

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1615

By: Frix

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2603, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 485, O.S.L. 2025 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 2603), which relates to eligibility requirements; conforming language; updating statutory language; providing eligibility for children of certified administrators; updating statutory reference; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2605, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 485, O.S.L. 2025 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 2605), which relates to student agreements; providing eligibility for children of certified administrators who apply beginning in certain school year; defining term; repealing 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2603, as last amended by Section 7, Chapter 277, O.S.L. 2025 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 2603), which relates to eligibility requirements; 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 2603, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 485, O.S.L. 2025 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, 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

1 Program and to qualify for an award which includes payment of an  
2 amount equivalent to resident tuition or other tuition pursuant to  
3 Section 2604 of this title for the first semester or other academic  
4 unit of postsecondary enrollment, a student shall:

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

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

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

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

- 1           b.    Have graduated within the previous three (3) years  
2               from a high school not accredited by the State Board  
3               of Education with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point  
4               average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in  
5               grades nine through twelve and have achieved a  
6               composite score of 22 or higher on the ACT test or an  
7               equivalent score on the Scholastic Assessment Test  
8               (SAT) or Classic Learning Test (CLT) as determined by  
9               the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, or  
10           c.   Have satisfactorily completed within the previous  
11               three (3) years an educational program that was  
12               provided through a means other than a public or  
13               private school and have achieved a composite score of  
14               22 or higher on the ACT test or an equivalent score on  
15               the SAT or CLT as determined by the Oklahoma State  
16               Regents for Higher Education;

17           5.   Have completed the curricular requirements for admission to  
18           an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education  
19           or have completed the core curriculum and be seeking admission to a  
20           technology center school overseen by the State Board of Career and  
21           Technology Education. Students shall also have attained a 2.5 grade  
22           point average in the core curriculum courses. Students who attended  
23           a high school which did not offer all the core curriculum courses or  
24           students who were educated by other means and were not offered all

1 the core curriculum courses shall be allowed to satisfy this  
2 curriculum requirement by participating in a program approved by the  
3 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for remediation of high  
4 school curricular deficiencies;

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

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

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

23 b. If the student was adopted between birth and twelve  
24 (12) years of age while in the permanent custody of  
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1 the Department of Human Services, in the court-ordered  
2 custody of a licensed private nonprofit child-placing  
3 agency, or federally recognized Indian tribe, as  
4 defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of  
5 1978, have established financial need according to the  
6 provisions of paragraph 1 of subsection E of Section  
7 2605 of this title and standards and provisions  
8 promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
9 Education,

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

21 d. If the student was placed in the custody of the  
22 Department of Human Services at any time during the  
23 eighth, ninth, tenth, or eleventh grade and enrolls in  
24 the program no later than his or her official date of  
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1 high school graduation, have established financial  
2 need according to the provisions of paragraph 3 of  
3 subsection E of Section 2605 of this title and  
4 standards and provisions promulgated by the Oklahoma  
5 State Regents for Higher Education, or

- 6 e. If the student is the child of a certified classroom  
7 teacher or certified administrator and meets the  
8 provisions of paragraph 5 of subsection E of Section  
9 2605 of this title. For the purposes of this  
10 paragraph, "certified classroom teacher" and  
11 "certified administrator" shall have the same ~~meaning~~  
12 meanings as provided in subparagraph d of paragraph 5  
13 of subsection E of Section 2605 of this title.

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

- 20 a. is a child of any person killed after January 1, 2000,  
21 in the line of duty in any branch of the United States  
22 Armed Forces or who died after January 1, 2000, as a  
23 result of an injury sustained while in the line of  
24 duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces

1 and the person who was killed or died filed an  
2 individual or joint Oklahoma income tax return for the  
3 tax year prior to the year during which the person was  
4 killed or died,

5 b. is a resident of this state or is enrolled in a school  
6 district located in this state that serves students  
7 who reside in both this state and an adjacent state  
8 pursuant to a contract as authorized in Section 5-  
9 117.1 of this title,

10 c. enrolls in an institution within The Oklahoma State  
11 System of Higher Education prior to reaching the age  
12 of twenty-one (21),

13 d. has satisfied admission standards as determined by the  
14 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-  
15 time-entering students for the appropriate type of  
16 institution, or, if attending a private institution,  
17 has satisfied admission standards as determined by the  
18 private institution. No student participating in the  
19 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall be  
20 admitted into an institution of higher education by  
21 special admission standards,

22 e. has secured admission to, and enrolled in, an  
23 institution which is a member of The Oklahoma State  
24 System of Higher Education, a postsecondary

1 vocational-technical program offered by a technology  
2 center school that meets the requirements to be  
3 eligible for federal student financial aid, or a  
4 private institution of higher learning located within  
5 this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of  
6 this title, and

7 f. executes an agreement pursuant to subsection C of  
8 Section 2605 of this title.

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

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

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

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

19 3. Maintain satisfactory academic progress as required for  
20 eligibility for federal Title IV of the Higher Education Act of  
21 1965, 20 U.S.C., Section 1070 et seq., student financial aid  
22 programs. The provisions of this paragraph shall become effective  
23 for the 2012-2013 school year;



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

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

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

13       E. It is the intent of the Legislature that students in the  
14 ninth grade for the ~~1992-93~~ 1992-1993 school year who are determined  
15 to be eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access students pursuant to  
16 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Act shall be the first students  
17 eligible for benefits from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust  
18 Fund.

19       F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are  
20 authorized to study, develop, and propose criteria for determining  
21 award eligibility based upon the completion of seven semesters of  
22 high school coursework by a student.  
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1       SECTION 2.       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  
24

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) and who qualify on the basis of the standards and  
9 provisions promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
10 Education shall be given the opportunity throughout the eighth-,  
11 ninth-, tenth-, and eleventh-grade years and no later than December  
12 31 of the twelfth-grade year, for students enrolled in a public or  
13 private school, or between the ages of thirteen (13) and seventeen  
14 (17), for students who are educated by other means, to enter into  
15 participation in the program by agreeing to, throughout the  
16 remainder of their school years or educational program:

- 17 a. attend school or an educational program regularly and  
18 do homework regularly,
- 19 b. refrain from substance abuse,
- 20 c. refrain from commission of crimes or delinquent acts,
- 21 d. have school work and school records reviewed by  
22 mentors designated pursuant to the program,
- 23
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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) exceeds Fifty-five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000.00) per year;

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

1        3. Beginning with eighth-, ninth-, tenth-, or eleventh-grade  
2 students who are enrolled in a public or private school or students  
3 between the ages of thirteen (13) and sixteen (16) who are educated  
4 by other means who apply for participation in the program in the  
5 2022-2023 school year:

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

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

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

16        4. Beginning with eighth-, ninth-, tenth-, or eleventh-grade  
17 students or twelfth-grade students no later than December 31 of  
18 their twelfth-grade year who are enrolled in a public or private  
19 school or students between the ages of thirteen (13) and seventeen  
20 (17) who are educated by other means who apply for participation in  
21 the program in the 2025-2026 school year:

22           a. the federal adjusted gross income of the student's  
23 parent(s), who have two or fewer dependent children,  
24 exceeds Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) per year,

- b. the federal adjusted gross income of the student's parent(s), who have three or four dependent children, exceeds Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) per year, or
- c. the federal adjusted gross income of the student's parent(s), who have five or more dependent children, exceeds Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000.00) per year;

5. Beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year, prior to receiving any Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award for any year during which the student is 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, the federal adjusted gross income of the student's parent(s) exceeds One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) per year.

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

- a. is determined to be independent of the student's parents for federal financial aid purposes,

1           b.    was in the permanent custody of the Department of  
2               Human Services at the time the student enrolled in the  
3               program, or

4           c.    was in the court-ordered custody of a federally  
5               recognized Indian tribe, as defined by the federal  
6               Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, at the time the  
7               student enrolled in the program.

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

11          6.    The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall review  
12          the determination of financial qualification as set forth in  
13          paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this subsection if the income from  
14          taxable and nontaxable sources of the student's parent(s) includes  
15          income received from nontaxable military benefits or income received  
16          from the federal Social Security Administration due to the death or  
17          disability of the student's parent(s). If the income from taxable  
18          and nontaxable sources of the student's parent(s), excluding income  
19          received from nontaxable military benefits or income received from  
20          the federal Social Security Administration due to the death or  
21          disability of the student's parent(s), does not exceed the  
22          limitations set forth by paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this  
23          subsection, the student shall be determined to have met the  
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1 financial qualification set forth in paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 of  
2 this subsection.

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

17 2. A student who was adopted between thirteen (13) and  
18 seventeen (17) years of age while in the permanent custody of the  
19 Department of Human Services, in the court-ordered custody of a  
20 licensed private nonprofit child-placing agency, or federally  
21 recognized Indian tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child  
22 Welfare Act of 1978, shall not be found to be in financial need for  
23 purposes of the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program if at the  
24 time the student begins postsecondary education and prior to

1 receiving any Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award,  
2 the federal adjusted gross income of the student's parent(s) exceeds  
3 Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) per year. The provisions  
4 of this paragraph shall not apply to any student who has received an  
5 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award prior to the  
6 2012-2013 school year.

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

14 4. Except for students who qualify pursuant to subsection B of  
15 Section 2603 of this title, the determination of financial  
16 qualification as set forth in this subsection shall be based on the  
17 income of the student, not the income of the parent(s), if the  
18 student is determined to be independent of the student's parent(s)  
19 for federal financial aid purposes. A determination of financial  
20 qualification shall not be required for the student who meets the  
21 criteria set forth in this subsection at the time the student  
22 applies for participation in the program. The provisions of this  
23 paragraph shall not apply to any student who has received an  
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1 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award prior to the  
2 2008-2009 school year.

3 5. a. A student who is the child of a certified classroom  
4 teacher or certified administrator at the time the  
5 student applies for participation in the Oklahoma  
6 Higher Learning Access Program shall not be found to  
7 be in financial need for the purposes of the Oklahoma  
8 Higher Learning Access Program if, beginning with  
9 eighth-, ninth-, tenth-, or eleventh-grade students or  
10 twelfth-grade students no later than December 31 of  
11 their twelfth-grade year who are enrolled in a public  
12 or private school or students between thirteen (13)  
13 and seventeen (17) years of age who are educated by  
14 other means who apply for participation in the program  
15 in the 2025-2026 school year if the students are  
16 children of a certified classroom teacher or who apply  
17 for participation in the program in the 2026-2027  
18 school year if the students are children of a  
19 certified administrator, the household income of the  
20 student's parent(s) is equal to or greater than seven  
21 hundred percent (700%) of the federal poverty level  
22 (FPL).

23 b. Prior to receiving any Oklahoma Higher Learning Access  
24 Program benefit award for any year during which the

1 student is enrolled in an institution that is a member  
2 of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, a  
3 postsecondary vocational-technical program offered by  
4 a technology center school that meets the eligibility  
5 requirements for federal student financial aid, or a  
6 private institution of higher learning located within  
7 this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of  
8 this title, the household income of the parent(s) of a  
9 student who qualifies pursuant to this paragraph shall  
10 not be equal to or greater than seven hundred percent  
11 (700%) of the federal poverty level (FPL).

12 c. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall  
13 verify the full-time employment status of the  
14 student's parent(s) prior to a student who qualifies  
15 pursuant to this paragraph receiving any Oklahoma  
16 Higher Learning Access Program benefit award.

17 d. For the purposes of this paragraph, 7:

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

10 (2) "certified administrator" means a certified,  
11 full-time superintendent or principal who has  
12 been employed as a certified classroom teacher, a  
13 superintendent, or a principal for a minimum of  
14 ten (10) years prior to his or her child applying  
15 for participation in the program. The  
16 administrator is not required to have been  
17 employed by the same public school district for  
18 ten (10) consecutive years.

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

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

5 1. Assist the student in achieving compliance with the  
6 agreements;

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

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

11 4. Assist the student in completing forms and reports required  
12 for program participation, making applications to institutions and  
13 schools of higher learning, and filing applications for student  
14 grants and scholarships.

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

18 I. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall  
19 designate personnel to coordinate tracking of program records for  
20 the years when students participating in the program are still in  
21 the schools or are being educated by other means, provide staff  
22 development for contact persons in the schools, and provide liaison  
23 with the State Board of Education and local organizations and  
24 individuals participating in the program.

1 J. The school district where an Oklahoma Higher Learning Access  
2 Program student is enrolled when the student begins participation in  
3 the program and any subsequent school district where the student  
4 enrolls shall forward information regarding participation by the  
5 student in the program to a school to which the student transfers  
6 upon the request of the school for the records of the student.

7 K. Students participating in the Oklahoma Higher Learning  
8 Access Program shall provide their Social Security number or their  
9 student identification number used by their school to the Oklahoma  
10 State Regents for Higher Education. The State Regents shall keep  
11 the numbers confidential and use them only for administrative  
12 purposes.

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

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

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

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

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

4       SECTION 3.       REPEALER       70 O.S. 2021, Section 2603, as last  
5 amended by Section 7, Chapter 277, O.S.L. 2025 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025,  
6 Section 2603), is hereby repealed.

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

8       SECTION 5. 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.

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