LINDSEY NICOLE HENRY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM

The Lindsey Nicole Henry (LNH) Scholarship program provides scholarships to eligible students with special needs in PK3 through 12th grade, allowing the student to apply the scholarship toward tuition and eligible expenses at a participating private school of their choice, provided the student meets at least one of the following criteria:

- The student has an Individualized Education Program (IEP), an Individualized Service Plan (ISP), or meets the eligibility standards for Special Education services in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- The student has had an Individualized Service Plan written by the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- The student is a child of a member of the United States Armed Forces who transfers to a school in Oklahoma from another state or a foreign country pursuant to a permanent change of station orders of the parent.
- The student was in out-of-home placement with DHS.
- The student was adopted while in permanent custody of DHS.
- The student is enrolling or is enrolled in a school that exclusively serves students experiencing homelessness.
- The student was in out-of-home placement with the Office of Juvenile Affairs.

New Eligibility Provision for Students Awaiting a Special Education Evaluation

Beginning November 1, 2026, Oklahoma law establishes timelines for school districts when a parent or legal guardian requests a special education evaluation:

- Within fifteen (15) school days after receiving a written request for a special education evaluation, the school district must schedule a meeting with the parent or legal guardian to review existing data.
- The school district shall complete the evaluation and make an eligibility determination within forty-five (45) school days from the date the parent signs consent for the initial evaluation to the date of the eligibility determination on the Multidisciplinary Evaluation and Eligibility Group Summary (MEEGS) form, except when federal law provides an exception to the forty-five (45) school day timeline.
- If the school district fails to make an initial eligibility determination within the applicable forty-five (45) school day timeline, the student shall be deemed eligible for purposes of receiving an LNH Scholarship using the State Aid factors for the applicable school year multiplied by the grade weight for which the student is eligible. Once a school district reaches an eligibility decision and determines that the student is eligible for special education services, the student shall receive the remaining special education weight pursuant to Oklahoma Statute Title 70 § 13-101.2(C).

Important: This provision applies for purposes of LNH Scholarship eligibility. It does not determine whether a student is eligible for special education services under IDEA.

Visit the Oklahoma State Department of Education website for a list of participating private schools and application information or contact us by phone at (405) 521-2372 or (405) 521-4876.

https://oklahoma.gov/education/services/special-education/lnh-scholarship.html