

**TITLE 610. STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
CHAPTER 25. STUDENT FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS
SUBCHAPTER 1. ACADEMIC SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

RULE IMPACT STATEMENT

A. Brief description of the purpose of the proposed rule.

The Academic Scholars Program provides scholarships to academically outstanding students for up to four years of study at accredited institutions of higher education in Oklahoma. The program is intended to keep Oklahoma's best high school students in the state for college. The proposed rule revisions address two issues:

- (1) Adding a third minimum eligibility criterion option for Institutional Nominees that provides a stronger predictor of college success, addresses a disadvantage for students at high schools that do not calculate class rank and provides more flexibility for institutions to select qualified applicants while maintaining high academic standards.
- (2) Allowing consideration of ACT scores based on a recent change in ACT's testing and scoring policy. On October 8, 2019, ACT announced a change in the administration of the ACT test that will calculate a "superscore" if a student takes the test more than once. The new ACT policy will also allow students to retest in one or more of the individual test sections without having to retake the entire test. The ACT policy changes become effective in September 2020.

The proposed rule revisions are submitted as emergency rule revisions so that the changes can be effective for students graduating high school in the spring of 2020 and for high school seniors in the 2020-21 academic year. Due to timeline scheduling requirements, the normal permanent rule revision process will not allow the changes to be approved in time for those students and school officials.

B. Description of the classes of persons who most likely will be affected by the proposed rule, including classes that will bear the costs of the proposed rule, and any information on cost impacts received by the agency from any private or public entities.

The proposed rule will affect students graduating high school in 2020 and thereafter. The proposed rule will not require additional program funding. No cost impacts have been received by any private or public entities.

C. Description of the classes of persons who will benefit from the proposed rule.

The proposed rule revisions will benefit students graduating high school in 2020 and thereafter.

D. Description of the probable economic impact of the proposed rule upon affected classes of persons or political subdivisions, including a listing of all fee changes and, whenever possible, a separate justification for each fee change.

The proposed rule changes will allow additional Oklahoma high school students to be considered eligible for the scholarships. The program does not assess any fees.

E. Probable costs and benefits to the agency and to any other agency of the implementation and enforcement of the proposed rule, the source of revenue to be used for implementation and

enforcement of the proposed rule, and any anticipated effect on state revenues, including a projected net loss or gain in such revenues if it can be projected by the agency.

The proposed rule revisions will allow the program to be administered in a more effective and efficient manner and will not require additional funding. State system colleges and universities will benefit by having more students eligible to be considered for the scholarships. There is no expected effect on state revenues. There are no expected additional administrative costs for the agency or other agencies.

F. Determination of whether implementation of the proposed rule will have an economic impact on any political subdivisions or require their cooperation in implementing or enforcing the rule.

The proposed rule revisions should not have an economic impact on any political subdivisions or require their cooperation to implement the rule.

G. Determination of whether implementation of the proposed rule will have an adverse economic effect on small business as provided by the Oklahoma Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act.

After consideration with reference to Section 303(A)(4) and 303(B)(6) of Title 75, it is believed that the proposed rules will have no adverse impact upon Small Business.

H. Explanation of the measures the agency has taken to minimize compliance costs and a determination of whether there are less costly or non-regulatory methods or less intrusive methods for achieving the purpose of the proposed rule.

The proposed changes are not expected to increase compliance costs.

I. Determination of the effect of the proposed rule on the public health, safety and environment and, if the proposed rule is designed to reduce significant risks to the public health, safety and environment, an explanation of the nature of the risk and to what extent the proposed rule will reduce the risk.

The proposed rule should have no effect on the public health, safety, and environment.

J. Determination of any detrimental effect on the public health, safety and environment if the proposed rule is not implemented.

No effect on the public health, safety, or the environment will result if these rule amendments are not implemented.

K. Date the rule impact statement was prepared and if modified, the date modified.

October 24, 2019.