

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1899

By: Pugh

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 personnel; 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 personnel 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,

- 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 Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) or Classic Learning Test (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 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. 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

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 personnel 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 personnel" 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.

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
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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
- 24
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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,

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

8 5. Beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year, prior to
9 receiving any Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award
10 for any year during which the student is enrolled in an institution
11 which is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education,
12 a postsecondary vocational-technical program offered by a technology
13 center school that meets the requirements to be eligible for federal
14 student financial aid, or a private institution of higher learning
15 located within this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of
16 this title, the federal adjusted gross income of the student's
17 parent(s) exceeds One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) per
18 year.

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

- 22 a. is determined to be independent of the student's
23 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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Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award prior to the 2008-2009 school year.

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

b. Prior to receiving any Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award for any year during which the student is enrolled in an institution that is a member

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

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

16 d. For the purposes of this paragraph~~7~~:

17 (1) "certified classroom teacher" means a certified,
18 full-time classroom teacher who has been employed
19 as a teacher in a public school district
20 classroom in this state for a minimum of ten (10)
21 years prior to his or her child applying for
22 participation in the program. The teacher is not
23 required to have been employed by the same public
24 school district for ten (10) consecutive years.

1 Certified classroom teacher does not mean a
2 certified teacher who is employed as a school
3 district superintendent, principal, or any other
4 position within the administration of a public
5 school district when his or her child applies for
6 participation in the program or prior to his or
7 her child receiving any Oklahoma Higher Learning
8 Access Program benefit award, and

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

22 F. The financial qualification of a student as set forth in
23 subsections D and E of this section shall be certified by the
24 contact person or by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

1 on the agreement form provided by the Oklahoma State Regents for
2 Higher Education. The form shall be retained in the permanent
3 record of the student and a copy forwarded to the Oklahoma State
4 Regents for Higher Education.

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

7 1. Assist the student in achieving compliance with the
8 agreements;

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

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

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

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

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

1 with the State Board of Education and local organizations and
2 individuals participating in the program.

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

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

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

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

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

3 3. Any student who is age twenty-one (21) or older.
4 The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall promulgate
5 rules to implement the provisions of this subsection.

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

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

10 SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
11 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby
12 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
13 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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