

**TITLE 610. STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION  
CHAPTER 25. STUDENT FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS  
SUBCHAPTER 23. OKLAHOMA HIGHER LEARNING ACCESS PROGRAM**

**610:25-23-4. Program requirements**

(a) Students shall agree to abide by the following provisions throughout the remainder of their school years or educational program:

(1) Attend school regularly and to do homework regularly, meaning the student was in attendance at least eighty percent (80%) of each school year, excluding absences excused by the school;

(2) Refrain from substance abuse, meaning the student was not adjudicated delinquent as a juvenile nor convicted of a crime as an adult by a court of law for an offense involving a controlled dangerous substance, as defined by 63 O.S. § 2-101(8);

(3) Refrain from commission of crimes or delinquent acts, meaning the student was not adjudicated delinquent as a juvenile nor convicted of a crime as an adult by a court of law;

(4) Have school work and school records reviewed by mentors designated pursuant to the program;

(5) Provide information requested by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education [OSRHE] or the State Board of Education; and

(6) Participate in program activities. [70 O.S. § 2605]

(b) The student's parent(s), custodial parent(s), or guardian(s) shall witness the student's agreement and further agree to:

(1) Assist the student in achieving compliance with the agreements;

(2) Confer, when requested to do so, with the school contact person, other school personnel, and program mentors;

(3) Provide information requested by the OSRHE or the State Board of Education; and

(4) Assist the student in completing forms and reports required for program participation, making application to institutions and schools of higher learning, and filing applications for student grants and scholarships. [70 O.S. § 2605]

(c) Students in the program graduating high school in 2010 and thereafter must complete the following 17-unit core curriculum with a minimum 2.50 grade-point-average (GPA) on a 4.00 grading scale, by the time they graduate from high school. For the purpose of calculating the required core curriculum GPA, core courses in English, lab science, mathematics, history and citizenship skills, foreign or non-English language, computer technology, or "additional" subject areas must be transcribed with a letter grade that has a corresponding numerical value. If the school district assigns a course a grade of "pass" without a numerical value, the OSRHE will assign a letter grade of "D" or the lowest passing grade that the high school assigns to courses. If the required one unit, year, or set of competencies in fine arts (music, art, or drama) or speech is fulfilled on a pass/fail or competency basis, the course(s) will be accepted and excluded from the required core curriculum GPA calculation.

(1) Four units, or years, of English (grammar, composition, literature; should include an integrated writing component);

(2) Three units, or years, of lab science (biology, chemistry, physics, or any lab science certified by the school district; general science with or without a lab may not be used to meet this requirement);

- (3) Three units, or years, of mathematics (Algebra I, Algebra II, geometry, trigonometry, math analysis, pre-calculus, statistics and probability [must have completed geometry and Algebra II], calculus, Advanced Placement Statistics);
  - (4) Three units, or years of history and citizenship skills (1 unit of American history and 2 units from the subjects of history, economics, geography, government and/or non-Western culture):
  - (5) Two units, or years, of a foreign or non-English language (both units, or years, of the same language), or Two units, or years, of computer technology (courses in programming, hardware, and business computer applications such as word processing, databases, spreadsheets and graphics will qualify; keyboarding and typing classes do not qualify);
  - (6) One additional unit, or year, of subjects listed above, or any Advanced Placement course except AP courses in applied fine arts (art history and music theory will count; studio art courses will not count);
  - (7) One unit, year, or set of competencies of fine arts (music, art, or drama) or speech.
- (d) The program curricular requirements for English, science, mathematics, history and citizenship skills are identical with the curricular requirements for college admission set by the OSRHE. Any change by the OSRHE to the curricular requirements for college admission shall also apply to the program curricular requirements.
- (e) Advanced students who complete core courses in earlier grades will not be required to take additional courses for purposes of the requirements of this program.
- (f) Strict parameters regulate the substitution of applied courses (OSRHE policy on Institutional Admission and Retention).
- (g) Exceptions to the required core curriculum will be considered according to the following:
- (1) Students attending schools, or homeschool students participating in other educational programs, which do not offer all the core curriculum courses will be allowed to satisfy the requirements subject to the following provisions:
    - (A) Core curriculum requirements which are also required for regular college admission (OSRHE policy on Institutional Admission and Retention) will be subject to the OSRHE Policy on Remediation and Removal of High School Curricular Deficiencies.
    - (B) Any other core curriculum requirements must be satisfied during the first twenty-four (24) hours of college coursework. Any exceptions to the twenty-four (24) hour limitation must be requested in writing and shall be subject to approval by the Chancellor.
  - (2) Students who have documented proficiency in a non-English language equivalent to at least two (2) units of high school study may be exempted from the requirement of two (2) units of a foreign or non-English language.
  - (3) Any other requests for exceptions to the core curriculum requirement must be submitted in writing to the Chancellor. Upon approval of the exception, the student may be eligible for program benefits; provided, such approval may require the satisfaction of any core curriculum requirements omitted in high school or other educational program.
- (h) Students must attain a minimum 2.50 cumulative GPA on a 4.00 grading scale for all work attempted in grades nine through twelve.
- (i) Homeschool students and students graduating from a high school not accredited by the State Board of Education must achieve a composite score of 22 or higher on the ACT test or the

equivalent SAT test score. Only ACT and SAT test scores reported on an official test report issued by ACT from tests-administered on national test dates prior to the student's high school graduation will be considered. Scores from ACT residual tests will not be considered. SAT test scores will be considered in a manner comparable to ACT test scores.

**610:25-23-7. Payment of awards; policies and limitations**

- (a) Eligible students enrolled at an institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education shall have an award equivalent to their undergraduate resident nonguaranteed tuition paid to the institution on the student's behalf by an allocation from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Trust Fund [70 O.S. § 3953.1];
- (b) Eligible students enrolled in a duly accredited private Oklahoma institution of higher education [70 O.S. § 4103] shall have awards paid to the institution on the student's behalf by an allocation from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund in an amount equivalent to the average undergraduate resident nonguaranteed tuition if the student were enrolled in a comparable institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. Comparability of institutions shall be determined by the OSRHE;
- (c) Eligible students enrolled in a postsecondary career technology program that meets the requirements to be eligible for federal student financial aid and is offered by a technology center school supervised by the State Board of Career and Technology Education through a cooperative agreement between a public technology center and an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education shall have an award equivalent to tuition paid, not exceeding the average amount the student would have received for comparable enrollment at a two-year institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, to the school or institution on the student's behalf by an allocation from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund;
- (d) Funds shall be transferred by the OSRHE from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund to the institution in which the student is enrolled. No funds shall be paid directly to the student;
- (e) Payment will not be allowed for courses taken in excess of those required for a baccalaureate degree;
- (f) Beginning with students graduating high school in 2017-2018 and thereafter, payment will be limited to 129 semester credit hours, or the equivalent, except as provided in the following. Students enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program that requires in excess of 129 semester credit hours or the equivalent, may receive payment for the number of semester credit hours required by the degree program. Students without a baccalaureate degree who are enrolled in a first professional degree program that does not require completion of a baccalaureate degree and that requires in excess of 129 semester credit hours or the equivalent, may receive payment for the number of semester credit hours required by the degree program up to a maximum of 150 semester credit hours or the equivalent. The Chancellor may approve exceptions to the limit for extraordinary or hardship circumstances including, but not limited to, sickness and injury.
- (g) Students will be eligible for the benefits outlined in this policy for five (5) years from the first date of postsecondary enrollment. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may award the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefits for courses of postsecondary units taken more than five (5) years after the student's first semester of postsecondary enrollment only in hardship circumstances; provided, however, no Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program participant may receive benefits beyond a cumulative time period of five (5) years [70

- O.S. § 2604]. Hardship circumstances may include, but are not limited to, sickness, injury, required military service, or service required by the student's religious or cultural traditions;
- (h) There will be no limit to the number of awards other than the amount of funds available or the number of eligible students. If sufficient funds are not available to provide awards for all eligible applicants, the OSRHE shall make awards on the basis of need;
  - (i) Students who have previously received awards shall have priority over students applying for initial awards;
  - (j) The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall take into consideration other grants and scholarships received by an eligible applicant when making awards [70 O.S. § 2604]. Award recipients may not receive financial aid in excess of his/her cost of attendance as determined by the institution in which the student is enrolled. The cost of attendance determined by the institution shall be consistent with regulations for federal Title IV student financial aid programs. If necessary, an award shall be reduced by an amount which makes the student's total financial aid equivalent to the student's identified cost of attendance.
  - (k) Beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year, an award shall not include payment for non-credit remedial courses.
  - (l) If a student withdraws from a class in which he or she has received an award from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program, the awarded funds shall be returned to the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program. This provision shall only apply to awarded funds when the student withdraws prior to the end of the add/drop period for the session in which the student is enrolled.

#### **610:25-23-8. Administrative responsibilities**

The Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Act established administrative roles and responsibilities for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) and the State Board of Education.

- (1) Every public school district shall designate at least one contact person at each Oklahoma public school site in which eighth, ninth- or tenth-grade classes are taught. When requested by the OSRHE, the State Board of Education shall assist the OSRHE to ensure the designation of contact persons. Private schools shall also designate at least one school official as a contact person. For students who are educated by other means, a parent or guardian or other person approved by the OSRHE shall be designated as the contact person. [70 O.S. § 2605]
  - (A) The contact person shall be responsible for processing student applications for the program according to the rules and regulations established by the OSRHE.
  - (B) The contact person shall maintain the agreements, which shall be executed on forms provided by the OSRHE.
  - (C) The local contact person shall:
    - (i) monitor the student's compliance with the terms of the agreement;
    - (ii) document transfer out of state, death, and other conditions; and
    - (iii) report on circumstances of noncompliance to the OSRHE.
  - (D) ~~Compliance with the program requirements for attending school regularly, refraining from substance abuse, and refraining from criminal or delinquent acts shall be determined according to the local school district's policy.~~ Compliance or noncompliance with the program requirements for attending school regularly [610:25-23-4(a)(1)], refraining from substance abuse [610:25-23-4(a)(2)], and refraining from criminal or

delinquent acts [610:25-23-4(a)(3)] shall be reported to the OSRHE by the local school district.

(E) The local district contact person shall report program participants who transfer into or out of the district to the OSRHE and identify the local education agency (LEA) and site from which or to which the student transferred.

(F) Beginning in April of the student's year of graduation, the local contact person shall gather from the program participants and his/her records, information which substantiates whether or not the program requirements have been met.

(G) The student's program verification form should be completed, signed, dated, and forwarded to the OSRHE as soon after the student's graduation as possible.

(2) The local school district where an Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program student is attending when the student begins participation in the program and any subsequent school district where the student attends shall forward information regarding the student's participation in the program to a school to which the student transfers upon the school's request for the student's records. [70 O.S. § 2605]

(3) The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall:

(A) designate personnel to coordinate tracking of program records for the years when students participating in the program are still in the public schools, provide staff development for contact persons in the public schools, and provide liaison with the State Board of Education and local organizations and individuals participating in the program [70 O.S. § 2605];

(B) coordinate and develop policies and procedures to implement the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Act;

(C) coordinate the publication and distribution of program awareness information and materials;

(i) Each school year, every fifth- through ninth-grade student in the public and private schools of Oklahoma and students educated by other means who are in the equivalent of the fifth through ninth grade shall be apprised, together with his/her parents, custodial parent, or guardian, of the student's opportunity for access to higher learning under the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program [70 O.S. § 2605];

(ii) The OSRHE and the State Board of Education shall develop, promote, and coordinate a public awareness program to be utilized in making students and parents aware of the program [70 O.S. § 2605];

(D) coordinate the provision of technical assistance to local school districts and individual participants;

(E) administer the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund;

(F) process applications submitted directly to the OSRHE;

(G) determine final eligibility for the program award.