

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 SENATE BILL 233

By: Standridge

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to higher education; creating the
8 Teacher Shortage Reduction Act; providing short
9 title; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 628.13, which
10 relates to concurrent enrollment; updating statutory
11 language; adding exception to limitations on tuition
12 waiver for concurrent enrollment; providing certain
13 tuition waiver for juniors and seniors who meet
14 certain requirements and declare certain intention;
15 providing for maximum tuition waiver subject to
16 availability of funding; directing certain
17 declaration to be submitted on certain form;
18 requiring repayment of tuition waiver for failure to
19 comply with certain provisions; allowing the Oklahoma
20 State Regents for Higher Education to establish
21 certain schedule; allowing for application of
22 hardship waiver; providing for promulgation of rules;
23 providing for noncodification; providing for
24 codification; providing an effective date; and
25 declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Teacher
Shortage Reduction Act".

1 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 628.13, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 Section 628.13. A. 1. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
4 Education, in cooperation with the State Board of Education, shall
5 actively encourage the concurrent enrollment in ~~college or~~
6 university institution of higher education courses of eligible high
7 school students on high school campuses, on ~~college and university~~
8 institution of higher education campuses, and via online courses.

9 2. The State Regents and ~~State~~ Board shall establish concurrent
10 enrollment requirements with an emphasis on determining course
11 readiness and take all necessary actions to ensure the availability
12 of concurrent enrollment opportunities to students in all ~~Oklahoma~~
13 high schools in this state.

14 B. The State Board of Education in cooperation with the
15 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall prepare
16 promotional materials explaining the requirements, features, and
17 opportunities of concurrent enrollment and shall ensure that ~~the~~
18 ~~independent~~ public school districts distribute the materials to each
19 student prior to enrollment for each year of high school.

20 C. No institution ~~of~~ within The Oklahoma State System of Higher
21 Education shall deny enrollment in any course to any otherwise
22 eligible high school student, or student of at least thirteen (13)
23 years of age who is receiving high-school-level instruction at home,
24 who meets the requirements of concurrent enrollment, nor shall any

1 ~~independent~~ public school district prohibit any student who meets
2 the requirements of concurrent enrollment from participating.

3 D. 1. ~~Each~~ Except as provided for in Section 3 of this act,
4 each high school senior who meets the eligibility requirements for
5 concurrent enrollment shall be entitled to receive a tuition waiver
6 equivalent to the amount of resident tuition for a maximum of
7 eighteen (18) credit hours in their senior year.

8 2. ~~Subject~~ Except as provided for in Section 3 of this act,
9 subject to the high school senior concurrent enrollment program
10 being fully funded, each high school junior who meets the
11 eligibility requirements for concurrent enrollment shall be entitled
12 to receive a tuition waiver equivalent to the amount of resident
13 tuition for a maximum of nine (9) credit hours in their junior year,
14 subject to the availability of funds.

15 3. Tuition waivers provided pursuant to this section shall be
16 granted without any limitation on the number of waivers granted in
17 any year other than the amount of funds available for the program
18 and the number of eligible applicants.

19 E. When a student earns college credit through concurrent
20 enrollment, school districts shall provide academic credit for any
21 concurrently enrolled higher education courses that are correlated
22 with the academic credit awarded by the institution of higher
23 education. Academic credit shall only be transcribed as elective
24 credit if there is no correlation between the concurrent enrollment

1 higher education course and a course provided by the school
2 district.

3 F. On or before December 1 of each year, the Oklahoma State
4 Regents for Higher Education shall issue an annual report on the
5 concurrent enrollment program implemented pursuant to this section.
6 The annual report shall include, but not be limited to, the
7 following information:

8 1. The number of students participating in concurrent
9 enrollment;

10 2. The number of students participating in concurrent
11 enrollment who received tuition waivers pursuant to subsection D of
12 this section;

13 3. The high school graduation rate of students described in
14 paragraphs 1 and 2 of this subsection; and

15 4. The number of students described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of
16 this subsection who earned an associate's degree or a bachelor's
17 degree at an institution of higher education.

18 The annual report shall be posted on the websites of the
19 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the State Department
20 of Education.

21 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 628.13a of Title 70, unless
23 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. Juniors and seniors enrolled in a public school district or
2 public charter school in this state who:

3 1. Meet the eligibility requirements for concurrent enrollment;
4 and

5 2. Declare an intention to pursue an undergraduate teacher
6 education program accredited by the Commission for Educational
7 Quality and Accountability at an institution of higher education
8 within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education and teach in a
9 public school in this state for three (3) years within ten (10)
10 years following attainment of a bachelor's degree from an approved
11 teacher education program,

12 shall be entitled to receive a tuition waiver for a maximum of sixty
13 (60) credit hours, subject to the availability of funding.

14 B. The declaration required by paragraph 2 of subsection A of
15 this section shall be submitted to the Oklahoma State Regents for
16 Higher Education on a form prescribed by the State Regents.

17 C. 1. An individual who has received a tuition waiver pursuant
18 to this section and who fails to comply with the provisions of
19 paragraph 2 of subsection A of this section shall be required to
20 repay an amount equal to the tuition waiver provided pursuant to
21 this section. The State Regents may establish a schedule for
22 installment repayments.

23 2. An individual subject to the provisions of paragraph 1 of
24 this subsection may request a waiver from repayment due to hardship

1 circumstances. The waiver request shall be submitted to the State
2 Regents on a form prescribed by the State Regents.

3 D. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
4 promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section.

5 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

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

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