

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1272

By: Hines

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2632, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 129, O.S.L. 2025 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 2632), which relates to eligibility for an Oklahoma Tuition Equalization Grant; increasing income eligibility; updating statutory language; updating statutory references; 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 2632, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 129, O.S.L. 2025 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 2632), is amended to read as follows:

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

1. Be ~~an Oklahoma~~ a resident of this state as defined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education;
2. Have enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student in an eligible institution of higher education as prescribed in subsection D of this section;

1 3. Meet the income eligibility level, which is the student's
2 parents' income from taxable sources which shall not be more than
3 ~~Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00)~~ Eighty Thousand Dollars
4 (\$80,000.00) per year or the student's income if the student is
5 independent and self-supporting as determined by the State Regents
6 consistent with federal financial aid regulations;

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

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

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

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

1 pursuant to ~~this act~~ the Oklahoma Tuition Equalization Grant Act
2 shall be provided to students for attending summer terms or
3 intersessions.

4 D. The State Regents shall implement policies and procedures
5 for the administration of ~~this act~~ the Oklahoma Tuition Equalization
6 Grant Act. The State Regents shall approve as eligible institutions
7 of higher education only those private or independent, not-for-
8 profit colleges or universities that are domiciled within this
9 state, meet approved program and accreditation standards as
10 determined by the State Regents, and are fully accredited by the
11 Higher Learning Commission ~~of the North Central Association on~~
12 ~~Colleges and Schools~~ or a national accrediting body recognized by
13 the United States Department of Education. To be eligible,
14 institutions ~~must~~ shall have ~~been granted~~ not-for-profit status
15 granted by the Internal Revenue Service and the ~~U.S.~~ United States
16 Department of Education prior to July 1, 2012. Additionally,
17 eligible institutions shall adhere to the complaint process policies
18 and procedures administered by the State Regents. The State Regents
19 shall review and take action, as authorized, on complaints
20 concerning eligible institutions. The eligible institutions shall
21 include Family of Faith College, Mid-America Christian University,
22 Oklahoma Baptist University, Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma
23 City University, Oklahoma Wesleyan University, Oral Roberts
24

1 University, Southern Nazarene University, Southwestern Christian
2 University, the University of Tulsa, and Randall University.

3 E. If funds are not sufficient in the Oklahoma Tuition
4 Equalization Grant Trust Fund to provide grants for all eligible
5 applicants, the State Regents shall award grants on the basis of
6 need and take into consideration other grants and scholarships
7 received by an eligible applicant when awarding grants. Students
8 who have previously received a tuition equalization grant and who
9 continue to meet the requirements for eligibility shall have
10 absolute priority for continued financial support superior to any
11 student who is applying for a grant for the first time.

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

20 G. A grant provided ~~by~~ pursuant to this section shall not be
21 allowed for courses or other postsecondary units taken in excess of
22 the requirements for completion of a baccalaureate program or taken
23 more than five (5) years after the student's first grant ~~is~~ was
24 received. The State Regents may award an Oklahoma Tuition

1 Equalization Grant for courses of postsecondary units taken more
2 than five (5) years after the student's first grant ~~is~~ was received
3 only in hardship circumstances. No Oklahoma Tuition Equalization
4 Grant recipient may receive benefits beyond a cumulative time period
5 of five (5) years.

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

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

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

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21 60-2-3085

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