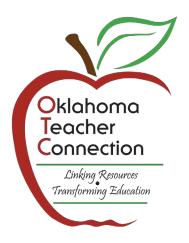
# Oklahoma Teacher Connection

Transforming Education, Linking Resources, Strengthening the Teacher Workforce

The Oklahoma Teacher Connection (OTC) mission is to recruit, retain, and place teachers in Oklahoma's public schools. OTC accomplishes this goal through a variety of programs and initiatives.



















#### **TEACH OKLAHOMA**

Teach Oklahoma is an exemplary curriculum for recruiting high school students who possess high academic and leadership standards. Teach Oklahoma curriculum is designed as a "grow your own" teacher recruitment program that includes a teaching internship. Students who may not enter careers as educators will develop significant leadership skills and learning strategies, in addition to becoming advocates for education.

#### LEAD OKLAHOMA

Lead Oklahoma is a flexible curriculum that provides eighth and ninth grade students with the knowledge and skills to make education and career/life plans, facilitating an understanding of leadership principles and effective decision-making skills. Lead Oklahoma uses a research-based curriculum with the goals of increasing school retention and the success rate of students.

#### **OTC GRANTS**

The OTC Collegiate Grants program consists of activities that range in variety and scope to support and enhance the teaching profession. These activities also include fostering partnerships and professional development opportunities through the sponsorship of conferences and workshops that highlight the field of education and improve the professional practices of teachers. OTC Collegiate Grants promote mentoring programs that help with teacher retention, recruitment and placement, as well as other activities, including campus visits by high school and postsecondary students, workshops on special education needs or other shortage areas, and lecture sessions from local and national renowned speakers.

## **READING CONFERENCE**

Each year, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, in collaboration with higher education institutions, offer a reading conference for pre/in-service teachers, administrators, and higher education faculty focused on substantive reading and literacy professional development and curriculum alignment, which affects emergent reading, as well as evidence-based strategies in literacy education. Literacy topics include literacy development, technology, culturally and linguistically diverse classrooms, tools, and practice.

#### **EDUCATORS RISING**

Educators Rising is a student organization for middle, junior high and high school students who express an interest in teaching or in education-related careers. Educators Rising chapters are nationally recognized.

# OKLAHOMA FUTURE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM ("INSPIRED TO TEACH")

The OK Future Teacher Scholarship and Employment Incentive Program ("Inspired to Teach") offers qualified Oklahoma students an opportunity to earn scholarships and workforce retention stipends. Program participants may have the opportunity to earn up to \$25,500 as they complete their Educator Preparation Program and teach in Oklahoma.

# Requirements

- Graduate from an Oklahoma high school.
- Meet higher education admission standards at:
  - 1) A public or private Oklahoma university with an accredited Oklahoma teacher education program, or
  - 2) A community college with an approved articulation agreement with an accredited Oklahoma university teacher education program.
- Declare a major in an accredited Oklahoma university teacher education program with a degree leading to a standard teaching certificate, or declare a major at a community college with an approved "Inspired to Teach" articulation agreement with an accredited Oklahoma teacher education program leading to a standard teaching certificate.
- ▶ Be enrolled as a full-time (12 credit hours per semester) undergraduate student each semester of eligibility in the program.
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) and a minimum 2.5 GPA throughout matriculation.
- ▶ Prior to entry into the "Inspired to Teach" program, the student must agree to complete the Oklahoma teacher preparation education program and agree to teach in an Oklahoma public prekindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade (PK-12) school for a minimum of five (5) consecutive years upon graduation and licensure as a teacher.









### Additional Resources and Information



The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education website provides a wealth of helpful information for K-12 teachers, counselors and administrators at <a href="https://www.okhighered.org/teachers">www.okhighered.org/teachers</a>.



Learn more about the Oklahoma Teacher Connection at <a href="https://www.okhighered.org/otc">www.okhighered.org/otc</a> or call 1.800.858.1840.





www.OKcollegestart.org

