



INSPIRED TO TEACH (I2T)

Scholarships & Grants Workshop

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INSPIRED TO TEACH
OKLAHOMA FUTURE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP
& EMPLOYMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM



I2T PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- ▶ Created during 2022 legislative session (HB3564 – Rep. McBride / Sen. Pemberton) and amended during 2023 legislative session (HB 2559 – Rep. McBride / Sen. Pemberton).
- ▶ **Purpose:** To address the teacher shortage in the state of Oklahoma and provide a pipeline of quality and effective teachers for the public schools of this state.
- ▶ **Objective:** Provide a scholarship and incentive program to encourage the preparation of public school teachers (Pre-K through 12th grade) at all accredited state public and private higher education institutions, as well as facilitating their transition into the workforce.



BLUEPRINT 2030: OSRHE STRATEGIC PLAN

- ▶ Produce workforce ready graduates.
 - ▶ Develop, promote, and advertise well-defined career pathways for students in critical workforce areas (e.g., teacher education, aerospace, nursing, engineering, computer science).
 - ▶ Incentivize students to stay and work in Oklahoma after graduation.

- ▶ Grow the student pipeline.
 - ▶ Recruitment and retention.
 - ▶ Promote seamless transfer opportunities for students.





HISTORIC AWARD DATA

- ▶ 6,624 total program participants.

- ▶ Public regional institutions hold largest enrollment numbers.

- ▶ Over \$12M disbursed in scholarship awards.

- ▶ 35 institutions with active participants.

- ▶ Top five institutions (by I2T enrollment):

- ▶ The University of Central Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, Northeastern State University, The University of Oklahoma, and Southwestern Oklahoma State University.





ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA - SCHOLARSHIP

- Graduate from high school, home school, or recognized equivalent (such as GED).
- Meet regular admission standards at institution.
- Declare a teacher education major at an accredited Oklahoma public or private institution OR
- Declare a major at an Oklahoma two-year college with an approved articulation agreement with an accredited Oklahoma university teacher education program.
- Attend full-time, maintain a minimum 2.50 GPA, and maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).



ELIGIBILITY EXCEPTIONS

- ▶ Exceptions to the full-time enrollment requirement:
 - ▶ Students completing the student teaching internship.
 - ▶ Students who have already completed the student teaching internship approved for less than full-time enrollment to complete their degree prior to certification.
 - ▶ Students with an approved accommodation on file with the institution's accessibility office.



TRANSITION TO SCHOLARTREK

- ▶ Our new scholarship portal will go live in August and will include the following features:
 - ▶ Inspired to Teach application for students—with other programs to follow.
 - ▶ Program Coordinator dashboard that allows access to historic data and live reporting of student eligibility fields.
 - ▶ Eventually, Financial Aid designees will also have a dashboard to process, submit, and track disbursements.



APPLICATIONS

- ▶ Moving forward, students will only apply to Inspired to Teach once.
 - ▶ Transfer students will be able to update their institution of record in the ScholarTrek system.
- ▶ Students will immediately show up in their institution's coordinator dashboard after submitting application.
 - ▶ Coordinators will report completed hours, GPA, etc. in their dashboard for all students.
- ▶ We will be doing ScholarTrek trainings in August.
- ▶ Applications can be submitted in fall or spring.





CONTINUING STUDENTS

- ▶ All continuing students will be imported to ScholarTrek and coordinators must submit their semester eligibility data each semester, as they have previously.
- ▶ Students will receive an email from ScholarTrek with their temporary account password.
- ▶ Students must log into the system to set up their permanent password and ensure all of their contact information is accurate.



AWARD TIERS

- ▶ Students can qualify for up to \$5,500 in scholarship funds through the following tiered system:
 - ▶ Tier 1 (A minimum of 12 hours enrolled): \$1,000
 - ▶ Tier 2 (24-47 hours earned): \$1,000
 - ▶ Tier 3 (48-89 hours earned): \$1,000
 - ▶ Tier 4 (90 hours+): \$2,500
- ▶ Students must be in their **final** academic (and aid) year to receive the Tier 4 payment.
- ▶ Students cannot receive an award from more than one tier in an academic year.



AWARD SCHEDULE & EXCEPTIONS

- ▶ Generally disbursed by semester (fall/spring) with the following exceptions:
 - ▶ Fall graduates.
 - ▶ Spring applicants.
 - ▶ Students who will no longer meet tier requirements in spring semester.
 - ▶ Students eligible for Tier 3 award in fall and Tier 4 award in spring.
- ▶ No summer awards.



2025-2026 IMPORTANT PROGRAM DATES

September 5, 2025 – Fall priority application deadline

September 12, 2025 – Program Coordinator semester review of existing applicants and continuing students due

November 14, 2025 – Fall guaranteed award deadline

January 30, 2026 – Spring priority application deadline

February 6, 2026 – Program Coordinator semester review of existing applicants and continuing students due

April 17, 2026 – Spring guaranteed award deadline





CLAIM PROCESSING INSTRUCTIONS

- ▶ Pre-populated claim forms will be provided via O-Safe.
- ▶ Review and confirm accuracy of pre-populated information.
- ▶ Provide your name and title as designee.
- ▶ Complete the following fields for each student:
 - ▶ SAP eligibility
 - ▶ Ineligibility reason code (if applicable)



INELIGIBLE STUDENTS & CODES

- Ineligibility codes (found on tab 2 of award claim):
 - 01-not enrolled
 - 02-not enrolled full-time
 - 03-not enrolled in eligible program of study
 - 04-not meeting GPA requirement (2.50 minimum)
 - 05-not meeting SAP
 - 06-under 90 credit hours earned, received maximum tiers 1-3 award (\$3,000)
 - 07-over 90 credit hours earned, not yet in final academic & aid year of program
 - 08-received maximum program award (\$5,500)
 - 09-other, provide reason in the comment field (Column S)

- If reporting a student as ineligible, please change award amount to \$0.



DISBURSEMENT ROSTERS

- Disbursement rosters will be provided via O-Safe for financial aid and program coordinator records.
- Rosters will include awarded students on the first tab and ineligible and/or non-awarded students on the second tab (along with rationale for their non-award status).
- You do not need to return the disbursement roster back to our office.
- Program coordinators will also be able to access this information in ScholarTrek at any time.



SCHOLARSHIP RETURNS

- ▶ If an ineligible student is erroneously awarded, please contact our office.
- ▶ Disbursed monies can be applied to another eligible participant if available.
- ▶ Returns do not need to be reported on an incoming claim form and will be reported on reconciliation files sent to institution at the end of the semester/aid year.



REGAINING ELIGIBILITY

- ▶ Participants ineligible for the award for one of the following reasons have one semester to regain compliance:
 - ▶ Not enrolled full-time
 - ▶ Not meeting 2.50 GPA
 - ▶ Not in good standing at the institution (unable to enroll in courses)
 - ▶ Not enrolled in eligible program of study

- ▶ Participants who fail to regain compliance after one semester must reapply for the program but must reapply prior to their graduating semester.



REGAINING ELIGIBILITY – FINAL YEAR

- ▶ Participants who fail to meet GPA and/or SAP requirement during the 2nd to last semester of their final year of matriculation will not receive the scholarship benefit in the final semester.
- ▶ If the participant re-establishes a 2.50 GPA (or above) or SAP within the final academic semester (prior to graduation), the participant's eligibility will be reinstated for employment incentive payments upon graduation.



LEAVE OF ABSENCE POLICY

- ▶ Participants may take a leave of absence or withdrawal under the following circumstances:
 - ▶ A serious illness
 - ▶ Pregnancy
 - ▶ Other natural cause that prevents the participant from continuing coursework requirements or fulfilling the eligibility provisions
- ▶ The withdrawal or leave of absence cannot exceed more than one academic year.
- ▶ Participants must present official college/university documentation to OSRHE at the time the withdrawal/leave of absence is granted.
- ▶ Participants must re-apply 30 days prior to resuming classes full-time.



EMPLOYMENT INCENTIVE ELIGIBILITY

- ▶ Participants must meet all degree and traditional teacher certification requirements.
- ▶ Participants must teach in a public Oklahoma school district (PK-12).
- ▶ Participants will receive up to \$4,000 after completing each year of eligible service for up to five consecutive years (totaling up to \$20,000).
- ▶ There is currently no payback provision for the program.



IMPORTANT NOTES

- ▶ Students must participate in the scholarship program and receive at least one scholarship payment to qualify for the employment incentive portion.
- ▶ Awards can be adjusted to meet COA if needed. There is no required minimum award amount in the statute or administrative rules.
- ▶ Reconciliation files will be sent at the end of each semester/aid year to ensure all eligible students have been appropriately awarded and that OSRHE/institutional records match.



QUESTIONS?

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