

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

3 HOUSE BILL 2227

By: Russ

4
5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011,
8 Section 2603, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter
9 289, O.S.L. 2017 (70 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 2603),
10 which relates to the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
11 Program; providing eligibility for child of teacher
12 to participate in Program; excluding specified
13 persons; setting income limitation to establish
14 financial need; and providing an effective date.

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

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 2603, as
17 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 289, O.S.L. 2017 (70 O.S. Supp.
18 2018, Section 2603), is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

21 b. have graduated within the previous three (3) years
22 from a high school not accredited by the State Board
23 of Education with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point
24 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in

1 grades nine through twelve and have achieved a
2 composite score of 22 or higher on the ACT test, or
3 c. have satisfactorily completed within the previous
4 three (3) years an educational program that was
5 provided through a means other than a public or
6 private school and have achieved a composite score of
7 22 or higher on the ACT test;

8 5. Have completed the curricular requirements for admission to
9 an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education
10 and one additional unit or set of competencies in a course that
11 meets college admission requirements. The curriculum requirements
12 shall include two units or sets of competencies in foreign or non-
13 English language or technology courses that meet the college
14 admission requirements and one unit or set of competencies of a fine
15 arts course. Students shall also have attained a 2.5 grade point
16 average in the core curriculum courses. Students who attended a
17 high school which did not offer all the core curriculum courses or
18 students who were educated by other means and were not offered all
19 the core curriculum courses shall be allowed to satisfy this
20 curriculum requirement by participating in a program approved by the
21 State Regents for remediation of high school curricular
22 deficiencies;

23 6. Have satisfied admission standards as determined by the
24 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-time-entering

1 students for the appropriate type of institution, or, if attending a
2 private institution, have satisfied admission standards as
3 determined by the private institution. No student participating in
4 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall be admitted into
5 an institution of higher education by special admission standards;

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

13 8. a. have established financial need according to the
14 provisions of subsection D of Section 2605 of this
15 title and standards and provisions promulgated by the
16 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,

17 b. if the student was adopted between birth and twelve
18 (12) years of age while in the permanent custody of
19 the Department of Human Services, in the court-ordered
20 custody of a licensed private nonprofit child-placing
21 agency, or federally recognized Indian tribe, as
22 defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, have
23 established financial need according to the provisions
24 of paragraph 1 of subsection E of Section 2605 of this

1 title and standards and provisions promulgated by the
2 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, ~~or~~

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

14 d. if the student is a child of a parent who is employed
15 full-time as a teacher, as defined in Section 1-116 of
16 this title but specifically excluding persons employed
17 in an administrative capacity, including principals
18 and superintendents, have established financial need
19 by showing at the time the student begins
20 postsecondary education and prior to receiving any
21 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award
22 the federal adjusted gross income of the student's
23 parent(s) does not exceed One Hundred Fifty Thousand
24 Dollars (\$150,000.00) per year and standards and

1 provisions promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents
2 for Higher Education.

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

9 a. is a child of any person killed after January 1, 2000,
10 in the line of duty in any branch of the United States
11 Armed Forces or who died after January 1, 2000, as a
12 result of an injury sustained while in the line of
13 duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces
14 and the person who was killed or died filed an
15 individual or joint Oklahoma income tax return for the
16 tax year prior to the year during which the person was
17 killed or died,

18 b. is a resident of this state or is enrolled in a school
19 district located in this state that serves students
20 who reside in both this state and an adjacent state
21 pursuant to a contract as authorized in Section 5-
22 117.1 of this title,

- 1 c. enrolls in an institution within The Oklahoma State
2 System of Higher Education prior to reaching the age
3 of twenty-one (21),
- 4 d. has satisfied admission standards as determined by the
5 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-
6 time-entering students for the appropriate type of
7 institution, or, if attending a private institution,
8 has satisfied admission standards as determined by the
9 private institution. No student participating in the
10 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall be
11 admitted into an institution of higher education by
12 special admission standards,
- 13 e. has secured admission to, and enrolled in, an
14 institution which is a member of The Oklahoma State
15 System of Higher Education, a postsecondary
16 vocational-technical program offered by a technology
17 center school that meets the requirements to be
18 eligible for federal student financial aid, or a
19 private institution of higher learning located within
20 this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of
21 this title, and
- 22 f. executes an agreement pursuant to subsection C of
23 Section 2605 of this title.
- 24

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

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

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

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

11 3. Maintain satisfactory academic progress as required for
12 eligibility for federal Title IV student financial aid programs.
13 The provisions of this paragraph shall become effective for the
14 2012-2013 school year;

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

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

23 D. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the
24 State Board of Career and Technology Education shall promulgate

1 rules relating to maintenance of eligibility under the Oklahoma
2 Higher Learning Access Act by a student.

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

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

13 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.

14

15 57-1-6856 EK 01/05/19

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24