

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
State of Oklahoma

SPEAKER:

CHAIR:

I move to amend HB1096 \_\_\_\_\_  
Of the printed Bill  
Page \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ Lines \_\_\_\_\_  
Of the Engrossed Bill

By deleting the content of the entire measure, and by inserting in lieu thereof the following language:

**AMEND TITLE TO CONFORM TO AMENDMENTS**

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

Amendment submitted by: Toni Hasenbeck \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reading Clerk

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 PROPOSED COMMITTEE  
4 SUBSTITUTE  
5 FOR  
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 1096

By: Hasenbeck

7  
8 PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

9 An Act relating to schools; mandating the creation of  
10 an Academic Performance Index; providing index  
11 indicators; directing the organization of index data;  
12 directing the Board of Education to create growth  
13 targets; clarifying index applicability for certain  
14 online students; requiring students to take the  
15 Classical Learning Test exam at a testing center;  
16 amending 70 O.S. 2021, Sections 6-194, as last  
17 amended by Section 2, Chapter 15, O.S.L. 2023, 6-  
18 195.1, 11-107.1, 1210.508, 2403, and 2603, as amended  
19 by Section 1, Chapter 440, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp.  
20 2024, Sections 6-194 and 2603), which relate to  
21 student testing; changing certain testing achievement  
22 goals in professional development programs; changing  
23 continuing education program source recommendations  
24 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:

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

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

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

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

22 C. The State Board of Education shall adopt expected annual  
23 percentage growth targets for the state level, school districts, and  
24 all school sites based on their API baseline score. The minimum

1 percentage growth target shall be five percent (5%) annually.  
2 However, the State Board of Education may set differential growth  
3 targets based on grade level of instruction.

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

11 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-194, as  
12 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 15, O.S.L. 2023 (70 O.S. Supp.  
13 2024, Section 6-194), is amended to read as follows:

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

20 B. Each professional development committee shall include  
21 classroom teachers, administrators, school counselors or licensed  
22 mental health providers, and parents, guardians or custodians of  
23 children in the school district and shall consult with a higher  
24 education faculty. A majority of the members of the professional

1 development committee shall be composed of classroom teachers. The  
2 teacher members shall be selected by a designated administrator of  
3 the school district from a list of names submitted by the teachers  
4 in the school district. The members selected shall be subject to  
5 the approval of a majority vote of the teachers in the district.

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

- 13 1. Increasing the academic performance data scores for the  
14 district and each school site;
- 15 2. Closing achievement gaps among student subgroups;
- 16 3. Increasing student achievement as demonstrated on state-  
17 mandated tests and ~~the ACT~~ nationally norm-referenced college  
18 entrance exams;
- 19 4. Increasing high school graduation rates; and
- 20 5. Decreasing college remediation rates.

21 Each program may also include components on classroom management  
22 and student discipline strategies, outreach to parents, guardians or  
23 custodians of students, special education, and racial and ethnic  
24 education, which all personnel defined as teachers in Section 1-116

1 of this title shall be required to complete at a frequency as  
2 determined by the board of education. The State Board of Education  
3 shall provide guidelines to assist school districts in developing  
4 and implementing racial and ethnic education components into  
5 professional development programs.

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

- 9 1. Training on recognition of child abuse and neglect;
- 10 2. Recognition of child sexual abuse;
- 11 3. Proper reporting of suspected abuse; and
- 12 4. Available resources.

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

1 counselors to receive at least one-third (1/3) of the hours or  
2 credit required each year through programs or courses specifically  
3 designed for school counselors.

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

8 F. One time per year, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, a  
9 dyslexia awareness program shall be offered. Beginning in the 2023-  
10 2024 school year, the program shall include information and training  
11 in dysgraphia. At a minimum, the program shall include:

12 1. Training in awareness of dyslexia characteristics in  
13 students;

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

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

18 G. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, each  
19 certified teacher in this state shall be required by the district  
20 board of education to meet the professional development requirements  
21 established by the board, or established through the negotiation  
22 process. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, the  
23 professional development requirements established by each board of  
24 education shall require every teacher to annually complete a minimum

1 number of the total number of points required to maintain  
2 employment; provided, no more than a total of one hundred fifty  
3 (150) hours of local, state, or federal professional development or  
4 training shall be required for classroom teachers during any five-  
5 year period. Failure of any teacher to meet district board of  
6 education professional development requirements may be grounds for  
7 nonrenewal of such teacher's contract by the board. Such failure  
8 may also be grounds for nonconsideration of salary increments  
9 affecting the teacher. Teachers shall maintain written  
10 documentation of all their completed professional development.

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

22 I. Subject to the availability of funds, the Department shall  
23 develop an online system for reporting as required in subsection H

24



1 of this section. The Department shall also make such information  
2 available on its website.

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

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

22 B. Implementation of this section shall be contingent upon the  
23 appropriation of state funds by the Legislature for the specific  
24 purpose of implementing this section. Nothing in this section shall

1 prevent the State Board of Education or a school district board of  
2 education from utilizing private, local, or federal funds to  
3 implement this section.

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

24

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

3 Section 11-107.1. A. Each school district in this state may  
4 offer a remediation course for high school students who score below  
5 a nineteen (19) on the American College Testing (ACT) exam or below  
6 an equivalent score on the ~~SAT exam~~ Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT)  
7 or Classical Learning Test (CLT) exams.

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

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

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

19 2. The statewide student assessment system adopted by the Board  
20 pursuant to this subsection shall be aligned with the Oklahoma  
21 Academic Standards as adopted by the Board and which prepare  
22 students for college and careers.

23 B. 1. The Board shall issue a request for proposals for the  
24 selection of assessments to be administered to students in grades

1 three through twelve as a part of the statewide student assessment  
2 system adopted by the Board pursuant to this section.

3 2. The Board shall adopt assessments from the selected  
4 proposals that were submitted pursuant to paragraph 1 of this  
5 subsection. The adopted assessments shall be administered by the  
6 Board for a period that is in coordination with the six-year subject  
7 area textbook adoption cycle unless the vendor does not fulfill the  
8 terms of the contract or fails to comply with or violates the terms  
9 of the contract. The Board shall administer the assessments  
10 beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

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

13 1. Are aligned with the Oklahoma subject matter standards as  
14 adopted by the Board;

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

16 3. Yield both norm-referenced scores and criterion-referenced  
17 scores;

18 4. Have a track record of statistical reliability and accuracy;  
19 and

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

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

24

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

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

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

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

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

13        b. Science not less than once during each grade span of  
14 three through five, six through nine and ten through  
15 twelve, and

16        c. United States History, with an emphasis on civics, not  
17 less than once during the grade span of nine through  
18 twelve.

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

21        a. assessments in Reading and Writing in certain grades  
22 as determined by the Board, and

23        b. contingent upon the availability of funds, an  
24 additional nationally recognized college- and career-

1 readiness assessment or assessments as recommended by  
2 the State Department of Education which will be  
3 administered to students in high school at no cost to  
4 the student.

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

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

21 3. For students who start the ninth grade prior to or during  
22 the 2016-2017 school year, school districts shall adopt a plan that  
23 establishes the assessment or assessments those students are  
24 required to take in order to graduate from a public high school with

1 a standard diploma. The plan may also include any or all of the  
2 other high school graduation requirements adopted by the Board  
3 pursuant to Section 5 of Enrolled House Bill No. 3218 of the 2nd  
4 Session of the 55th Oklahoma Legislature that those students will be  
5 required to meet in order to graduate from a public high school with  
6 a standard diploma.

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

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

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

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

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



1 professional development, school improvement and remediation for  
2 students.

3 3. The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability  
4 shall determine the cut scores for the performance levels on all  
5 statewide assessments. The Commission shall conduct an ongoing  
6 review to compare the statewide assessment content and performance  
7 descriptors with those of other states. Upon receipt of the review,  
8 the Commission may adjust the cut scores as necessary.

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

21 J. 1. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules  
22 setting the assessment window dates for each statewide assessment so  
23 that the assessments are administered according to recommended  
24 testing protocols, and so that the assessment results are reported

1 back to school districts in a timely manner. The vendor shall  
2 provide a final electronic data file of all school site, school  
3 district, and state results to the State Department of Education and  
4 the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability prior to August  
5 20 of each year. The Department shall forward the final data files  
6 for each school district and each school site in that district to  
7 the school district. The Board shall ensure the contract with the  
8 vendor includes a provision that the vendor report assessment  
9 results directly to the Office of Educational Quality and  
10 Accountability at the same time it is reported to the Board.

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

23  
24

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

4 L. The State Board of Education shall develop, administer, and  
5 incorporate as a part of the Oklahoma School Testing Program, other  
6 assessment programs or procedures, including appropriate  
7 accommodations for the assessment of students with disabilities as  
8 required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA),  
9 20 U.S.C., Section 1400 et seq.

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

14 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.508-7 of Title 70, unless  
16 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 Oklahoma students taking the Classical Learning Test (CLT) shall  
18 only take the test in a brick-and-mortar testing center.

19 SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2403, is  
20 amended to read as follows:

21 Section 2403. A. No person shall be eligible to participate in  
22 the Oklahoma State Regents' Academic Scholars Program unless the  
23 person:  
24

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

6       2. Qualifies as one of the following:

7           a. an Individual Applicant Qualified Student, which shall  
8 mean a student who is a resident of the State of  
9 Oklahoma whose ~~American College Testing Program score~~  
10 ~~or whose Scholastic Aptitude Test score~~ on a  
11 nationally norm-referenced college entrance exam falls  
12 within the 99.5 to 100.0 percentile levels as  
13 administered in the State of Oklahoma and whose grade  
14 point average and/or class rank is exceptional, as  
15 determined by the State Regents,

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

20           c. a National Merit Scholar, which shall mean a student  
21 designated as a National Merit Scholar by the National  
22 Merit Scholarship Corporation,  
23  
24

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

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

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

10 within the 95.0 to 99.49 percentile levels, or

11 (2) who shows exceptional academic achievement as  
12 evidenced by factors, including, but not limited  
13 to, grade point average, class rank, national  
14 awards, scholastic achievements, honors, and who  
15 shows exceptional promise based on documentation  
16 that may include, but not be limited to, teacher  
17 recommendations, extracurricular activities, and  
18 evidence of overcoming economic and social  
19 obstacles as determined by the State Regents.

20 The State Regents shall ensure that standards of  
21 high academic ability are documented.

22 Scholarship awards to Institutional Nominees

23 shall become effective when appropriate

24 documentation is verified by the State Regents.

1 B. No person shall be eligible to receive a scholarship  
2 pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma State Regents' Academic  
3 Scholars Program unless the person is enrolled as a full-time  
4 student at a public or private accredited institution of higher  
5 education in Oklahoma.

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

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

20 E. 1. If the student is attending an institution of The  
21 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, the total funding for the  
22 scholarship provided in this section, exclusive of any internships,  
23 shall not exceed the costs for items specified in subsection C of  
24

1 this section at the institution attended as determined annually by  
2 the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

3 2. If the student is attending a private institution of higher  
4 education, the total funding for the scholarship provided in this  
5 section, exclusive of any internships, shall not exceed the costs  
6 for items specified in subsection C of this section at an  
7 institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education of  
8 comparable type which has the highest general enrollment fees of its  
9 type institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education as  
10 determined annually by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
11 Education.

12 SECTION 8. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 2603, as  
13 amended by Section 1, Chapter 440, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024,  
14 Section 2603), is amended to read as follows:

15 Section 2603. A. Except as otherwise provided for in  
16 subsection B of this section and elsewhere in this section, to be  
17 eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access  
18 Program and to qualify for an award which includes payment of an  
19 amount equivalent to resident tuition or other tuition pursuant to  
20 Section 2604 of this title for the first semester or other academic  
21 unit of postsecondary enrollment, a student shall:

22 1. Be a resident of this state or be enrolled in a school  
23 district located in this state that serves students who reside in  
24

1 both this state and an adjacent state pursuant to a contract as  
2 authorized in Section 5-117.1 of this title;

3 2. Be a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United  
4 States. A student who is not a United States citizen or lawfully  
5 present in the United States shall not be eligible to participate in  
6 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program and to qualify for an  
7 award notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3242 of this title.  
8 The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any student who  
9 was enrolled in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program prior to  
10 the end of the 2006-2007 school year;

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

13 4. a. have graduated within the previous three (3) years  
14 from a high school accredited by the State Board of  
15 Education or the Oklahoma School of Science and  
16 Mathematics with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point  
17 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in  
18 grades nine through twelve,

19 b. have graduated within the previous three (3) years  
20 from a high school not accredited by the State Board  
21 of Education with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point  
22 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in  
23 grades nine through twelve and have achieved a  
24



1 composite score of 22 or higher on the ACT test or an  
2 equivalent score on the SAT or CLT, or

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

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

1 participating in a program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents  
2 for Higher Education for remediation of high school curricular  
3 deficiencies;

4       6. Have satisfied admission standards as determined by the  
5 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-time-entering  
6 students for the appropriate type of institution, or, if attending a  
7 private institution, have satisfied admission standards as  
8 determined by the private institution. No student participating in  
9 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall be admitted into  
10 an institution of higher education by special admission standards;

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

18       8.    a.    have established financial need according to the  
19                provisions of subsection D of Section 2605 of this  
20                title and standards and provisions promulgated by the  
21                Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,

22        b.    if the student was adopted between birth and twelve  
23                (12) years of age while in the permanent custody of  
24                the Department of Human Services, in the court-ordered

1 custody of a licensed private nonprofit child-placing  
2 agency, or federally recognized Indian tribe, as  
3 defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, have  
4 established financial need according to the provisions  
5 of paragraph 1 of subsection E of Section 2605 of this  
6 title and standards and provisions promulgated by the  
7 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, or

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

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

- 1 a. is a child of any person killed after January 1, 2000,  
2 in the line of duty in any branch of the United States  
3 Armed Forces or who died after January 1, 2000, as a  
4 result of an injury sustained while in the line of  
5 duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces  
6 and the person who was killed or died filed an  
7 individual or joint Oklahoma income tax return for the  
8 tax year prior to the year during which the person was  
9 killed or died,
- 10 b. is a resident of this state or is enrolled in a school  
11 district located in this state that serves students  
12 who reside in both this state and an adjacent state  
13 pursuant to a contract as authorized in Section 5-  
14 117.1 of this title,
- 15 c. enrolls in an institution within The Oklahoma State  
16 System of Higher Education prior to reaching the age  
17 of twenty-one (21),
- 18 d. has satisfied admission standards as determined by the  
19 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-  
20 time-entering students for the appropriate type of  
21 institution, or, if attending a private institution,  
22 has satisfied admission standards as determined by the  
23 private institution. No student participating in the  
24 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall be

1 admitted into an institution of higher education by  
2 special admission standards,

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

12 f. executes an agreement pursuant to subsection C of  
13 Section 2605 of this title.

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

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

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

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

24

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

5           4. Comply with the standards related to maintenance of  
6 eligibility as promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
7 Education; and

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

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

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

23           F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are  
24 authorized to study, develop, and propose criteria for determining

1 award eligibility based upon the completion of seven semesters of  
2 high school coursework by a student.

3 SECTION 9. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

4 SECTION 10. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
5 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
6 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
7 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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