

**TITLE 610. STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION  
CHAPTER 25. STUDENT FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS  
SUBCHAPTER 7. OKLAHOMA TUITION AID GRANT PROGRAM**

**RULE IMPACT STATEMENT**

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

The proposed Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant (OTAG) changes are intended to support the State Regents' goal to increase the number of college graduates in Oklahoma and to comply with changes in law. These proposed rules are necessary to comply with the changes to 70 O.S. § 626.6 made by SB 11 and changes to 70 O.S. § 626.7 made by SB 1624. Both bills became effective July 1, 2024. These rules also address the federal FAFSA Simplification Act requirements for the 2024-25 award year.

The proposed rule revisions address the following three issues: adjusting to match the new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) reporting language for student income verification, expanding eligibility to incarcerated students to align with Senate Bill 11, and to expand eligibility to students with intellectual disabilities enrolled in a Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP) approved by the United States Department of Education.

Language Alignment with the FAFSA Simplification Act

To align with the FAFSA Simplification Act requirements for the 2024-25 award year, income will be verified using the Student Aid Index (SAI) instead of Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The SAI continues to use the same financial information from the FAFSA as the EFC did but calculates a different index number. The index was created to more accurately reflect a family's financial situation and need for financial aid.

Expanding Eligibility to Incarcerated Students

In the 2024 legislative session Senate Bill 11 passed almost unanimously out of both the House and the Senate and was signed into law on May 23, 2024. The bill allows an incarcerated individual who is enrolled in a Prison Education Program (PEP) and is within five (5) years of being released to be eligible for OTAG. However, incarcerated individuals enrolled in virtual learning programs are ineligible.

Expanding Eligibility to Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities Enrolled in CTP Programs

In the 2024 legislative session Senate Bill 1624 passed almost unanimously out of both the House and the Senate and was signed into law on April 30, 2024. The bill allows a student with an intellectual disability who is enrolled in a CTP program approved by the United States Department of Education to be eligible for OTAG.

**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 changes will affect the OSRHE, postsecondary institutions in Oklahoma and students who are eligible to apply for the OTAG program. Other than the Fiscal Impact statements prepared by the Oklahoma Legislature for Senate Bills 11 & 1624 and published on the Legislature's website, no information on cost impacts has been received by OSRHE from any private or public entities.

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

The proposed rule changes will benefit OSRHE, postsecondary institutions and students who are now eligible to apply for the program.

**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 should have positive economic impacts on postsecondary institutions and students who are eligible to apply for the program. Postsecondary institutions should benefit from increased enrollment from students who enroll due to expanded eligibility for this program. For those students who qualify for the program, these students should benefit through the receipt of tuition awards. There are no fees involved.

**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 changes are not expected to have any administrative cost impact on OSRHE or other agencies. OTAG awards are paid by OSRHE from state funds and any monies or assets contributed from any other source, public or private.

**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 rules are not expected to have an economic impact on any political subdivisions. Cooperation in implementing the rule will be necessary by contact persons at public education sites throughout the state.

**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 rules will 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 the proposed rules are not implemented.

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

September 5, 2024.