

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

4 ENGROSSED SENATE
5 BILL NO. 27

By: Pemberton and Bullard of
the Senate

6 and

7 Luttrell of the House

8
9
10 **[Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program -**
11 **eligibility - effective date -**
12 **emergency]**

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

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2603, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 Section 2603. A. Except as otherwise provided for in
19 subsection B of this section and elsewhere in this section, to be
20 eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
21 Program and to qualify for an award which includes payment of an
22 amount equivalent to resident tuition or other tuition pursuant to
23 Section 2604 of this title for the first semester or other academic
24 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 a
3 composite score of 1110 or higher on the SAT, or

4 c. have satisfactorily completed within the previous
5 three (3) years an educational program that was
6 provided through a means other than a public or
7 private school and have achieved a composite score of
8 22 or higher on the ACT test or a composite score of
9 1110 or higher on the SAT;

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

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

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, have
5 established financial need according to the provisions
6 of paragraph 1 of subsection E of Section 2605 of this
7 title and standards and provisions promulgated by the
8 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, or

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

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

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

12 b. is a resident of this state or is enrolled in a school
13 district located in this state that serves students
14 who reside in both this state and an adjacent state
15 pursuant to a contract as authorized in Section 5-
16 117.1 of this title,

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

20 d. has satisfied admission standards as determined by the
21 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-
22 time-entering students for the appropriate type of
23 institution, or, if attending a private institution,
24 has satisfied admission standards as determined by the

1 private institution. No student participating in the
2 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall be
3 admitted into an institution of higher education by
4 special admission standards,

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

14 f. executes an agreement pursuant to subsection C of
15 Section 2605 of this title.

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

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

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

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

4 3. Maintain satisfactory academic progress as required for
5 eligibility for federal Title IV student financial aid programs.
6 The provisions of this paragraph shall become effective for the
7 2012-2013 school year;

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

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

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

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

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

7 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

8 SECTION 3. 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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13 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated
14 04/13/2023 - DO PASS, As Amended.

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