

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
<u>Advanced Placement (AP)</u>	Yes	Use Advanced Placement Vertical Teams, which are groups of middle level and high school educators (usually teachers of grades 6 through 12) who develop and implement a vertically aligned program aimed at helping students acquire the academic skills for success in the AP program.	Yes	Low-income students	Yes	Funding is provided for AP tests for low-income students. Teacher training and extra funding are provided so that more high schools can add AP courses.
Bridge Programs	Yes	Bridge programs are offered sporadically, and funding has been cut recently. A summer academy in math and science has been offered.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-generation students • Low-income students 	Yes	State support scaled back due to budget cuts
College Level Exam Program (CLEP)	Yes	No details known or available	No		No	
Distance Learning/ Virtual School	Yes	All 3 state education agencies are involved. This includes the state-run Online College of Oklahoma , which is part of the national Merlot system . Concurrent enrollment courses are offered.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racial and ethnic minority students • Rural students 	Yes	The Online College is operated by the state. The state provides funding for all colleges to be part of the Merlot system.
Dropout Recovery	Yes	There are presently 8 state-funded dropout recovery programs that are housed on a regional basis at career technology education (CTE) centers.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-achieving students • Low-income students 	Yes	State funding
Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment	Yes	Called concurrent enrollment or cooperative agreements for technical courses	Yes	Low-income students in CTE courses	Yes	A new state policy permits financial aid to be awarded even though a student is enrolled for less than 6 hours; State funding is provided.
Early or Middle College High Schools	No		No		No	

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<u>Education Planning and Assessment System (EPAS)</u>	Yes	This system was developed by ACT. All students are tested in the 8th and 10th grade; Results are used to encourage more students to take the ACT (now about 75%) and also to undertake early remediation when needed.	No		Yes	There is major state involvement in coordination and funding of this program.
<u>GEAR UP</u>	Yes	GEAR UP includes public engagement and marketing using TV and radio to talk about college options. The state also involves high schools in looking at their own data to improve alignment with college prep standards.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latino(a) students • Low-income students 	Yes	There is major state involvement in coordination of this program.
<u>GED in College Settings</u>	Yes	GED is mainly controlled by schools through Adult Basic Education. However, some colleges are developing programs with good articulation to college career programs.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incarcerated youth • Low-income students • Older adults • Single parents • TANF recipients 	Yes	Students are not permitted to enter college GED program before their regular high school class would enter to prevent high-achieving students from dropping out, taking the GED, and going to college early.
<u>High Schools That Work</u>	Yes	HSTW is very active in Oklahoma; 39 schools participating.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At-risk students • Career-oriented students • ESL students • First generation students • Low-achieving students • Low-income students • Racial and ethnic minority students • Rural students • Socioeconomically disadvantaged students • Special population 	Yes	Coordinated through the OK Department of Career and Technical Education (CTE)
<u>International Baccalaureate (IB)</u>	Yes	Small and locally controlled. Two participating schools: Booker T. Washington High School and Calssen School of Advanced Studies	No		No	

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<u>Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program (OHLAP)</u>	Yes	Low-income students enroll in this program and commit to taking 17 units of challenging course work. Those graduating with a 2.5 GPA or better get full tuition scholarships to public or private colleges for up to 5 years. The average GPA in the program has been 3.5.	Yes	Low-income students	Yes	The state has a high level of commitment to sustain scholarship funding.
Small Learning Communities	Yes	Norman Public Schools in Cleveland County received an implementation grant.	No		Yes	Federal funding
<u>Tech Prep</u>	Yes	Administered by the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technical Education, which provides strong support for rigorous academics	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-traditional by gender • Racial and ethnic minority students • Rural students 	Yes	The state is piloting a program where students get immediate credit for college level CTE courses taken in high school. The state hopes this will motivate more students to go on to college.
<u>Technology Programs in Regional Career Centers</u>	Yes	Serves grades 10 through adult and is linked to community colleges; Also provides classes too expensive for high schools.	Yes	A part of the state’s accountability system requires tracking of the following student groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-achieving students • Low-income students • Racial and ethnic minority students • Students with disabilities. 	Yes	Federal, state and local funding; Local funding is 70% of the total.

Summary of academic pathways:

The state has a wide variety of academic pathways, including several that are unique to Oklahoma. Dual credit is a high priority with a current focus on making sure that credit is transferable. There are also pilot initiatives to examine ways to increase the support provided to students while they are in dual credit classes. The OHLAP and EPAS programs are seen as very important. These programs are considered a promise by the government to the state’s youth, and there is a high level of commitment to fully fund the scholarships attached to OHLAP.



Interesting or unique models identified by state officials:

- The High Schools That Work initiative
- The Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program
- The Online College of Oklahoma
- The Technology Career Centers

Observations by state officials about special efforts to reach underserved students:

Special efforts are made to promote increased access to college for diverse groups of students, including racial and ethnic minority, low-achieving, low-income, and rural students. There are 39 Native American tribes in the state, and they are fully integrated into the regular schools.

Observations by state officials about state support for pathways:

The state provides support for a number of the academic pathways, and it directly implements others including the Online College of Oklahoma, OHLAP and EPAS. Oklahoma has demonstrated a commitment to providing scholarship aid to assist students in paying for college. The state is considering a gaming bill that would provide a dedicated funding stream for scholarships. In addition, they are working with the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships on a federal bill that would make dual credit students eligible for financial aid.

Lessons learned by state officials:

- In a diverse state like Oklahoma, special efforts are needed to make sure that programs are well matched to different groups of students.
- Oklahoma has three education agencies and all need to coordinate efforts if the development of these pathways is to succeed.
- These initiatives need to be publicized well, ideally using people from the groups as the change agents.

Programs recommended by state officials:

<u>Pathways</u>	<u>Educational Institution</u>	<u>Contact person</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
EPAS, OHLAP, GEAR UP	Southeast Oklahoma State University	Betty Finnell	--	(580) 745-2000
HSTW	Durant Public Schools	John Jackson	--	(580) 924-1276
Tech Prep	Putnam City Public Schools	Jim Caps	--	(405) 495-5200



OKLAHOMA

State Profile

State official's contact information:

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(Prepared by Elisabeth Barnett and Eunyoung Kim/ Updated January, 2006/ *State official reviewed this state profile.)