



ROSENSTEIN, FIST & RINGOLD

RED BANNER UPDATE

Date: May 28, 2024

Re: HB 3792

Signed: May 21, 2024

Effective: July 1, 2024

Topic: Oklahoma Access and Achievement Act

Summary: This bill creates a new law (70 O.S. § 2501). The purpose of the Oklahoma Access and Achievement Program created by the Act is to provide an award for eligible students with intellectual disabilities who are pursuing studies at a CTP program. The award shall be an amount equal to the nonguaranteed resident tuition at an institution of higher education or the tuition at a technology center school.

A “CTP program” means a degree, certificate or nondegree program of an institution of higher education or technology center. A student with an “intellectual disability” means a student with a cognitive impairment who was eligible for a free appropriate public education under IDEA, or determined eligible for special education or related services under IDEA.

The Act sets forth eligibility criteria for the award and criteria for retaining eligibility for program participation. It also specifies circumstances in which students will not be considered to be in “financial need” qualifying them for an award pursuant to the Act.

Subject to availability of funds, the source of the awards for eligible students shall be the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund.

An award shall not be allowed for courses or other postsecondary units taken more than five (5) years after the eligible student’s first semester of postsecondary enrollment, except in hardship circumstances. No eligible student may receive benefits beyond a cumulative time period of 5 years.



Legal counsel at the firm is currently reviewing this legislation and will be advising clients as to any recommended changes to existing district policies.