

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

HOUSE BILL 1096

By: Hasenbeck

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; mandating the creation of an Academic Performance Index; providing index indicators; directing the organization of index data; directing the Board of Education to create growth targets; clarifying index applicability for certain online students; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Sections 6-194, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 15, O.S.L. 2023, 6-195.1, 11-107.1, 1210.508, 2403, and 2603, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 440, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Sections 6-194 and 2603), which relate to student testing; changing certain testing achievement goals in professional development programs; changing continuing education program source recommendations for mathematics core curriculum; adding consideration of CLT exam scores to remedial class options; modifying exams used in establishing goals to improve state average scores; modifying test qualifications for the Oklahoma State Regents' Academic Scholars Program; adding CLT exam scores to award eligibility in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-150.1 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1       A. The State Board of Education shall develop an Academic  
2 Performance Index (API) to be used to measure performance of  
3 schools, including the academic performance of students. The index  
4 shall consist of a variety of indicators including, but not limited  
5 to:

- 6       1. Attendance rates;
- 7       2. Dropout rates;
- 8       3. Results of the Oklahoma School Testing Program administered  
9 pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title;
- 10      4. Advanced Placement participation;
- 11      5. Graduation rates for secondary school students;
- 12      6. Scores of nationally norm-referenced college entrance exams;
- 13 and
- 14      7. College remediation rates.

15       B. The data collected for the API shall be disaggregated, when  
16 available, by socioeconomic status and ethnic group. Oklahoma  
17 School Testing Program results shall constitute no less than sixty  
18 percent (60%) of the value of the index.

19       C. The State Board of Education shall adopt expected annual  
20 percentage growth targets for the state level, school districts, and  
21 all school sites based on their API baseline score. The minimum  
22 percentage growth target shall be five percent (5%) annually.  
23 However, the State Board of Education may set differential growth  
24 targets based on grade level of instruction.

1 D. The academic performance of students who are enrolled full-  
2 time in an online program that is offered by a school district or  
3 charter school that is not the district of residence or is not  
4 located in the district of residence of the student shall be  
5 reported separately by the school district or charter school, and  
6 shall not be included when determining the Academic Performance  
7 Index of the school district or charter school.

8 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-194, as  
9 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 15, O.S.L. 2023 (70 O.S. Supp.  
10 2024, Section 6-194), is amended to read as follows:

11 Section 6-194. A. The district boards of education of this  
12 state shall establish professional development programs for the  
13 certified teachers and administrators of the district. Programs  
14 shall be adopted by each board based upon recommendations of a  
15 professional development committee appointed by the board of  
16 education for the district.

17 B. Each professional development committee shall include  
18 classroom teachers, administrators, school counselors or licensed  
19 mental health providers, and parents, guardians or custodians of  
20 children in the school district and shall consult with a higher  
21 education faculty. A majority of the members of the professional  
22 development committee shall be composed of classroom teachers. The  
23 teacher members shall be selected by a designated administrator of  
24 the school district from a list of names submitted by the teachers

1 in the school district. The members selected shall be subject to  
2 the approval of a majority vote of the teachers in the district.

3 C. In developing program recommendations, each professional  
4 development committee shall annually utilize a data-driven approach  
5 to analyze student data and determine district and school  
6 professional development needs. The professional development  
7 programs adopted shall be directed toward development of  
8 competencies and instructional strategies in the core curriculum  
9 areas for the following goals:

10 1. Increasing the academic performance data scores for the  
11 district and each school site;

12 2. Closing achievement gaps among student subgroups;

13 3. Increasing student achievement as demonstrated on state-  
14 mandated tests and ~~the ACT~~ nationally norm-referenced college  
15 entrance exams;

16 4. Increasing high school graduation rates; and

17 5. Decreasing college remediation rates.

18 Each program may also include components on classroom management  
19 and student discipline strategies, outreach to parents, guardians or  
20 custodians of students, special education, and racial and ethnic  
21 education, which all personnel defined as teachers in Section 1-116  
22 of this title shall be required to complete at a frequency as  
23 determined by the board of education. The State Board of Education  
24 shall provide guidelines to assist school districts in developing

1 and implementing racial and ethnic education components into  
2 professional development programs.

3 D. A program which includes the following information shall be  
4 completed the first year a certified teacher is employed by a school  
5 district, and then once every fifth academic year:

- 6 1. Training on recognition of child abuse and neglect;
- 7 2. Recognition of child sexual abuse;
- 8 3. Proper reporting of suspected abuse; and
- 9 4. Available resources.

10 E. One time per year, beginning in the 2009-2010 school year,  
11 training in the area of autism shall be offered and all resident  
12 teachers of students in early childhood programs through grade three  
13 shall be required to complete the autism training during the  
14 resident year and at least one time every three (3) years  
15 thereafter. All other teachers and education support professionals  
16 of students in early childhood programs through grade three shall be  
17 required to complete the autism training at least one time every  
18 three (3) years. The autism training shall include a minimum  
19 awareness of the characteristics of autistic children, resources  
20 available and an introduction to positive behavior supports to  
21 challenging behavior. Each adopted program shall allow school  
22 counselors to receive at least one-third (1/3) of the hours or  
23 credit required each year through programs or courses specifically  
24 designed for school counselors.

Districts are authorized to utilize any means for professional development that is not prohibited by law including, but not limited to, professional development provided by the district, any state agency, institution of higher education, or any private entity.

F. One time per year, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, a dyslexia awareness program shall be offered. Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, the program shall include information and training in dysgraphia. At a minimum, the program shall include:

1. Training in awareness of dyslexia characteristics in students;

2. Training in effective classroom instruction to meet the needs of students with dyslexia; and

3. Available dyslexia resources for teachers, students and parents.

G. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, each certified teacher in this state shall be required by the district board of education to meet the professional development requirements established by the board, or established through the negotiation process. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, the professional development requirements established by each board of education shall require every teacher to annually complete a minimum number of the total number of points required to maintain employment; provided, no more than a total of one hundred fifty (150) hours of local, state, or federal professional development or

1 training shall be required for classroom teachers during any five-  
2 year period. Failure of any teacher to meet district board of  
3 education professional development requirements may be grounds for  
4 nonrenewal of such teacher's contract by the board. Such failure  
5 may also be grounds for nonconsideration of salary increments  
6 affecting the teacher. Teachers shall maintain written  
7 documentation of all their completed professional development.

8 H. Each district shall annually submit a report to the State  
9 Department of Education on the district level professional  
10 development needs, activities completed, expenditures, and results  
11 achieved for each school year by each goal as provided in subsection  
12 C of this section. If a school district elects not to adopt and  
13 offer a professional development program as provided for in  
14 subsection A of this section, the district shall not be required to  
15 submit an annual report as required pursuant to this subsection but  
16 shall report to the State Department of Education its election not  
17 to offer a program and all professional development activities  
18 completed by teachers and administrators of the school district.

19 I. Subject to the availability of funds, the Department shall  
20 develop an online system for reporting as required in subsection H  
21 of this section. The Department shall also make such information  
22 available on its website.

23 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-195.1, is  
24 amended to read as follows:

1       Section 6-195.1. A. It is hereby declared to be the intent of  
2 the Legislature to establish a continuing education program whereby  
3 teachers employed to teach mathematics may obtain certification in  
4 mathematics and teachers certified to teach mathematics in the state  
5 may take higher education courses in order to obtain the  
6 competencies needed to enable the teacher to successfully complete  
7 the subject area examinations and become certified to teach any of  
8 the core curriculum mathematics courses recommended by the ~~American~~  
9 ~~College Test~~ State Department of Education. The program shall pay  
10 up to One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per credit hour up to a maximum  
11 of twenty-four (24) credit hours for a teacher to take higher  
12 education courses in mathematics. Teachers required to gain  
13 certification as provided in Section 6-189.1 of this title shall be  
14 given priority in the funding for the continuing education program.  
15 The purpose of the program is to improve the knowledge and skills of  
16 teachers and to ensure that the children of the state are taught by  
17 professional educators, fully prepared in the area of mathematics.

18       B. Implementation of this section shall be contingent upon the  
19 appropriation of state funds by the Legislature for the specific  
20 purpose of implementing this section. Nothing in this section shall  
21 prevent the State Board of Education or a school district board of  
22 education from utilizing private, local, or federal funds to  
23 implement this section.  
24



1 C. Implementation of this section shall be delayed until the  
2 current expenditure per pupil in average daily attendance in public  
3 elementary and secondary schools in unadjusted dollars for the 1998-  
4 99 school year or any school year thereafter for Oklahoma, as  
5 reported by the National Center for Education Statistics annually in  
6 the Digest of Education Statistics, reaches at least ninety percent  
7 (90%) of the regional average expenditure for that same year, and  
8 funds are provided. For purposes of this section, the regional  
9 average expenditure shall consist of the current expenditure per  
10 pupil in average daily attendance in public elementary and secondary  
11 schools in unadjusted dollars for each of the following states:  
12 Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and  
13 Texas, averaged together. By January 1 of each year, the State  
14 Board of Education shall report whether or not the ninety-percent  
15 expenditure level has been reached based on information reported  
16 annually in the Digest of Education Statistics by the National  
17 Center for Education Statistics. This section shall be implemented  
18 on July 1 after the first January 1 report verifies that the ninety-  
19 percent expenditure level has been reached and funds have been  
20 provided for the specific purposes of this section.

21 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 11-107.1, is  
22 amended to read as follows:

23 Section 11-107.1. A. Each school district in this state may  
24 offer a remediation course for high school students who score below

1 a nineteen (19) on the American College Testing (ACT) exam or below  
2 an equivalent score on the ~~SAT exam~~ Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT)  
3 or Classical Learning Test (CLT) exams.

4 B. Nothing in subsection A of this section shall be construed  
5 to require that a teacher providing instruction in the remediation  
6 course be certified in any subject matter that is tested on the ACT  
7 ~~or, SAT exam, or CLT exams.~~

8 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.508, is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 Section 1210.508. A. 1. By no later than December 31, 2016,  
11 the State Board of Education shall adopt a statewide system of  
12 student assessments in compliance with the Elementary and Secondary  
13 Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as reauthorized and amended by P.L.  
14 No. 114-95, also known as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

15 2. The statewide student assessment system adopted by the Board  
16 pursuant to this subsection shall be aligned with the Oklahoma  
17 Academic Standards as adopted by the Board and which prepare  
18 students for college and careers.

19 B. 1. The Board shall issue a request for proposals for the  
20 selection of assessments to be administered to students in grades  
21 three through twelve as a part of the statewide student assessment  
22 system adopted by the Board pursuant to this section.

23 2. The Board shall adopt assessments from the selected  
24 proposals that were submitted pursuant to paragraph 1 of this

1 subsection. The adopted assessments shall be administered by the  
2 Board for a period that is in coordination with the six-year subject  
3 area textbook adoption cycle unless the vendor does not fulfill the  
4 terms of the contract or fails to comply with or violates the terms  
5 of the contract. The Board shall administer the assessments  
6 beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

7 C. The statewide student assessment system adopted by the Board  
8 pursuant to this section shall include assessments that:

9 1. Are aligned with the Oklahoma subject matter standards as  
10 adopted by the Board;

11 2. Provide a measure of comparability among other states;

12 3. Yield both norm-referenced scores and criterion-referenced  
13 scores;

14 4. Have a track record of statistical reliability and accuracy;  
15 and

16 5. For assessments administered in high school, provide a  
17 measure of future academic performance.

18 D. For the 2016-2017 school year, the Board shall administer  
19 assessments in:

20 1. English Language Arts or Reading and Mathematics in grades  
21 three through eight and at least once in high school, during the  
22 grade span of nine through twelve;

23 2. Science not less than once during each grade span of three  
24 through five, six through nine and ten through twelve; and

1        3. United States History not less than once during the grade  
2 span of nine through twelve.

3        E. 1. Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, the statewide  
4 student assessment system shall include assessments in:

5            a. English Language Arts and Mathematics in grades three  
6 through eight and at least once in high school, during  
7 the grade span of nine through twelve,

8            b. Science not less than once during each grade span of  
9 three through five, six through nine and ten through  
10 twelve, and

11           c. United States History, with an emphasis on civics, not  
12 less than once during the grade span of nine through  
13 twelve.

14        2. Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, the statewide  
15 student assessment system may include:

16           a. assessments in Reading and Writing in certain grades  
17 as determined by the Board, and

18           b. contingent upon the availability of funds, an  
19 additional nationally recognized college- and career-  
20 readiness assessment or assessments as recommended by  
21 the State Department of Education which will be  
22 administered to students in high school at no cost to  
23 the student.  
24

1 F. 1. Beginning with students entering the ninth grade in the  
2 2017-2018 school year, each student shall take the assessment or  
3 assessments included in the statewide student assessment system  
4 adopted by the Board pursuant to subsection A of this section in  
5 order to graduate from a public high school with a standard diploma.  
6 All students shall take the assessment or assessments prior to  
7 graduation, unless otherwise exempt by law.

8 2. Beginning with students entering the ninth grade in the  
9 2017-2018 school year, each student, in addition to taking the  
10 assessment or assessments included in the statewide student  
11 assessment system adopted by the Board pursuant to subsection A of  
12 this section, shall meet any other high school graduation  
13 requirements adopted by the Board pursuant to Section 5 of Enrolled  
14 House Bill No. 3218 of the 2nd Session of the 55th Oklahoma  
15 Legislature in order to graduate from a public high school with a  
16 standard diploma.

17 3. For students who start the ninth grade prior to or during  
18 the 2016-2017 school year, school districts shall adopt a plan that  
19 establishes the assessment or assessments those students are  
20 required to take in order to graduate from a public high school with  
21 a standard diploma. The plan may also include any or all of the  
22 other high school graduation requirements adopted by the Board  
23 pursuant to Section 5 of Enrolled House Bill No. 3218 of the 2nd  
24 Session of the 55th Oklahoma Legislature that those students will be

1 required to meet in order to graduate from a public high school with  
2 a standard diploma.

3 4. The Board shall promulgate rules to ensure that students who  
4 transfer into an Oklahoma school district from out-of-state after  
5 the junior year of high school shall not be denied the opportunity  
6 to be awarded a standard diploma due to differing testing  
7 requirements.

8 G. In order to provide an indication of the levels of  
9 competency attained by the student in a permanent record for  
10 potential future employers and institutions of higher education,  
11 school districts shall report on the high school transcript of the  
12 student the highest-achieved score on the assessment or assessments  
13 included in the statewide student assessment system adopted by the  
14 Board pursuant to subsection A of this section and any business- and  
15 industry-recognized endorsements attained.

16 H. Students who do not perform at a proficiency level on  
17 assessments shall be remediated as established in the assessment  
18 requirements adopted by the Board pursuant to Section 5 of Enrolled  
19 House Bill No. 3218 of the 2nd Session of the 55th Oklahoma  
20 Legislature, subject to the availability of funding.

21 I. 1. All assessments required by this section shall measure  
22 academic competencies in correlation with the subject matter  
23 standards adopted by the Board pursuant to Sections 11-103.6 and 11-  
24 103.6a of this title and referred to as the Oklahoma Academic

1 Standards. The State Board of Education shall evaluate the subject  
2 matter standards to ensure the competencies reflect high standards,  
3 are specific, well-defined, measurable, challenging, and will  
4 prepare elementary students for next-grade-level course work and  
5 secondary students for postsecondary studies at institutions of  
6 higher education or technology center schools without the need for  
7 remediation. All subject matter standards shall reflect the goals  
8 as set forth in Section 11-103.6 of this title and of improving the  
9 state average ~~ACT score~~ of college entrance exam scores.

10 2. The State Department of Education shall annually evaluate  
11 the results of the assessments. The State Board of Education shall  
12 ensure that preliminary results for all statewide assessments are  
13 reported to districts no later than June 20 of each year and are  
14 presented in a manner that yields detailed, diagnostic information  
15 for the purpose of guiding instruction and student remediation. As  
16 improvements are made to the assessments required by this section,  
17 the Board shall seek to increase the depth of knowledge assessed for  
18 each subject. The State Board of Education shall seek to ensure  
19 that data yielded from the assessments required in this section are  
20 utilized at the school district level to inform instruction,  
21 professional development, school improvement and remediation for  
22 students.

23 3. The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability  
24 shall determine the cut scores for the performance levels on all

1 statewide assessments. The Commission shall conduct an ongoing  
2 review to compare the statewide assessment content and performance  
3 descriptors with those of other states. Upon receipt of the review,  
4 the Commission may adjust the cut scores as necessary.

5 4. The State Board of Education, for the purposes of conducting  
6 reliability and validity studies, monitoring contractor adherence to  
7 professionally accepted testing standards, and providing  
8 recommendations for testing program improvement, shall retain the  
9 services of an established, independent agency or organization that  
10 is nationally recognized for its technical expertise in educational  
11 testing but is not engaged in the development of aptitude or  
12 achievement tests for elementary or secondary level grades. These  
13 national assessment experts shall annually conduct studies of the  
14 reliability and validity of the statewide assessments administered  
15 pursuant to this section. Validity studies shall include studies of  
16 decision validity and concurrent validity.

17 J. 1. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules  
18 setting the assessment window dates for each statewide assessment so  
19 that the assessments are administered according to recommended  
20 testing protocols, and so that the assessment results are reported  
21 back to school districts in a timely manner. The vendor shall  
22 provide a final electronic data file of all school site, school  
23 district, and state results to the State Department of Education and  
24 the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability prior to August



1 20 of each year. The Department shall forward the final data files  
2 for each school district and each school site in that district to  
3 the school district. The Board shall ensure the contract with the  
4 vendor includes a provision that the vendor report assessment  
5 results directly to the Office of Educational Quality and  
6 Accountability at the same time it is reported to the Board.

7 2. State, district, and site level results of all assessments  
8 required in this section shall be disaggregated by gender, race,  
9 ethnicity, disability status, migrant status, English proficiency,  
10 and status as economically disadvantaged, except that such  
11 disaggregation shall not be required in a case in which the number  
12 of students in a category is insufficient to yield statistically  
13 reliable information or the results would reveal personally  
14 identifiable information about an individual student. Each school  
15 site shall notify the student's parents of the school's performance  
16 levels in the Oklahoma School Testing Program as reported in the  
17 Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program at the end of each school  
18 year.

19 K. The State Board of Education shall be responsible for the  
20 field-testing and validation of the statewide assessment system  
21 required in subsection A of this section.

22 L. The State Board of Education shall develop, administer, and  
23 incorporate as a part of the Oklahoma School Testing Program, other  
24 assessment programs or procedures, including appropriate

1 accommodations for the assessment of students with disabilities as  
2 required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA),  
3 20 U.S.C., Section 1400 et seq.

4 M. For purposes of developing and administering alternate  
5 assessments for students with the most significant cognitive  
6 disabilities, the State Board of Education shall not be subject to  
7 subsections D and E of Section 11-103.6a of this title.

8 SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2403, is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 Section 2403. A. No person shall be eligible to participate in  
11 the Oklahoma State Regents' Academic Scholars Program unless the  
12 person:

13 1. Has complied with all of the rules promulgated by the  
14 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education pursuant to the  
15 provisions of the Oklahoma State Regents' Academic Scholars Act,  
16 Section 2401 et seq. of this title, for the award, regulation, and  
17 administration of scholarships; and

18 2. Qualifies as one of the following:

19 a. an Individual Applicant Qualified Student, which shall  
20 mean a student who is a resident of the State of  
21 Oklahoma whose ~~American College Testing Program score~~  
22 ~~or whose Scholastic Aptitude Test score~~ on a  
23 nationally norm-referenced college entrance exam falls  
24 within the 99.5 to 100.0 percentile levels as

administered in the State of Oklahoma and whose grade point average and/or class rank is exceptional, as determined by the State Regents,

b. a Presidential Scholar, which shall mean a student selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars administered by the United States Department of Education,

c. a National Merit Scholar, which shall mean a student designated as a National Merit Scholar by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation,

d. a National Merit Finalist, which shall mean a student designated as a National Merit Finalist by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, or

e. after October 1, 1999, an Institutional Nominee, which shall mean a student nominated by an institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education:

(1) whose ~~American College Testing Program or Scholastic Aptitude Test~~ score on a nationally norm-referenced college entrance exam falls

within the 95.0 to 99.49 percentile levels, or

(2) who shows exceptional academic achievement as evidenced by factors, including, but not limited to, grade point average, class rank, national awards, scholastic achievements, honors, and who

1 shows exceptional promise based on documentation  
2 that may include, but not be limited to, teacher  
3 recommendations, extracurricular activities, and  
4 evidence of overcoming economic and social  
5 obstacles as determined by the State Regents.  
6 The State Regents shall ensure that standards of  
7 high academic ability are documented.  
8 Scholarship awards to Institutional Nominees  
9 shall become effective when appropriate  
10 documentation is verified by the State Regents.

11 B. No person shall be eligible to receive a scholarship  
12 pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma State Regents' Academic  
13 Scholars Program unless the person is enrolled as a full-time  
14 student at a public or private accredited institution of higher  
15 education in Oklahoma.

16 C. The Oklahoma State Regents' Academic Scholars Program shall  
17 provide a scholarship in an amount not to exceed the average costs  
18 of all enrollment fees, tuition and other fees, room and board, and  
19 all required textbooks or materials for up to five (5) years of  
20 undergraduate and/or graduate study at an accredited public or  
21 private institution of higher education in Oklahoma as provided in  
22 subsection E of this section. The State Regents may establish  
23 separate scholarship award levels for each qualifying category.  
24

1 D. If a person identifies himself or herself as a student with  
2 a disability and requests consideration for a scholarship under the  
3 Academic Scholars Program by means other than standard testing  
4 procedures, the State Regents shall determine what means of  
5 assessment are appropriate and upon the basis of said assessment  
6 results, determine what level of award, if any, shall be made.

7 E. 1. If the student is attending an institution of The  
8 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, the total funding for the  
9 scholarship provided in this section, exclusive of any internships,  
10 shall not exceed the costs for items specified in subsection C of  
11 this section at the institution attended as determined annually by  
12 the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

13 2. If the student is attending a private institution of higher  
14 education, the total funding for the scholarship provided in this  
15 section, exclusive of any internships, shall not exceed the costs  
16 for items specified in subsection C of this section at an  
17 institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education of  
18 comparable type which has the highest general enrollment fees of its  
19 type institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education as  
20 determined annually by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
21 Education.

22 SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2603, as  
23 amended by Section 1, Chapter 440, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024,  
24 Section 2603), is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

22       4. a. have graduated within the previous three (3) years  
23               from a high school accredited by the State Board of  
24               Education or the Oklahoma School of Science and

1 Mathematics with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point  
2 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in  
3 grades nine through twelve,

4 b. have graduated within the previous three (3) years  
5 from a high school not accredited by the State Board  
6 of Education with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point  
7 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in  
8 grades nine through twelve and have achieved a  
9 composite score of 22 or higher on the ACT test or an  
10 equivalent score on the SAT or CLT, or

11 c. have satisfactorily completed within the previous  
12 three (3) years an educational program that was  
13 provided through a means other than a public or  
14 private school and have achieved a composite score of  
15 22 or higher on the ACT test or an equivalent score on  
16 the SAT or CLT;

17 5. Have completed the curricular requirements for admission to  
18 an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education  
19 and one additional unit or set of competencies in a course that  
20 meets college admission requirements; or have completed the core  
21 curriculum and be seeking admission to a technology center school  
22 overseen by the State Board of Career and Technology Education. The  
23 curriculum requirements for admission to an institution within The  
24 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education shall include two units or

1 sets of competencies in foreign or non-English language or  
2 technology courses that meet the college admission requirements and  
3 one unit or set of competencies of a fine arts course. Students  
4 shall also have attained a 2.5 grade point average in the core  
5 curriculum courses. Students who attended a high school which did  
6 not offer all the core curriculum courses or students who were  
7 educated by other means and were not offered all the core curriculum  
8 courses shall be allowed to satisfy this curriculum requirement by  
9 participating in a program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents  
10 for Higher Education for remediation of high school curricular  
11 deficiencies;

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

19 7. Have secured admission to, and enrolled in, an institution  
20 which is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education,  
21 a postsecondary vocational-technical program offered by a technology  
22 center school that meets the requirements to be eligible for federal  
23 student financial aid, or a private institution of higher learning  
24



1 located within this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of  
2 this title; and

3       8.    a.    have established financial need according to the  
4               provisions of subsection D of Section 2605 of this  
5               title and standards and provisions promulgated by the  
6               Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,

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

17       c.    if the student was adopted between thirteen (13) and  
18               seventeen (17) years of age while in the permanent  
19               custody of the Department of Human Services, in the  
20               court-ordered custody of a licensed private nonprofit  
21               child-placing agency, or federally recognized Indian  
22               tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare  
23               Act, have established financial need according to the  
24               provisions of paragraph 2 of subsection E of Section

2605 of this title and standards and provisions promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

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

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

b. is a resident of this state or is enrolled in a school district located in this state that serves students who reside in both this state and an adjacent state pursuant to a contract as authorized in Section 5-117.1 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 8. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

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

18

19 60-1-10248 SW 01/08/25

20

21

22

23

24