



1 by the civil unrest that occurred in the City of Tulsa during 1921.  
2 Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, or as soon thereafter as  
3 practicable, and subject to the availability of funds, the program  
4 shall each year make scholarships available to as many as feasible  
5 up to three hundred scholarships to qualified residents of the Tulsa  
6 School District, and to qualified residents of any other common  
7 school district of the state who are direct lineal descendants as  
8 defined in subsection C of Section 2623 of this title and who meet  
9 the criteria set forth in Sections 2623 and 2624 of this title, and  
10 who are intending to pursue studies at an institution of higher  
11 education in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or a  
12 private institution of higher education, or who are intending to  
13 pursue studies in a postsecondary career technology education  
14 program. The scholarship shall be an amount of not more than the  
15 equivalent of the average amount of resident tuition for which an  
16 eligible Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program  
17 participant enrolled at an institution in The Oklahoma State System  
18 of Higher Education or a postsecondary career technology education  
19 program, whichever is applicable, is obligated to pay. The  
20 scholarship shall be paid as provided for in Section 2625 of this  
21 title. The further purpose of this program is to establish and  
22 maintain a variety of educational support services whereby residents  
23 who qualify for the program will be prepared for success in  
24 postsecondary endeavors.

1 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2623, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 Section 2623. A. Subject to the availability of funds, the  
4 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may annually award a  
5 maximum of three hundred full-time-equivalent scholarships for the  
6 Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program to residents  
7 of the Tulsa School District.

8 B. To qualify for a scholarship, an applicant shall satisfy the  
9 following criteria:

10 1. The family income of the applicant from taxable sources is  
11 not more than ~~Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00)~~ One Hundred  
12 Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000.00) per year. The Free  
13 Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form may be used to  
14 verify family income;

15 2. The applicant attended a Tulsa public school where seventy-  
16 five percent (75%) or more of the students enrolled in the school  
17 qualify for the free and reduced lunch program; and

18 3. The applicant resides in a census block area within the  
19 Tulsa School District where thirty percent (30%) or more of the  
20 residents are at or below the poverty level established by the  
21 United States Bureau of the Census.

22 C. The Regents ~~may consider as a~~ and the selection process  
23 shall factor in first, ~~when determining the order of preference of~~  
24 the applicant or applicants, ~~whether an applicant is a direct lineal~~

1 ~~descendant~~ of a direct lineal descendant of a person who resided in  
2 the Greenwood Area in the City of Tulsa between April 30, 1921, and  
3 June 1, 1921. If the Regents use descent as a preference factor, it  
4 shall be applied to all applicants regardless of race. The  
5 applicants shall be required to present verifiable documentation of  
6 their lineage. ~~The Oklahoma Historical Society~~ An organization or  
7 individual engaged in genealogy and research of descendants and  
8 history of the Tulsa, Oklahoma, 1921 race massacre and Greenwood  
9 area shall verify the authenticity and accuracy of the documentation  
10 submitted by an applicant and shall ~~establish~~ confirm the boundaries  
11 of the Greenwood Area. Verifiable documentation shall include, but  
12 not be limited to the following:

13 1. Family records including family Bibles, vital records,  
14 correspondence, memoirs, journals, diaries, unrecorded deeds,  
15 diplomas, certificates, or testimonials;

16 2. Public records including censuses, government records,  
17 military records, pensions, land bounty records, passport  
18 applications, passenger lists, original grants, naturalization or  
19 immigration records, records of entry, or state, province, or local  
20 records; or

21 3. Institutional records including church records, cemetery  
22 records and inscriptions, education institutions, insurance records,  
23 or societies and fraternal organizations.

24

1 D. The Regents shall promulgate rules establishing the  
2 application requirements for the program and the system for  
3 evaluating applications based on the preference factors. The  
4 application form shall include a small outlined box graphic,  
5 followed by language, "Mark the box, if you are a direct lineal  
6 descendant of a person greatly impacted socially and economically  
7 during the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre who resided in the Greenwood  
8 area of Tulsa, Oklahoma between April 30, 1921 and June 1, 1921."

9 E. Applicants shall also meet the eligibility criteria  
10 established in Section 2624 of this title.

11 F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall also  
12 be authorized to annually award scholarships for the Tulsa  
13 Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program to two students at  
14 each of the high schools in the Tulsa School District for the  
15 purpose of preserving awareness of the history and meaning of the  
16 civil unrest that occurred in Tulsa in 1921. The following  
17 provisions shall apply to the scholarship provided in this  
18 subsection:

19 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection B of this  
20 section, eligibility for the scholarships awarded pursuant to this  
21 subsection shall be:

- 22 a. enrollment in the appropriate high school,
- 23 b. family income of the applicant from taxable sources  
24 not to exceed ~~Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00)~~

1 One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000.00)

2 per year,

3 c. the awards made pursuant to this subsection shall be  
4 as specified in subsection C of this section,

5 d. satisfaction of the criteria specified in Section 2624  
6 of this title, and

7 ~~d.~~ e. any other relevant criteria determined by the Oklahoma  
8 State Regents for Higher Education;

9 2. The State Regents shall involve the administration of the Tulsa  
10 School District and a Community Advisory Committee in the selection  
11 process. The Community Advisory Committee shall be comprised of  
12 seven members appointed by the Oklahoma Chancellor for Higher  
13 Education. The Community Advisory Committee shall combine seven  
14 members comprised of the following list:

15 a. One - President of Langston University or Designee,

16 b. One - Superintendent of Tulsa Public Schools or  
17 Designee,

18 c. Two - Members of the Oklahoma Legislature representing  
19 the Greenwood area in the city of Tulsa, Oklahoma or  
20 their Designee/s,

21 d. Two - Descendants of socially and economically,  
22 adversely impacted persons who resided in the  
23 Greenwood area in the city of Tulsa, Oklahoma between  
24 April 30, 1921 and June 1, 1921,

1           e. One - Citizen with ties to the historic Greenwood  
2           community who may be engaged in faith based,  
3           education, social, business or advocacy work.

4           The President of Langston University, or Designee, shall be  
5           responsible for coordinating the advisory committee and shall submit  
6           to the Chancellor for Higher Education a list of proposed committee  
7           members for review and approval;

8           3. The award shall be limited to a one-year full-time-  
9           equivalent period. Following successful completion of such award,  
10          recipients who meet the criteria provided in subsection B of this  
11          section shall be eligible to apply and be considered for continued  
12          participation in the full Tulsa Reconciliation Education and  
13          Scholarship Program. Any student subsequently awarded such  
14          scholarship shall have the duration of the scholarship provided  
15          pursuant to this subsection deducted from the limits set in  
16          subsection D of Section 2625 of this title;

17          4. The award may only be funded with state funds appropriated  
18          to the Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Trust Fund and  
19          income therefrom, and shall be made subject to the availability of  
20          such funds; and

21          5. The awards made pursuant to this subsection shall be  
22          included within the maximum number of scholarships specified in  
23          subsection A of this section.

24          SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

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

5  
6 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT, dated  
7 02/28/2024 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24