Rule Impact Statement

Title 610. State Regents for Higher Education
Chapter 25. Student Financial Aid and Scholarships
Permanent Rules under OKLA. ADMIN. CODE

This Rule Impact Statement has been prepared pursuant to 75 O.S.Supp.2025, § 303(D).

I. Statement of Need and Legal Basis

The proposed revisions modernize and clarify administration of the Inspired to Teach Program by transitioning from Participation Agreements to an online application system, updating eligibility criteria, revising scholarship award structures, clarifying employment incentive requirements, and streamlining participant verification and reporting processes.

The proposed revisions also provide greater clarity regarding full-time student eligibility, scholarship and employment incentive payments, documentation requirements, and participant notification obligations while maintaining the program's existing funding limits and core eligibility requirements.

The legal basis for the proposed amendments is the State Regents' statutory authority to adopt rules governing the administration of the Inspired to Teach Program pursuant to 70 O.S. §§ 698.1, 3204, and 3206.

II. Classification of the rule(s) and justification for classification.

Nonmajor rules. Annual implementation and compliance costs are not expected to be incurred or passed along because of promulgation of the proposed rules.

III. Description of the proposed rule(s).

Inspired to Teach was established by the Oklahoma legislature as an incentive to encourage the preparation of teachers in the public schools of Oklahoma. The program offers qualified Oklahoma college students an opportunity to earn scholarships and benefits. Program participants may have the opportunity to earn up to $25,500 as they complete their Educator Preparation Program and teach in Oklahoma.

The proposed revisions herein modernize and clarify administration of the Inspired to Teach Program by transitioning from Participation Agreements to an online application system, updating eligibility criteria, revising scholarship award structures, clarifying employment incentive requirements, and streamlining participant verification and reporting processes.

The proposed revisions also provide greater clarity regarding full-time student eligibility, scholarship and employment incentive payments, documentation requirements, and participant notification obligations while maintaining the program's existing funding limits and core eligibility requirements.

IV. Description of the classes of persons who most likely will be affected by the proposed rule(s), including classes that will bear the costs of the proposed rule(s), and any information on cost impacts received by the agency from any private or public entities.

The proposed revisions will affect the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the public institutions comprising the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, accredited private higher education institutions, students who pursue teacher education degree pathways within the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or at accredited private higher education institutions, Oklahoma public school teachers who participate in the program, Oklahoma public school districts and Oklahoma public schools. No information on cost impacts has been received from any private or public entities.

V. Description of the classes of persons who will benefit from the proposed rule(s).

The proposed revisions will affect the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the public institutions comprising the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, accredited private higher education institutions, students who pursue teacher education degree pathways within the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or at accredited private higher education institutions, Oklahoma public school teachers who participate in the program, Oklahoma public school districts and Oklahoma public schools. No information on cost impacts has been received from any private or public entities.

VI. Comprehensive analysis of the rules' economic impact.

The proposed revisions should have a neutral economic impact and do not involve fee changes.

VII. Detailed explanation of methodology and assumptions used to determine the economic impact.

The proposed revisions provide greater clarity regarding full-time student eligibility, scholarship and employment incentive payments, documentation requirements, and participant notification obligations while maintaining the program's existing funding limits and core eligibility requirements. Accordingly, no economic impact is expected.

VIII. Determination of whether implementation of the proposed rule(s) will have an economic impact on any political subdivisions or require their cooperation in implementing or enforcing the rule(s).

A "political subdivision" is defined as "a county, city, incorporated town or school district within this state" under the Administrative Procedures Act. 75 O.S. § 250.3. Oklahoma public school district budgets could be affected if this program produces more teachers employed by Oklahoma public school districts. Implementing or enforcing the rule will require cooperation with Oklahoma public school districts and their employees. Oklahoma public school districts will have to issue employment incentive disbursements of program benefits provided by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Oklahoma public school officials will have to complete Employment Compliance Forms.

IX. Determination of whether implementation of the proposed rule(s) may 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.

X. Measures taken to minimize the cost and impact of the proposed rule on business and economic development in this state, local government units of this state, and individuals.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education continue to work with higher education institutions to minimize the administrative burden for awarding the scholarships.

XI. Determination of the effect of the proposed rule(s) on the public health, safety and environment and, if the proposed rule(s) is/are 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 revisions will have no effect on the public health, safety, and environment.

XII. Determination of any detrimental effect on the public health, safety and environment if the proposed rule(s) is/are not implemented.

No effect on the public health, safety, or the environment will result if the proposed rules are not implemented.

XIII. Analysis of Alternatives to Adopting the Rule(s)

The proposed revisions are necessary to clarify and modernize administration of the Inspired to Teach Program. Absent these amendments, participants and program administrators may be adversely affected by outdated procedures, ambiguous eligibility and benefit requirements, inconsistent program administration, and increased administrative inefficiencies that could hinder the effective operation of the program.

XIV. Estimated Time Spent by State Employees to Develop Rule and Other Resources Used in Developing Rule

Development of the proposed amendments required less than one week of state employee time and resources, including legal review, program analysis, drafting revisions, and preparation of rulemaking documents.

XV. Summary and Preliminary Comparison of Any Existing or Proposed Federal Regulations Intended to Address the Activities to be Regulated by Proposed Administrative Rules

There are no existing or proposed federal regulations known to directly regulate the activities addressed by these proposed amendments. The amendments concern the administration of a state scholarship and employment incentive program and do not conflict with or duplicate federal regulatory requirements.

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

Prepared by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education on July 20, 2026.