

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1096

By: Hasenbeck and Hall of the
House

and

Pugh of the Senate

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Sections 6-194, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 15, O.S.L. 2023, 6-195.1, 11-107.1, and 1210.508 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 6-194), which relate to student testing; modifying certain goal for professional development programs; modifying intent of certain continuing education program; modifying reference to certain exam; allowing certain exam scores to be considered in determining whether a student needs a remediation course; modifying reference to certain average exam score to be used in goal for subject matter standards; defining terms; requiring students who take certain test to do so at certain testing site; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Sections 2403 and 2603, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 440, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 2603), which relate to eligibility for higher education assistance; modifying reference to certain exam to qualify for the Oklahoma State Regents' Academic Scholars Program; allowing certain equivalent scores to be used to determine eligibility for the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

SUBJECT: Schools

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

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

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

1. Increasing the academic performance data scores for the district and each school site;

2. Closing achievement gaps among student subgroups;

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

4. Increasing high school graduation rates; and

5. Decreasing college remediation rates.

Each program may also include components on classroom management and student discipline strategies, outreach to parents, guardians,

or custodians of students, special education, and racial and ethnic education, which all personnel defined as teachers in Section 1-116 of this title shall be required to complete at a frequency as determined by the board of education. The State Board of Education shall provide guidelines to assist school districts in developing and implementing racial and ethnic education components into professional development programs.

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

1. Training on recognition of child abuse and neglect;
2. Recognition of child sexual abuse;
3. Proper reporting of suspected abuse; and
4. Available resources.

E. One time per year, beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, training in the area of autism shall be offered and all resident teachers of students in early childhood programs through grade three shall be required to complete the autism training during the resident year and at least one time every three (3) years thereafter. All other teachers and education support professionals of students in early childhood programs through grade three shall be required to complete the autism training at least one time every three (3) years. The autism training shall include a minimum awareness of the characteristics of autistic children, resources available, and an introduction to positive behavior supports to challenging behavior. Each adopted program shall allow school counselors to receive at least one-third (1/3) of the hours or credit required each year through programs or courses specifically designed for school counselors.

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

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

1. Training in awareness of dyslexia characteristics in students;

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

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

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

H. Each district shall annually submit a report to the State Department of Education on the district level professional development needs, activities completed, expenditures, and results achieved for each school year by each goal as provided in subsection C of this section. If a school district elects not to adopt and offer a professional development program as provided for in subsection A of this section, the district shall not be required to submit an annual report as required pursuant to this subsection but shall report to the State Department of Education its election not to offer a program and all professional development activities completed by teachers and administrators of the school district.

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

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

Section 6-195.1. A. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Legislature to establish a continuing education program whereby teachers employed to teach mathematics may obtain certification in mathematics and teachers certified to teach mathematics in the state may take higher education courses in order to obtain the competencies needed to enable the teacher to successfully complete the subject area examinations and become certified to teach any of the core curriculum mathematics courses recommended by the ~~American College Test~~ State Department of Education. The program shall pay up to One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per credit hour up to a maximum of twenty-four (24) credit hours for a teacher to take higher education courses in mathematics. Teachers required to gain certification as provided in Section 6-189.1 of this title shall be given priority in the funding for the continuing education program. The purpose of the program is to improve the knowledge and skills of teachers and to ensure that the children of the state are taught by professional educators, fully prepared in the area of mathematics.

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

C. Implementation of this section shall be delayed until the current expenditure per pupil in average daily attendance in public elementary and secondary schools in unadjusted dollars for the 1998-99 school year or any school year thereafter for Oklahoma, as reported by the National Center for Education Statistics annually in the Digest of Education Statistics, reaches at least ninety percent (90%) of the regional average expenditure for that same year, and funds are provided. For purposes of this section, the regional average expenditure shall consist of the current expenditure per pupil in average daily attendance in public elementary and secondary schools in unadjusted dollars for each of the following states: Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, averaged together. By January 1 of each year, the State Board of Education shall report whether or not the ninety-percent expenditure level has been reached based on information reported annually in the Digest of Education Statistics by the National Center for Education Statistics. This section shall be implemented

on July 1 after the first January 1 report verifies that the ninety-percent expenditure level has been reached and funds have been provided for the specific purposes of this section.

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

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

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

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

Section 1210.508. A. 1. By no later than December 31, 2016, the State Board of Education shall adopt a statewide system of student assessments in compliance with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as reauthorized and amended by P.L. No. 114-95, also known as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

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

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

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

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

1. Are aligned with the Oklahoma subject matter standards as adopted by the Board;
2. Provide a measure of comparability among other states;
3. Yield both norm-referenced scores and criterion-referenced scores;
4. Have a track record of statistical reliability and accuracy; and
5. For assessments administered in high school, provide a measure of future academic performance.

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

1. English Language Arts or ~~Reading~~ reading and ~~Mathematics~~ mathematics in grades three through eight and at least once in high school, during the grade span of nine through twelve;
2. Science not less than once during each grade span of three through five, six through nine, and ten through twelve; and
3. United States History not less than once during the grade span of nine through twelve.

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

- a. English Language Arts and ~~Mathematics~~ mathematics in grades three through eight and at least once in high school, during the grade span of nine through twelve,
- b. ~~Science~~ science not less than once during each grade span of three through five, six through nine, and ten through twelve, and
- c. United States History, with an emphasis on civics, not less than once during the grade span of nine through twelve.

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

- a. assessments in ~~Reading~~ reading and ~~Writing~~ writing in certain grades as determined by the Board, and
- b. contingent upon the availability of funds, an additional nationally recognized college- and career-readiness assessment or assessments as recommended by the State Department of Education which will be administered to students in high school at no cost to the student.

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

2. Beginning with students entering the ninth grade in the 2017-2018 school year, each student, in addition to taking the assessment or assessments included in the statewide student assessment system adopted by the Board pursuant to subsection A of this section, shall meet any other high school graduation requirements adopted by the Board pursuant to Section 5 of Enrolled House Bill No. 3218 of the 2nd Session of the 55th Oklahoma Legislature in order to graduate from a public high school with a standard diploma.

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

4. The Board shall promulgate rules to ensure that students who transfer into an Oklahoma school district from out-of-state after

the junior year of high school shall not be denied the opportunity to be awarded a standard diploma due to differing testing requirements.

G. In order to provide an indication of the levels of competency attained by the student in a permanent record for potential future employers and institutions of higher education, school districts shall report on the high school transcript of the student the highest-achieved score on the assessment or assessments included in the statewide student assessment system adopted by the Board pursuant to subsection A of this section and any business- and industry-recognized endorsements attained.

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

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

2. The State Department of Education shall annually evaluate the results of the assessments. The State Board of Education shall ensure that preliminary results for all statewide assessments are reported to districts no later than June 20 of each year and are presented in a manner that yields detailed, diagnostic information for the purpose of guiding instruction and student remediation. As improvements are made to the assessments required by this section, the Board shall seek to increase the depth of knowledge assessed for each subject. The State Board of Education shall seek to ensure that data yielded from the assessments required in this section are utilized at the school district level to inform instruction,

professional development, school improvement, and remediation for students.

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

4. The State Board of Education, for the purposes of conducting reliability and validity studies, monitoring contractor adherence to professionally accepted testing standards, and providing recommendations for testing program improvement, shall retain the services of an established, independent agency or organization that is nationally recognized for its technical expertise in educational testing but is not engaged in the development of aptitude or achievement tests for elementary or secondary level grades. These national assessment experts shall annually conduct studies of the reliability and validity of the statewide assessments administered pursuant to this section. Validity studies shall include studies of decision validity and concurrent validity.

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

2. State, district, and site level results of all assessments required in this section shall be disaggregated by gender, race, ethnicity, disability status, migrant status, English proficiency, and status as economically disadvantaged, except that such disaggregation shall not be required in a case in which the number of students in a category is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information or the results would reveal personally

identifiable information about an individual student. Each school site shall notify the student's parents or legal guardians of the school's performance levels in the Oklahoma School Testing Program as reported in the Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program at the end of each school year.

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

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

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

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

A. As used in this title:

1. "Classic Learning Test" or "CLT" means the Classic Learning Test administered by Classic Learning Initiatives, LLC; and

2. "Testing site" means an independently run testing center operated by the assessment company and any physical location where means of education are provided including public school districts, charter schools, private schools, institutions of higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, and private institutions of higher education in this state.

B. Students in this state who take the Classic Learning Test (CLT) shall only take the test in a brick-and-mortar testing site.

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

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

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

2. Qualifies as one of the following:

- a. an Individual Applicant Qualified Student, which shall mean a student who is a resident of ~~the State of Oklahoma~~ this state whose ~~American College Testing Program score or whose Scholastic Aptitude Test score~~ on a nationally norm-referenced college entrance exam falls within the 99.5 to 100.0 percentile levels as administered in ~~the State of Oklahoma~~ this state and whose grade point average and/or class rank is exceptional, as determined by the State Regents,
- b. a Presidential Scholar, which shall mean a student 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. The State Regents shall ensure that standards of high academic ability are documented. Scholarship awards to Institutional Nominees shall become effective when appropriate documentation is verified by the State Regents.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- b. have graduated within the previous three (3) years from a high school not accredited by the State Board of Education with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in grades nine through twelve and have achieved a composite score of 22 or higher on the ACT test or an equivalent score on the SAT or CLT as determined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, or
- c. have satisfactorily completed within the previous three (3) years an educational program that was provided through a means other than a public or private school and have achieved a composite score of 22 or higher on the ACT test or an equivalent score on the SAT or CLT as determined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education;

5. Have completed the curricular requirements for admission to an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education and one additional unit or set of competencies in a course that meets college admission requirements~~+~~, or have completed the core curriculum and be seeking admission to a technology center school overseen by the State Board of Career and Technology Education. The curriculum requirements for admission to an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education shall include two units or sets of competencies in foreign or non-English language or technology courses that meet the college admission requirements and one unit or set of competencies of a fine arts course. Students shall also have attained a 2.5 grade point average in the core curriculum courses. Students who attended a high school which did not offer all the core curriculum courses or students who were educated by other means and were not offered all the core curriculum courses shall be allowed to satisfy this curriculum requirement by participating in a program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for remediation of high school curricular deficiencies;

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

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

8. a. have established financial need according to the provisions of subsection D of Section 2605 of this title and standards and provisions promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,
- b. if the student was adopted between birth and twelve (12) years of age while in the permanent custody of the Department of Human Services, in the court-ordered custody of a licensed private nonprofit child-placing agency, or federally recognized Indian tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, have established financial need according to the provisions of paragraph 1 of subsection E of Section 2605 of this title and standards and provisions promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, or
- c. if the student was adopted between thirteen (13) and seventeen (17) years of age while in the permanent custody of the Department of Human Services, in the court-ordered custody of a licensed private nonprofit child-placing agency, or federally recognized Indian tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, have established financial need according to the provisions of paragraph 2 of subsection E of Section 2605 of this title and standards and provisions promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

B. 1. A student shall be eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program and to qualify for an award which includes payment of an amount equivalent to resident tuition or other tuition pursuant to Section 2604 of this title for the first semester or other academic unit of postsecondary enrollment if the student meets all of the following criteria:

- a. is a child of any person killed after January 1, 2000, in the line of duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces or who died after January 1, 2000, as a result of an injury sustained while in the line of duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces and the person who was killed or died filed an individual or joint Oklahoma income tax return for the tax year prior to the year during which the person was killed or died,
- b. is a resident of this state or is enrolled in a school district located in this state that serves students who reside in both this state and an adjacent state pursuant to a contract as authorized in Section 5-117.1 of this title,
- c. enrolls in an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education prior to reaching the age of twenty-one (21),
- d. has satisfied admission standards as determined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-time-entering students for the appropriate type of institution, or, if attending a private institution, has satisfied admission standards as determined by the private institution. No student participating in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall be admitted into an institution of higher education by special admission standards,
- e. has secured admission to, and enrolled in, an institution which is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, a postsecondary vocational-technical program offered by a technology center school that meets the requirements to be eligible for federal student financial aid, or a private institution of higher learning located within this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this title, and
- f. executes an agreement pursuant to subsection C of Section 2605 of this title.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

E. It is the intent of the Legislature that students in the ninth grade for the 1992-93 school year who are determined to be eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access students pursuant to the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Act shall be the first students eligible for benefits from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund.

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

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

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

Passed the House of Representatives the 15th day of May, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 8th day of May, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____