

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 HOUSE BILL 1342

By: Davis

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to scholarship programs; amending 70  
8 O.S. 2021, Section 698.1, as amended by Section 1,  
9 Chapter 344, O.S.L. 2022 (70 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section  
10 698.1), which relates to the Oklahoma Future Teacher  
11 Scholarship and Employment Incentive Program;  
12 providing program eligibility to home school  
13 students; and providing an effective date.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 698.1, as  
16 amended by Section 1, Chapter 344, O.S.L. 2022 (70 O.S. Supp. 2022,  
17 Section 698.1), is amended to read as follows:

18 Section 698.1 A. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
19 Education shall establish and maintain an incentive scholarship  
20 program and teacher employment incentive program, as funding is  
21 available, to encourage the preparation of public school teachers  
22 for prekindergarten through twelfth grade, including minority  
23 teachers, at all state public higher education institutions or  
24 private higher education institutions accredited pursuant to Section  
4103 of this title and incentivize employment as public teachers for

1 prekindergarten through twelfth grade in the state for at least five  
2 (5) years, to be known as the Oklahoma Future Teacher Scholarship  
3 and Employment Incentive Program. Prospective teachers planning to  
4 pursue an undergraduate teacher education program at an accredited  
5 Oklahoma teacher preparation program shall be considered if they  
6 ~~graduated~~ received a diploma from an Oklahoma high school or  
7 completed high-school level instruction at home, meet the higher  
8 education admission standards, and declare a major in an approved  
9 Oklahoma teacher preparation degree program leading to a standard  
10 teaching certificate. To the extent that funds are available,  
11 scholarships, renewable for up to three (3) additional years for  
12 qualified students meeting satisfactory academic progress standards  
13 in completing a teacher preparation degree program leading to a  
14 standard teaching certificate, shall be awarded to cover costs of  
15 tuition, general enrollment fees, other fees, books, materials, and  
16 services provided by the institution, including room and board, in  
17 the following manner:

18 1. One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per academic year for up to  
19 three (3) academic years for full-time students who have earned less  
20 than ninety (90) credit hours; and

21 2. Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for the final  
22 academic year for full-time students who have earned ninety (90) or  
23 more credit hours.

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1 The maximum amount of scholarship funds awarded as provided in this  
2 subsection to any qualified student shall not exceed Five Thousand  
3 Five Hundred Dollars (\$5,500.00).

4 B. It is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature that the  
5 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education create a committee  
6 composed of educators, teacher educators from the participating  
7 institutions, and representatives of the public schools and the  
8 State Department of Education to provide recommendations to the  
9 State Regents to improve effectiveness of the program.

10 The committee shall prepare and deliver a report on the program  
11 to the Legislature on or before July 1 of each year.

12 C. Each scholarship participant, prior to entry into the  
13 program, shall have agreed to teach in an Oklahoma public  
14 prekindergarten through twelfth grade school for a minimum of five  
15 (5) consecutive years upon graduation and licensure as a teacher.  
16 Any scholarship participant failing to maintain a 2.5 grade point  
17 average, changing to an ineligible area of study, failing to meet  
18 satisfactory academic progress standards, withdrawing or otherwise  
19 leaving school, or failing to meet requirements for licensure and  
20 certification to teach as established by law shall be subject to  
21 disqualification from the program.

22 D. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are  
23 authorized to make employment incentive payments pursuant to the  
24 provisions of this section to program participants who are employed

1 as traditionally certified teachers in Oklahoma public  
2 prekindergarten through twelfth grade schools following graduation.  
3 Incentive payments may be awarded following each consecutive year of  
4 satisfactory service as documented by the employing school district,  
5 up to five (5) years of service for scholarship recipients as  
6 provided in subsection A of this section, upon graduation from an  
7 accredited Oklahoma teacher preparation degree program. The maximum  
8 amount of employment incentive payments for any qualified  
9 participant shall be Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) per year for  
10 up to five (5) years, not to exceed a total of Twenty Thousand  
11 Dollars (\$20,000.00) per participant.

12 E. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall  
13 require the execution of appropriate contracts with eligible program  
14 participants. Participants failing to comply with the requirements  
15 of this section or failing to provide current contact information  
16 shall not be eligible for the employment incentive payments provided  
17 for in this section. The Chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents  
18 for Higher Education, with the approval of the State Regents, may  
19 contract with any other appropriate organization or unit of  
20 government for the administration of the provisions of this section.

21 F. If sufficient funds are not available for employment  
22 incentive payments to qualified participants during any fiscal year,  
23 the Chancellor may make reductions in the payments made to qualified  
24 participants.

1 G. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may, at the  
2 time an award is made on behalf of the Oklahoma Future Teacher  
3 Scholarship and Employment Incentive Program, set aside funds for  
4 the full commitment made to an eligible student.

5 H. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may utilize  
6 Oklahoma Future Teacher Scholarship and Employment Incentive Program  
7 designated funds for administration of the program.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

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