

2026 HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACT

DISTRICT 18



Rep. David Smith
R - Arpelar

INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTED

- ▶ East Central University
- ▶ Eastern Oklahoma State College
- ▶ Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology
- ▶ Seminole State College

COUNTIES REPRESENTED

- ▶ Coal
- ▶ Hughes
- ▶ Okfuskee
- ▶ Pittsburg

HIGHER EDUCATION IN OKLAHOMA



Over 200,000 students enrolled annually



Over 41,000 degrees and certificates awarded at all levels in the last academic year, and an increase of **more than 15%** over the last decade

\$17.48

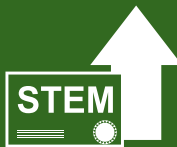
For every \$1 of state appropriations invested, the state system of higher education **yields \$17.48 in economic output.**



Associate and bachelor's degree holders **earn a median income 25% and 75% higher**, respectively, than those with only a high school diploma.



Data from the National Center for Education Statistics show the **cost of attendance** at Oklahoma universities is **among the lowest in the nation.**



Over the last decade, STEM degrees **increased nearly 29%** at all levels.



Our students learn here, earn here — **91%** of Oklahomans who graduate from a state system college or university remain and work in the state one year after graduation.



Of Oklahoma's 100 critical occupations, the **top 22** highest-paying jobs require an associate degree or higher, and **eight of the top 10** fastest-growing jobs require a college degree.

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BY THE NUMBERS

Enrollment

- ▶ During the 2024-25 academic year, 10,890 students enrolled at institutions in or adjacent to District 18.

Graduation

- ▶ During the 2024-25 academic year, 2,024 students graduated from institutions in or adjacent to District 18.

Oklahoma's Promise

- ▶ In District 18, 190 students from the 2025 high school graduating class qualified for the Oklahoma's Promise scholarship.
- ▶ Currently, 296 high school students in District 18 are enrolled in Oklahoma's Promise.
- ▶ Since inception in 1992, 3,285 high school students from District 18 have received the Oklahoma's Promise scholarship.
- ▶ During the 2024-25 academic year, nearly 900 students at public higher education institutions in or adjacent to District 18 received approximately \$4.1 million in scholarships from Oklahoma's Promise.

Concurrent Enrollment

- ▶ During the 2024-25 academic year, 1,401 students enrolled in 12,745 credit hours through concurrent courses at institutions in or adjacent to District 18.