



2026

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education



ADVANCING WORKFORCE ALIGNMENT THROUGH CREDENTIALS OF VALUE, OUTCOMES, AND ADULT LEARNER SUPPORT

To ensure students earn credentials that lead to strong employment and economic mobility, we support establishment of a standard statewide definition for a “credential of value.” Similar to efforts underway in other states, including Texas, a standard definition would ensure that credentials are aligned with in-demand industries and recognized across education and workforce systems. We also support enhanced wage record data collection to better track post-graduation employment outcomes. Improved outcomes data will allow Oklahoma to measure the return on investment of credentials, align programs with workforce needs, and strengthen accountability for both students and taxpayers. Additionally, we propose the creation of a scholarship program designed specifically for adult learners, offering financial assistance to those looking to complete unfinished degrees, obtain certificates or micro-credentials, or pursue reskilling and upskilling opportunities.



SUPPORTING CAMPUS RESEARCH CAPACITY AND PARTNERSHIPS

Research conducted by colleges and universities plays a vital role in driving a state’s innovation, economic growth, and public well-being. The State Regents support legislation that creates additional opportunities and provides resources to our public institutions to serve as hubs of discovery, generating new knowledge and technologies that can lead to breakthroughs in healthcare, agriculture, energy, and more. By attracting federal grants and private investments, academic research stimulates local economies and creates high-skill jobs. It also informs public policy, enhances education, and addresses region-specific challenges. Investing in a strong research ecosystem will empower Oklahoma to remain competitive, resilient, and forward-thinking.



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OKLAHOMA'S PROMISE

The Oklahoma's Promise scholarship program has been named by the Southern Regional Education Board as a top promise scholarship program in the nation. Goals for the 2026 legislative session include increasing the annual family income limit to \$100,000, expanding access to more Oklahoma families; clarifying eligibility requirements for students in DHS and foster care and for children of certified public classroom teachers; and refining high school course requirements for students pursuing various post-secondary opportunities through the scholarship.



STABILIZE PROPERTY INSURANCE RATES

Our colleges and universities continue to face significant operational cost increases. Rising property insurance rates have created an ongoing financial burden that impacts the current and future financial environment for every institution. Examining the property insurance process, practices and market in Oklahoma is an important step to identify long-term solutions to help mitigate this substantial expense across the state system.



ENHANCE CAMPUS SAFETY & SECURITY

State system institutions must be equipped with the necessary personnel and financial resources to proactively mitigate risks and ensure the safety of their campus communities. This includes addressing both physical and cybersecurity threats, challenges and incidents. Appropriate investment in security infrastructure, trained personnel and cybersecurity protocols is essential to safeguarding students, faculty, staff and institutional assets while also fostering a secure learning environment.



CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT

The concurrent enrollment program strengthens student preparation, reduces family college costs and decreases the time required to complete a degree. Focusing on recommendations from the Concurrent Enrollment Task Force and legislative studies, the State Regents will evaluate concurrent participation options, financial models and course delivery modes to strengthen the program for Oklahoma students. In addition, establishing an age limit for student eligibility (up to 21) is needed to align high school participation requirements and definitions.



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