for attending summer terms or
24 intersessions.

1 D. The State Regents shall implement policies and procedures
2 for the administration of ~~this act~~ the Oklahoma Tuition Equalization
3 Grant Act. The State Regents shall approve as eligible institutions
4 of higher education only those private or independent, not-for-
5 profit colleges or universities that are domiciled within this
6 state, meet approved program and accreditation standards as
7 determined by the State Regents, and are fully accredited by the
8 Higher Learning Commission ~~of the North Central Association on~~
9 ~~Colleges and Schools~~ or a national accrediting body recognized by
10 the United States Department of Education. To be eligible,
11 institutions ~~must~~ shall have ~~been granted~~ not-for-profit status
12 granted by the Internal Revenue Service and the ~~U.S.~~ United States
13 Department of Education prior to July 1, 2012. Additionally,
14 eligible institutions shall adhere to the complaint process policies
15 and procedures administered by the State Regents. The State Regents
16 shall review and take action, as authorized, on complaints
17 concerning eligible institutions. The eligible institutions shall
18 include Family of Faith College, Mid-America Christian University,
19 Oklahoma Baptist University, Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma
20 City University, Oklahoma Wesleyan University, Oral Roberts
21 University, Southern Nazarene University, Southwestern Christian
22 University, the University of Tulsa, and Randall University.

23 E. If funds are not sufficient in the Oklahoma Tuition
24 Equalization Grant Trust Fund to provide grants for all eligible

1 applicants, the State Regents shall award grants on the basis of
2 need and take into consideration other grants and scholarships
3 received by an eligible applicant when awarding grants. Students
4 who have previously received a tuition equalization grant and who
5 continue to meet the requirements for eligibility shall have
6 absolute priority for continued financial support superior to any
7 student who is applying for a grant for the first time.

8 F. Students enrolling as first-time freshmen for the 2003-2004
9 school year shall be the first class of students eligible to apply
10 for Oklahoma Tuition Equalization Grants. In subsequent years, all
11 previously eligible students and the first-time enrolling freshmen
12 students shall be entitled to apply for a grant pursuant to this
13 section. Beginning in the 2007-2008 school year, all eligible
14 students shall be entitled to apply for a grant pursuant to this
15 section.

16 G. A grant provided ~~by~~ pursuant to this section shall not be
17 allowed for courses or other postsecondary units taken in excess of
18 the requirements for completion of a baccalaureate program or taken
19 more than five (5) years after the student's first grant ~~is~~ was
20 received. The State Regents may award an Oklahoma Tuition
21 Equalization Grant for courses of postsecondary units taken more
22 than five (5) years after the student's first grant ~~is~~ was received
23 only in hardship circumstances. No Oklahoma Tuition Equalization
24

1 Grant recipient may receive benefits beyond a cumulative time period
2 of five (5) years.

3 H. On or before February 1 after the first semester in which
4 grants are awarded pursuant to ~~this act~~ the Oklahoma Tuition
5 Equalization Grant Act and every year thereafter, the State Regents
6 shall provide a report to the Governor, President Pro Tempore of the
7 Senate, and ~~the~~ Speaker of the House of Representatives to include,
8 but not be limited, to the number of students awarded grants, and
9 the grade point average, persistence rates, degree completion rates,
10 demographic data, and any other indicators for such students the
11 State Regents deem appropriate.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

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

17 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
18 February 17, 2026 - DO PASS AS AMENDED
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