

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 SENATE BILL 386

By: Quinn

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to education grants; creating the  
8 Digital Wallet Program Act; providing short title;  
9 providing purpose of Program; providing definitions;  
10 directing the Governor or designee to administer the  
11 Program; providing for distribution of grant funding;  
12 requiring submission of certain annual report;  
13 providing for contents of report; providing for  
14 codification; providing an effective date; and  
15 declaring an emergency.

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

17 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-125 of Title 70, unless there  
19 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Digital  
21 Wallet Program Act".

22 B. There is hereby created the Digital Wallet Program to  
23 increase learning opportunities for students, establish new  
24 flexibilities for families, empower families to create education  
25 solutions that fit the unique needs of their children and to empower  
26 and encourage the state to directly support families.

1 C. As used in this act:

2 1. "Parent" means any person who is the parent or legal  
3 guardian of a child who is entitled to receive a free and  
4 appropriate public education according to state statutes;

5 2. "Student" means any person who is entitled to receive a free  
6 and appropriate public education according to state statutes;

7 3. "Federal poverty level" means a measure of annualized income  
8 that is published annually in the Federal Register by the United  
9 States Department of Health and Human Services;

10 4. "Grant funding" means the amount of funding in the Digital  
11 Wallet Program that is not allocated for administrative purposes;  
12 and

13 5. "Grant" means the amount of money allocated to a parent.

14 D. The Digital Wallet Program shall be administered by the  
15 Governor or his or her designee to provide funds directly to parents  
16 for educational supplies, tutoring, technology needs or other  
17 educational expenses.

18 E. The Governor or his or her designee shall annually  
19 distribute all available grant funding to parents in the Digital  
20 Wallet Program in the following order:

21 1. On or after July 1 and before August 1, grants shall only be  
22 distributed to parents whose household income is equal to or less  
23 than one hundred eighty-five percent (185%) of the federal poverty  
24 level;

1           2. On or after August 1 and before September 1 and if there are  
2 available funds, grants shall only be distributed to parents whose  
3 household income is equal to or less than three hundred percent  
4 (300%) of the federal poverty level;

5           3. On or after September 1 and before October 1 and if there  
6 are available funds, grants shall only be distributed to parents  
7 whose household income is equal to or less than three hundred fifty  
8 percent (350%) of the federal poverty level; and

9           4. On or after October 1 and if there are available funds,  
10 grants shall be distributed to parents of all income levels until  
11 all available funds in the program are distributed.

12           F. On or by December 31, the Governor or his or her designee  
13 shall submit an annual report on the Digital Wallet Program to the  
14 President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
15 Representatives. The report shall include but not be limited to the  
16 following information:

17           1. The number of grants awarded to parents in each month of the  
18 year;

19           2. The number of grants awarded to parents by income level;

20           3. The average amount of funds distributed to parents and the  
21 median amount of funds distributed to parents;

22           4. The number of applicants for grants; and

23           5. The amount of funds expended for the administration of the  
24 program.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2021.

2 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
3 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
4 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
5 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.  
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