

# Oklahoma's Promise 101

*Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education  
2022-2023*

# Oklahoma's Promise

## ■ Purpose

- To increase the number of college graduates in Oklahoma.
- To encourage more students from families with limited income to aspire for college, prepare for college academically, and earn college degrees.

## ■ Legislative Commitment

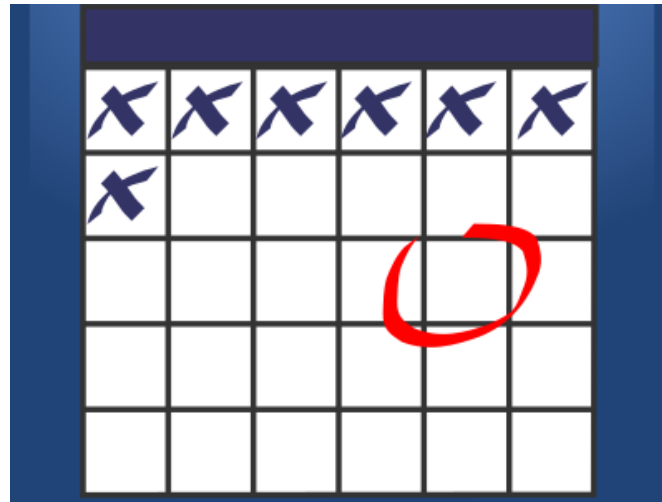
- Beginning in 2008-09, the program was funded “off the top” from the state’s General Revenue Fund. This ensures that the program will be fully funded each year from a stable source of revenue.

# Application Requirements

- Student must currently be attending the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade
- New income limit at the time of application!
  - \$60K with 1-2 dependent children
  - \$70K with 3-4 dependent children
  - \$80K with 5 or more dependent children

(there is a check for a 2nd income limit when the student starts college or career education)
- Must be an Oklahoma resident
- Deadline for the 2022-2023 school year:

**June 30, 2023**



## December 31 Incomplete App deadline

- June 30 remains the deadline for the initial application.
- Applications are incomplete until the income documentation is received and processed.
- December 31 of the student's senior year (prior to graduation) is the deadline for the incomplete application.

# Additional Requirements

- Graduate from an Oklahoma high school (or other education program for homeschool students)
- Complete the 17 unit curriculum with at least a **2.50 cumulative GPA in these units**
- Achieve at least a **2.50 cumulative GPA in overall courses for grades 9-12**
- Attend school regularly
- Refrain from substance abuse
- Don't commit criminal or delinquent acts

# Conduct Standards

- According to the OKPromise rules, “Students failing to comply with the agreement and program requirements shall not be eligible for awards. Compliance shall be verified by the local contact person upon a form provided by the OSRHE. Final verification of compliance shall be determined by the OSRHE.”
- Notify OKPromise as soon as possible, so that we can notify the student

# Curriculum – 17 units

- 4 English
- 3 Lab Science
- 3 Mathematics
- 3 History and Citizenship Skills
- 2 Foreign or Non-English Language OR Computer Technology
- 1 Additional Unit
- 1 Fine Arts or Speech

# Benefits

- Pays tuition only (fees are not included) at an Oklahoma **public** college or university; a portion of tuition at an Oklahoma private college or university or qualified career technology programs
- Pays for the **actual hours enrolled**; recommend full-time enrollment
- May be used until the completion of a bachelor's degree, five consecutive years or at the time OKPromise has paid 129 credit hours, whichever comes first



# Applications

- Ways to Apply
  - Paper applications
  - Download application from the website
  - Online application
- [www.okpromise.org](http://www.okpromise.org)
  - Look for the Apply Now! button

APPLY NOW!



# Keep in mind with the online application

- Signatures are electronic and within the application (in the past there was a separate signature page that had to be submitted with income documentation)
- Income submittal document is not required but is very helpful when we are matching paperwork to the correct student's application
- Click submit!

# Application Challenges

- Collecting income documentation
- Incomplete applications
  
- Communication
  - Blackboard messages
  - Letter & e-mails
  - Advertising

# Application and Income

- What income is counted?
- Whose income should be provided?
- Income limit - \$60-70-80K or \$100K – Which is correct?
  
- OKPromise FAQ on the website
  - Okpromise.org; click on Resources; click on FAQ; click on Application and Income FAQ

# Application and Income questions



ABOUT

STUDENTS

PARENTS/FAMILIES

EDUCATORS/ADMINISTRATORS

SPANISH

NEWS

RESOURCES

CONTACT US

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### FAQ CATEGORIES

Application and Income

For High School Seniors

For College Students

Courses to Take 

### HAVE QUESTIONS?

Select from the categories on the left for our most frequently asked questions. Contact the OK Promise office at [okpromise@osrhe.edu](mailto:okpromise@osrhe.edu).



## APPLICATION AND INCOME

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### **What grade does a student have to be in to apply for Oklahoma's Promise?**

Students must be enrolled in the eighth, ninth, 10th or 11th grade to be eligible to apply for Oklahoma's Promise (homeschool students must be age 13, 14, 15 or 16; see the following question). Applications are dated by academic year (i.e., 2022-23 school year). Students completing the seventh grade in May must wait until the next school year application is available in August to apply. Students completing the 11th grade **MUST** apply before the June 30 application deadline at the end of their junior year.

### **When is the deadline to apply for Oklahoma's Promise?**

The deadline to apply for Oklahoma's Promise each year is always clearly indicated on the application, so it is a good idea to check the application first. The deadline is June 30. However, during years that June 30 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the application deadline will be the Monday following which is July 1 or July 2. Again, please check the application you are completing for the exact date.

### **What are the application requirements for a student who is homeschooled?**

Students who are homeschooled must be age 13, 14, 15 or 16 at the time of application (grade levels do not apply). A homeschool student may not apply after they turn 17 years old. The same income and residency requirements apply to all applicants.

### **What is the difference between parent and legal guardian?**

For purposes of the Oklahoma's Promise application, the legal guardian is not the parent but rather the guardian as appointed by a court of law. Temporary guardianship, power of attorney or a notarized statement by the parent **do not** qualify as legal guardianship. Legal guardians do not need to submit income information but must instead submit a copy of the legal guardian paperwork issued by the court.

# Students

## Foster Care

- Students in DHS custody should contact DHS for an OKPromise application at 405.522.3945.

## Legal Guardian

- Documentation issued by a court of law authorizing legal guardianship is required
- No proof of income at the time of application

## Students (cont.)

- **Undocumented Immigrant** status – Students may enroll in OKPromise, however they must attain legal status before they will be eligible to receive awards in college.



# Adopted Students

- Adopted Students – Expanded Income Eligibility
  - Applies only to students adopted while:
    - In the permanent custody of Oklahoma DHS; or
    - In the court-ordered custody of a licensed, private, non-profit child-placing agency; or
    - In the court-ordered custody of a federally recognized Indian tribe.
  - No initial income requirement at the time of application; proof of legal adoption required
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> income limit levels at the time of college enrollment
    - Birth to age 12 - \$150,000
    - Ages 13-17 - \$200,000

# Good to Know

- Recommend the online application
- Suggest parents send all apps directly to OKPromise
- Remind them to expect a confirmation letter or e-mail
- Never assume a student is enrolled
- Lists available by e-mail anytime (okpromise@osrhe.edu)
- Student/parent isn't going to apply or follow through with an incomplete application because of different plans following graduation – encourage completion



# Program Completion

- Program Verification
- Curriculum Worksheet
- Transcript

# Oklahoma's Promise

## Program Verification

### For High School Seniors

# OH02

This form must be filled out and signed by the local OKPromise contact person and the school superintendent or his/her designee. The State Regents' office will determine final eligibility.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Check here if new address (make any necessary corrections below)

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mailing Address) (City) (State) (ZIP)

OKPromise ID (or SSN): \_\_\_\_\_ High School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

#### COMPLETERS: For students completing the OKPromise program requirements:

Yes \_\_\_ Graduated from high school; graduation date: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes \_\_\_ Completed the required 17-unit OKPromise core curriculum

Yes \_\_\_ Cumulative GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ OKPromise Core Curriculum GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

The following items shall be determined based only on the student's actions after beginning participation in OKPromise.

Yes \_\_\_ Attended school regularly and did homework regularly [the student was in attendance at least 80% of each school year, excluding absences excused by the school]

Yes \_\_\_ Refrained from substance abuse [the student was not adjudicated delinquent as a juvenile and was not convicted of a crime as an adult by a court of law for an offense involving a controlled dangerous substance, as defined by 63 O.S. § 2-101(8)]

Yes \_\_\_ Refrained from criminal or delinquent acts [the student was not adjudicated delinquent as a juvenile and was not convicted of a crime as an adult by a court of law]

*This form and the student's final transcript must be sent to the State Regents.*

#### NON-COMPLETERS: For students who have not completed the OKPromise program requirements:

Student moved to \_\_\_\_\_ prior to graduation.

Did not graduate from high school Note reason if possible: \_\_\_\_\_

Did not achieve at least a 2.50 cumulative overall GPA. Overall GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

## OK Promise Curriculum Worksheet

Please record the letter grade or numerical value on the lines next to the courses completed. (i.e. A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1) Each short line indicates  $\frac{1}{2}$  unit of credit.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### ENGLISH: (4 units)

English I	_____	_____	English III	_____	_____
English II	_____	_____	English IV	_____	_____

### LAB SCIENCE: (3 units - must be a district certified lab science)

Biology	_____	_____	Physical Science (lab)	_____	_____
Chemistry	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Physics	_____	_____			

### MATH: (3 units)

Algebra I	_____	_____	Trig/Calculus	_____	_____
Geometry	_____	_____	Math Analysis	_____	_____
Algebra II	_____	_____	AP Statistics	_____	_____
Algebra III	_____	_____	Statistics & Prob.	_____	_____

### HISTORY AND CITIZENSHIP SKILLS: (3 units - 1 unit must be American/U.S. History)

American History	_____	_____	World History	_____	_____
Oklahoma History	_____	_____	Modern History	_____	_____
Government/Civics	_____	_____	Ancient History	_____	_____
Geography	_____	_____	World Geography	_____	_____
Economics	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

### FOREIGN OR NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE: (2 units of the SAME language)

Spanish I/ Span II	_____	_____	Native Amer. Lang I/II	_____	_____
French I/French II	_____	_____	Sign Language I/II	_____	_____
German I/German II	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**OR**

### COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY: (2 units - not including keyboarding or typing)

\_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONAL COURSE:** (1 unit from any of the subjects listed above or psychology, sociology or any concurrent liberal arts and science course at a State System institution)

\_\_\_\_\_

### FINE ARTS OR SPEECH:

(1 unit of music, art, drama or Speech - competencies WILL count if noted on the transcript.)

\_\_\_\_\_

ACT Score: \_\_\_\_\_ 17-unit OK Promise Core GPA (must be 2.50 or above) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Required for non-accredited schools and homeschooled students Overall GPA (transcript) (must be a 2.50 or above) \_\_\_\_\_

# Curriculum Worksheet – Why?

- Tracking from time of signing up
- Students know where they stand
- Shows both GPAs
- Helps the OKPromise office during evaluation
  - by showing us abbreviated courses
  - by letting us know what courses your school district counts as a "lab science"
  - if the OKPromise GPA is borderline, we can see what courses the counselor used to push it up to or over 2.50

# Will a class count?

- Check “What HS Courses Count...” on the OKPromise website: [www.okpromise.org](http://www.okpromise.org).
- Is this considered a college-prep course?
- AP Classes
- Use caution with Computer Technology classes

## Courses to Take - Course Guidelines for College Admission, High School Graduation, and Oklahoma's Promise

The following guidelines are designed to help students, parents, teachers, counselors and college officials determine what high school courses meet the State Regents' requirements for college admission, the eligibility requirements for Oklahoma's Promise and the requirements for the college preparatory/work-ready curriculum for Oklahoma high school graduation.

To meet approval, all courses must meet the following requirements:

- All courses must fit into one of the State Regents' categories for college admission: English, laboratory science, mathematics or history/citizenship skills; or be one of the following: foreign language, computer science/computer technology, psychology, sociology, Advanced Placement (AP), or most courses taken through concurrent enrollment. All additional units must fit one of these categories. Oklahoma's Promise also requires coursework in the fine arts.
- Students participating in Oklahoma's Promise must complete the [college preparatory curriculum as outlined](#). Students with a disability or on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) may participate in Oklahoma's Promise. However, to qualify for the scholarship, the core courses completed by the student must have the same academic content and be of the same academic rigor as the regular college preparatory core courses offered by the high school in the same academic subject. It is important to note that courses titled "Concepts" or "Essentials" exclude students from eligibility for Oklahoma's Promise and do not count toward curricular requirements for college admission.
- All courses must meet the Oklahoma Academic Standards, if standards have been developed for that course. Oklahoma Academic Standards can be found on the Oklahoma State Department of Education website at <http://ok.gov/sde/oklahoma-academic-standards>.



## Mathematics

Three units are required. All math courses must be taught at or above the rigor of Algebra I. Algebra courses taught over two years (i.e. Algebra IA and Algebra IB) will count as only one unit of mathematics. The following are acceptable courses for the mathematics requirement:

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>REQUIREMENTS</b>
Algebra I	Must be taught to <a href="#">Oklahoma Academic Standards</a> .
Geometry	Must be taught to <a href="#">Oklahoma Academic Standards</a> .
Algebra II	Must be taught to <a href="#">Oklahoma Academic Standards</a> .
AP Calculus (AB or BC)	Must be taught to AP course standards.
AP Statistics	Must be taught to AP course standards.
Algebra I taught in a contextual methodology	Must be taught to <a href="#">Oklahoma Academic Standards</a> for Algebra I.
Geometry taught in a contextual methodology	Must be taught to <a href="#">Oklahoma Academic Standards</a> for Geometry.
Algebra III	Must have completed Geometry and Algebra II.
Calculus	Must have completed Geometry and Algebra II.
Math Analysis	Must have completed Geometry and Algebra II.
Statistics and Probability	Must have completed Geometry and Algebra II.
Precalculus	Must have completed Geometry and Algebra II.
Trigonometry	Must have completed Geometry and Algebra II.
Digital Electronics (Career Technology Centers)	Must have completed Geometry and Algebra II.  The course must be offered as part of the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) curriculum and meet the PLTW course requirements.

# Curriculum Reminders (from past seniors' transcripts)

- Financial Literacy, Intermediate Algebra, Math of Finance and Tech Connect courses do not count toward the OKPromise curriculum.
- Current Events/Issues, International Problems, Problems of Democracy, Psychology and Sociology courses do not count as a “History or Citizenship Skills” course and may not be used for the OKPromise curriculum.
- Courses must be college prep. No ELL or SPED courses.
- Incomplete Program Verification forms (missing checkmarks, signatures, etc.)
- GPAs – two and both must be 2.50; No rounding. If you need assistance calculating the core GPA, please call OKPromise.
- Additional unit must be from the core curriculum and does not include fine arts.
- Cannot “double count” courses. The additional unit is “additional” not duplicated.

# Curriculum Reminders

## (cont.)

- If you want to weight a course, the grading scale must be on the transcript so that we know how much weight to assign.
- Please send complete transcripts (missing 8<sup>th</sup> grade courses, missing semesters, missing HS courses, etc.)
- When a student has a borderline GPA, check to see if he has more courses than you need in a subject area; use the highest grade possible. Use accurate grades on the curriculum worksheet. If the student does not meet the GPA, unfortunately they will not qualify.
- **Program Verification notes:**
  - Please send original PV packet and keep copies for yourself.
  - If you need an additional PV, there are blank ones on our website.

# GPAs

- ★ Overall GPA – taken from school’s calculation on the transcript
- ★ Core GPA – calculated from 17 units (only) of the OKPromise curriculum
  - Honors/AP classes – the grading scale must be on the transcript to weight these courses
  - Cumulative GPA but not by subject area

# Ideas & Suggestions

- Students (& parents) sign an agreement if they change/drop/add a course that will affect their OKPromise. (Be sure all school personnel are on the same page.)
- Student is on track for OKPromise but decides to go into the military or attend college out of state after high school. -- Encourage the student to complete the OKPromise requirements to have something to fall back on in case the other plans don't work out.

# Other Issues

- OKPromise students must meet the regular admission requirements in order to be eligible for the OKPromise award.
- Students on IEPs (language from website)
  - “... to qualify for the scholarship, the core courses completed by the student must have the same academic content and be of the same academic rigor as the regular college preparatory core courses offered by the high school in the same academic subject.”

# Second Income Limit

- Prior to receiving any program benefit in college or career education, the federal adjusted gross income (AGI) of the student's parents may not exceed \$100,000
- Students must file the FAFSA each year in college or career education
- For any year that the income exceeds \$100K, the student will not be eligible to receive OKPromise.
- Students can go in and out of eligibility with the second income limit

# We Need YOU!

- Encourage all students to file the FAFSA.
- Families who know they won't qualify for Pell still need to file.
- If they claim that they cannot file the FAFSA, they should contact the FA director at the college they plan to attend.
- **Remember! 2024-25 FAFSA opens up October 1, 2023.**



# Federal SAP Standards

- SAP = Satisfactory Academic Progress as defined by the college in which they are enrolled
- Applies to ALL college OKP students whether they are receiving federal aid or not
- Contains both GPA rqmts and minimum standards for completing courses in which the student enrolls
- Any OKPromise student on financial aid suspension for failure to meet SAP, will not be eligible to receive the OKPromise award

# Contact Information

**okpromise@osrhe.edu**

**OR**

**1.800.858.1840 (option 2)**

**Ron Reynolds**

**Lizeth Torres**

**Kelley Norris**

**Lynn Dennis**

**Carol Alexander**

