K12 ACADEMICS — STATE EDUCATION SERIES



Oklahoma
Education Guide

A complete profile — schools, testing, graduation, accountability, school choice, teacher certification & financial aid, each in depth.

K12 ACADEMICS

Find Your Community

2026 EDITION

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Everything about school in Oklahoma.

This guide profiles **Oklahoma**'s education system in seven parts, each a two-page deep dive with the key facts, plain-English explanations, and a link to the full, regularly-updated guide online. From K12 Academics, the world's largest education resource, online since 2004.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Education Overview · State Testing · Graduation Requirements · Accountability & Report Cards · School Choice · Teacher Certification · Financial Aid

SEARCH 200+ DIRECTORIES

K-12 Schools · Colleges & Universities · Vendors · Summer Programs · International Programs · Performers

Education Overview

EDUCATION IN OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma educates roughly 700,000 public K–12 students across about 510 school districts — many of them small, with enrollment concentrated in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa metros. Public education is overseen by the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) and the State Board. Oklahoma is distinctive on several fronts. It's a...

WHO MUST ATTEND SCHOOL

- **Start age** — 5 (by September 1)
- **End of compulsory age** — 18
- **Districts** — ~510, many small
- **Satisfying it** — Public, private, or "other means" (homeschool)

A UNIVERSAL PRE-K PIONEER

Oklahoma is one of the country's pioneers of universal prekindergarten : since 1998 , it has offered free, high-quality pre-K to all 4-year-olds through the public schools, and it has among the highest pre-K enrollment rates in the nation (roughly three in four eligible children). Oklahoma's program — including the nationally studied...

AT A GLANCE

Compulsory	Ages 5–18
Districts	~510
Testing	OSTP · ACT/SAT
Diploma	23 units
Choice	Tax credit

DISTRICTS & CHARTERS

Oklahoma's largest districts include Oklahoma City , Tulsa , Edmond , Broken Arrow , and Moore , alongside many small rural districts. Oklahoma has a charter-school sector (including statewide virtual charters). Oklahoma also drew national attention with St. Isidore of Seville — an effort to open the nation's first religious charter...

PRIVATE & INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN OKLAHOMA

- **Independent schools** — Nonprofit, board-governed schools such as Casady School and Heritage Hall (Oklahoma City), and Holland Hall and Cascia Hall (Tulsa)
- **Catholic & parochial schools** — Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and Diocese of Tulsa schools (such as Bishop McGuinness and Bishop Kelley)
- **Other religious & Christian schools** — A large network of Christian and faith-based schools
- **Specialty schools** — Montessori and schools for specific learning needs

READ OKLAHOMA'S FULL EDUCATION OVERVIEW GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

State Testing

WHAT YOUR STATE TESTS

Oklahoma uses the OSTP (Oklahoma School Testing Program) in grades 3–8 and a College and Career Readiness Assessment (CCRA) in grade 11 — the SAT or ACT , chosen by each district — plus a U.S. History test. Run by the Oklahoma State Department of Education. There's no exit-exam gate.

WHICH TESTS, WHICH GRADES

- **OSTP (grades 3–8)** — English language arts and mathematics; science in grades 5 and 8
- **CCRA (grade 11)** — The SAT or ACT (district choice) — a real, college-usable score
- **U.S. History (grade 11)** — A statewide history assessment
- **OAAP** — Alternate assessment for eligible students

FORMAT & SUBJECTS

OSTP is online ; the grade-11 CCRA follows the national SAT or ACT format depending on the district.

IS PASSING REQUIRED TO GRADUATE?

No exit-exam gate. Oklahoma doesn't require passing a state test to graduate; students complete course and credit requirements. The grade-11 SAT/ACT provides a college-usable score.

HOW IT 'S SCORED

OSTP reports performance levels; the grade-11 SAT (400–1600) or ACT (1–36) reports a college-readiness score.

AT A GLANCE

Grades 3–8	**OSTP**
Subjects	**ELA, Math; Science 5 & 8**
High school	**CCRA (SAT or ACT)**
Also	**US History (gr 11)**
Grad requirement?	**No exit-exam gate**
Format	**Online**

TESTING WINDOWS

OSTP, the CCRA, and U.S. History are given in a spring window set by each district.

HOW TO PREPARE

- **SAT prep for grade 11** — Our SAT guide and free Khan Academy Official SAT Practice apply to the grade-11 test
- **State practice tests** — The state provides free practice tests matching the real format

PARTICIPATION & OPTING OUT

Students in tested grades participate. Ask your district about make-up windows and any questions.

ACCOMMODATIONS & MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS

Accommodations follow a student's IEP or 504 plan ; eligible students take the state's alternate assessment. Multilingual learners take an English proficiency test (WIDA ACCESS or the state equivalent) and may receive designated supports.

READ OKLAHOMA'S FULL STATE TESTING GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

Graduation Requirements

AT A GLANCE

Oklahoma requires 23 units with no exit exam — the end-of-instruction (EOI) exams were removed as a graduation requirement. Students complete an Individual Career Academic Plan (ICAP) .

CREDIT & COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Oklahoma's 23 units include 4 English, 3 math, 3 lab science, 3 social studies, 2 world language or CTE, 1 arts, and electives (the college-prep/work-ready curriculum). Districts may require more.

TESTING TO GRADUATE

No exit exam. Oklahoma removed the EOI exams as a graduation requirement. Students take state assessments, but a passing academic score is not required to graduate.

DIPLOMA TYPES & HONORS

Oklahoma issues a standard diploma, with honors and the Seal of Biliteracy available. Strong records support Oklahoma's Promise eligibility (see OK financial aid).

ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS

Every student completes an Individual Career Academic Plan (ICAP) guiding course choices toward college and career goals.

AT A GLANCE

Units	23
Exit exam?	No (EOI exams dropped)
Required	ICAP (career/academic plan)
Districts	May require more
Confirm with	Your district

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **How many credits does Oklahoma require?** — The state sets a minimum, but your district may require more — confirm locally.
- **Does Oklahoma require a test to graduate?** — No — Oklahoma dropped the EOI exams; a passing test score is not required to graduate.
- **Are there different diploma types?** — Yes — plus honors designations and seals; see the diplomas section.
- **What if my student is behind on credits?** — Talk to the counselor about credit recovery and alternative pathways.
- **Where do I confirm the exact requirements?** — Your school counselor, district, and the state department of education.

READ OKLAHOMA'S FULL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

OKLAHOMA — PART 4 OF 7

Accountability & Report Cards

AT A GLANCE

Oklahoma gives each school an A-F grade on the Oklahoma School Report Cards , calculated from a points system across several indicators.

HOW THIS STATE RATES SCHOOLS

Oklahoma's A-F grade combines academic achievement, academic growth, graduation rate (high schools), English-language proficiency progress, chronic absenteeism, and postsecondary opportunities . Points map to a letter. Read the indicator grades (especially growth) alongside the overall.

WHAT GETS MEASURED

- **Academic achievement** — How students score on state tests (proficiency in reading/ELA and math)
- **Academic growth / progress** — How much students improve year to year — not just where they land
- **Graduation rate** — For high schools (the 4-year cohort rate)
- **English-learner progress** — How English learners are progressing toward proficiency
- **School quality / student success** — An extra indicator — often attendance/chronic absenteeism, college/career readiness, or similar

FINDING & READING THE REPORT CARD

Look up any school on the Oklahoma School Report Cards (oklaschools.com) . Review the growth and indicator grades and the trend, not just the letter.

AT A GLANCE

Format	**A-F letter grades**
Based on	**A points system across indicator...**
Tool	**Oklahoma School Report Cards**
Look up at	**oklaschools.com**

HOW FAMILIES SHOULD USE RATINGS

- **Read it in context** — A school's score reflects its students' circumstances too, not only its quality
- **Look at growth, not just scores** — Growth shows how much a school moves students — often more telling than raw proficiency
- **Check the trend** — Is the school improving over time?
- **Look past the summary** — Dig into the underlying data (subgroups, attendance, readiness)
- **Then visit** — Data raises questions; a visit answers them (see our guide on evaluating a school)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **How does Oklahoma rate schools?** — Oklahoma assigns an A-F grade from a points system across achievement, growth, and more.
- **What do the ratings measure?** — Test scores, growth, graduation rate, English-learner progress, and a school-quality indicator.
- **Where do I look up my school?** — On the state's official report-card portal (see below).
- **Should I choose a school by its rating alone?** — No — use it as a starting point, weigh growth and context, and visit.
- **What are CSI and TSI?** — Federal labels for schools flagged for Comprehensive or Targeted Support and Improvement.

READ OKLAHOMA'S FULL ACCOUNTABILITY & REPORT CARDS GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

School Choice

AT A GLANCE

Oklahoma has the Parental Choice Tax Credit — a refundable tax credit (roughly $5,000–$7,500 per student , more for lower-income families) that helps pay private-school tuition. Oklahoma also has a public charter sector.

THIS STATE'S CHOICE PROGRAMS

The Parental Choice Tax Credit gives families a refundable credit for private-school tuition and fees — $5,000 to $7,500 per student depending on household income (larger credits for lower incomes), plus a separate homeschool credit. It has an annual funding cap (around $250 million), with priority for lower-income families when demand...

ELIGIBILITY

The credit is broadly available , with larger amounts and priority for lower-income families, subject to the funding cap. Confirm current income tiers and amounts.

APPLYING

Apply through the Oklahoma Tax Commission 's program. Watch the application window (credits can run out against the cap) and confirm requirements.

AT A GLANCE

Program	**Parental Choice Tax Credit**
Type	**Refundable tax credit**
Amount	**$5,000–$7,500 per student**
Cap	**Annual funding cap ($250M)**
Confirm with	**OK Tax Commission**

PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE, TOO

- **Open enrollment / transfers** — Attend a public school outside your zone, where allowed (see our finding-your-school guide)
- **Charter schools** — Tuition-free public schools of choice (where available)
- **Magnet schools** — Tuition-free public schools with a specialized focus
- **Homeschooling** — Legal in all 50 states (rules vary)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Does Oklahoma have a private-school-choice program?** — Yes — Oklahoma has the refundable Parental Choice Tax Credit ($5,000–$7,500), subject to a funding cap.
- **What's the difference between an ESA and a voucher?** — A voucher pays a private school directly; an ESA is a flexible parent-managed account for many approved expenses.
- **What is a tax-credit scholarship?** — Donors get a tax credit for giving to organizations that fund private-school scholarships.
- **Is there public school choice too?** — Yes — open enrollment, charters, and magnets (plus homeschooling).
- **Where do I confirm the details?** — On the official state program site (see below).

READ OKLAHOMA'S FULL SCHOOL CHOICE GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

Teacher Certification

HOW LICENSURE WORKS HERE

Oklahoma certifies teachers through the Oklahoma State Department of Education . You complete an approved program, pass the required CEOE exams, and earn a Standard Certificate .

WHICH TESTS THIS STATE USES

- **OGET** — Oklahoma General Education Test (basic skills)
- **OSAT** — Oklahoma Subject Area Test(s) for your certification area
- **OPTE** — Oklahoma Professional Teaching Examination (pedagogy)
- **Note** — Requirements vary by certificate — confirm your specific tests

WHAT YOU NEED TO GET LICENSED

- **A bachelor's degree** — From an accredited college or university
- **A state-approved teacher-preparation program** — Completed at a college or through an approved alternative route
- **Student teaching / clinical practice** — Supervised classroom experience
- **Pass the required exams** — See the exams section above
- **A background check** — Fingerprint-based criminal background check
- **Apply to the state** — Submit your application and documents to the licensing agency

AT A GLANCE

Agency	**Oklahoma State Dept. of Educatio...**
General education	**OGET**
Subject	**OSAT**
Professional teaching	**OPTE**

OTHER PATHS INTO TEACHING

Most states offer alternative routes for career-changers and those with a degree in another field. In Oklahoma, these typically let you start teaching while completing licensure requirements — through district or university alternative-certification programs, residencies, or emergency/provisional permits. Requirements (and the exams) are...

RECIPROCITY & OUT-OF-STATE LICENSES

- **Interstate agreements** — Most states participate in the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement, which eases (but doesn't guarantee) recognition of an out-of-state license
- **You may still owe exams** — States often require you to meet their own testing (or coursework) requirements, sometimes within a grace period
- **Check both states** — Confirm the specific steps with Oklahomas agency and your current state

READ OKLAHOMA'S FULL TEACHER CERTIFICATION GUIDE
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Financial Aid

THE STATE AID PICTURE

Oklahoma's standout state aid is Oklahoma's Promise — a program students enroll in during middle/early high school that can cover college tuition — administered by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) .

NEED-BASED STATE GRANTS

- **Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant (OTAG)** — The state's need-based grant for Oklahoma residents at eligible in-state colleges — file early, as funds are limited.

PROMISE & FREE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS

Oklahoma's Promise (OHLAP) lets income-eligible students enroll in 8th–10th grade , complete a required curriculum and conduct standards, and then earn tuition at Oklahoma public colleges (or a portion at private/career-tech).

COLLEGE SAVINGS (529 PLAN)

The Oklahoma 529 plan offers a state income tax deduction for contributions.

APPLYING & THE STATE AGENCY

- **File the FAFSA early** — It's the trigger for state grants and many scholarships
- **Register with Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education** — Create the state agency's student account to track and claim awards
- **Confirm your details** — Verify residency, GPA, and enrollment as required
- **Meet any extra requirements** — Some programs need a separate form, GPA, or service commitment
- **Reapply every year** — State aid is awarded annually

AT A GLANCE

Free tuition (income-based)	**Oklahoma's Promise**
Need-based	**Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant**
529 plan	**Oklahoma 529**
Agency	**OSRHE**
Enroll in	**8th–10th grade for Promise**

DEADLINES & TIMING

State deadlines are typically much earlier than the federal FAFSA deadline , and some aid is first-come, first-served until funds run out. File the FAFSA as soon as it opens (in the fall) and confirm the state's specific priority date.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **How do I get Oklahoma state aid?** — File the FAFSA (and any state form) by the deadline; Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education administers the programs.
- **Is it need-based or merit?** — Both — Oklahoma offers need-based grants and merit scholarships.
- **Are the deadlines earlier than federal?** — Usually yes — file early, as some aid is first-come.
- **Can I use it out of state?** — Most Oklahoma aid is for in-state schools; check each program.
- **Does this list private scholarships?** — No — this guide covers official state programs only.

READ OKLAHOMA'S FULL FINANCIAL AID GUIDE
tools.k12academics.com →

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