



# Building Success

## Parental Guide for Education: Pre-K and Beyond

Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City, Inc.  
Parent Resource Center

# Our Mission

To assist African Americans, other minorities and the poor to achieve social and economic equality.

## ABOUT URBAN LEAGUE

The Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City, Inc. was established in 1946 as an affiliate of the National Urban League and a United Way Partner Agency. Today, the Urban League serves more than 8,000 clients annually.

We work to accomplish this mission through advocacy, research and program services in four major areas:

- Workforce and Career Development
- Education and Family Development
- Housing and Financial Literacy
- Community Convening & Social Justice

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[urbanleagueok.org](http://urbanleagueok.org)

# Urban League of Greater OKC, Inc.

The Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City's (ULOKC) Parent Resource Center (PRC) is a tool to empower parents to be more informed and successful advocates for excellent public schools, to educate parents about school choices and to equip parents with skills to become leaders and advocates in their child's school. With the assistance of the Walton Foundation, the ULOKC's PRC develops and distributes culturally sensitive information for parents that will engage and educate parents in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area on public schools and school choices.

Through a partnership with the Walton Foundation, the Urban League is addressing the need for more parental education and involvement to raise the quality of education for African Americans in central Oklahoma.

Oklahoma City Public Schools (OKCPS) is the largest school district in the state. The majority of students in the district are minority. Only 16% of the students are Caucasian. Additionally the State Department of Education reports that 90% of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch, meaning they fall below the poverty line. With OKCPS holding one of the largest concentrations of African American students and also one of the largest concentrations of failing schools, the need for change is evident. As the state legislation continues cutting education across the board OKCPS faces one of its biggest funding crisis. To combat cuts we must create partnerships between parents and community advocates that push for the resources and funding our children deserve.

One way to do our part to improve education is by first informing our parents of every day learning tools they can use for their child's success. Reports show only, 49% of the black students in grades 3rd through 8th are proficient in reading. In a recent push for the reduction of the achievement gap in OKCPS task forces and committees have begun focusing on equity over equality. School board member and Ruth Veales says, "Yes, we aspire to one day be in an equal situation, but currently, with students that are so far behind, we really need to focus in on equity. We need to get everyone on the same playing field in order for them to accomplish the same educational goals." The need to achieve equity in our schools parental involvement is essential. As the key advocates for their children, parents have the ability to force public schools to be responsive to their child's needs.

The ULOKC PRC strives to be a clearinghouse in the African American community in Oklahoma City to assist parents in navigating the public school system and supporting educational advocacy.

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## Building a Stronger OKC Community

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The Black community has a long history and tradition in placing the highest value on education. However, opportunities for our children to obtain quality education in our community have been limited for various reasons.

The Oklahoma Department of Education recently released the 2015 report card on the Oklahoma City public schools, which is the state's largest district with 46,000 students. That District had 43 F's compared to 34 F's in 2015. The district also had fewer A's (3), B's (6) and D's (15) compared to 2015 (not including charter school). It is important that we, as the Black community continue to be involved and work together to improve our schools.

Our focus must be on fighting for quality education for our children. We want to ensure that every child in Oklahoma City is prepared to enter Kindergarten and every child can read at his or her grade level at 3rd grade.

Understanding milestones that each child needs to meet: at 3rd grade (reading at grade level), 6th grade (passing math at grade level), 8th grade (passing pre-ACT exam), 9-11th grade (meeting the college admission scores) is critical to our children's success.



We want to ensure that by 12th grade they have been prepared and are ready to take their next step into college.

Whether you have a child, grandchild, niece, nephew, or god child, it is our responsibility to understand the choices and the impact we can make in the quality of education for our community. Black parental involvement in our schools is necessary.

Each school year, let's listen, observe, and ask questions about our schools and speak out on the need for quality education. We all have a voice and choice in education.

# Twenty Year Snapshot of Black Oklahoma: Why Education is Important



Median Household Income

	Black	White
1996	\$25,440	\$39,579
2016	\$32,390	\$56,089



Below the Poverty Line

1996	29.3%	11.7%
2016	30%	13%



Unemployment Rate

1996	12%	7%
2016	13.1%	5.9%



Educational Attainment

1996	High School Graduate	82%	91.5%
	Bachelors Degree	60.6%	40.3%
2016	High School Graduate	79.7%	84.8%
	Bachelors Degree	25.%	35.6%

# Why is Parental Involvement Important?

## **When Should Parents Get Involved?**

Starting involvement early leads to greater success.

Parental involvement is successful when parents engage in learning activities at home. Examples: reading together, encouraging art, playing counting games.

## **Impact**

Parent involvement forces schools to improve and be responsive to their student's needs.

Lack of parental involvement is one of the biggest problem facing public schools.

## **Parent Expectations and Student Achievement:**

Students who have parents involved in their learning have greater success.

## **Why Get Involved?**

Parents involved in their child's school improves behavior, regular attendance and positive attitudes. Being involved in your child's school shows your child you care about their education.

## **Benefits for You**

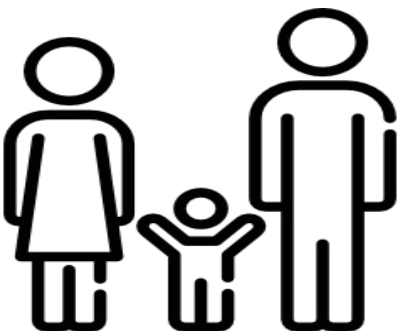
Parental involvement helps you bond with your child and can boost your confidence in parenting and any decision-making when it comes to your child's education.

## **Successful parents:**

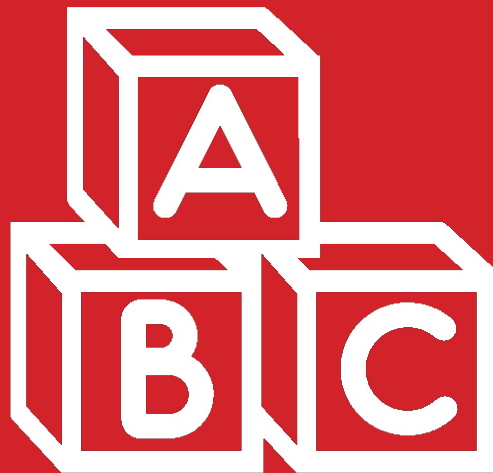
Create a home environment that encourages learning.

Make high (but not unrealistic) expectations for your child's achievement and future careers.

Become involved in their children's education at school and in the community.



# Early Childhood What Parents Can Do





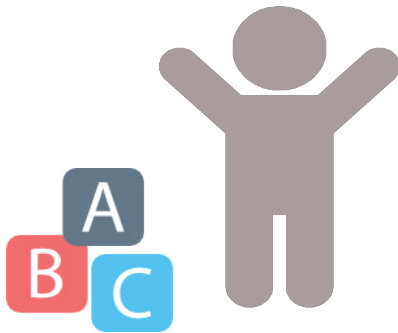
# Early Education: Pre K

Early childhood is the best time to shape your kid's future learning achievements. Research shows that achievement gaps start as early as 18 months.

Well prepared kindergartners are more likely to meet standards in 3rd grade.



Ready for Kindergarten



Proficient & advanced in 3rd grade tests **62%**



Not Ready for Kindergarten

**6%** Proficient & advanced in 3rd grade tests



## Community Resources:

### Pre-K Programs:

Educare: <http://www.okceducare.org>

Jubilee Academy: <http://www.jubileepartnersokc.org>

Head Start: [http://caaofokc.org/community\\_services\\_headstart](http://caaofokc.org/community_services_headstart)

### Parent Tips

Earlybirds <http://www.earlybirdsok.org>

Books to read before starting school: <http://www.livebinders.com/media/get/MTIxNjE5MzA=>

More Resources: <http://www.livebinders.com/play/play?id=1701255%20%20#anchor>

# Early Education Guide: Zero to Three

<b>Your Baby Is:</b>	<b>You Can:</b>
<p><b>Language and Communication</b></p> <p>Babies express their needs and feelings through sounds and cries, body movements, and facial expressions. Your baby will begin using words sometime around 1 year. By the time she is 3, she will be speaking in short (3-5 word) sentences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch and listen to see how your baby communicates what she is thinking and feeling.</li> <li>• Repeat the sounds and words your child uses and have back-and-forth conversations.</li> <li>• Read, sing, and tell stories. These are fun ways to help your child understand the meaning of new words and ideas.</li> <li>• Talk about what you do together—as you play, do errands, or visit friends and family.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Thinking Skills</b></p> <p>Your child is learning how the world works by playing and exploring. Through play, babies and toddlers learn about how things work and how to be good problem-solvers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage your child to explore toys in different ways—by touching, banging, stacking, shaking.</li> <li>• Turn everyday routines into playful learning moments. For example bath time is a chance to learn about ideas like sinking/floating and wet/dry.</li> <li>• Follow your child’s interests. Children learn best through activities that excite them.</li> <li>• Ask your child questions that get him thinking as he nears age 3. For example, when reading a book together, ask “Why do you think the girl is laughing?”</li> </ul>
<p><b>Self-Confidence</b></p> <p>Your child is learning that she is a very special person; that she is loved, smart, fun, and capable. When children feel good about themselves, they are more confident and willing to take on new challenges. Support child in healthy risk taking and in trying new activities and provide encouragement when child is hesitant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comment on what your child does well. You found the button that makes the bear pop up!</li> <li>• Help your child be a good problem-solver. Give her the support she needs to be successful without completely solving the problem for her.</li> <li>• Give your child the chance to do things for herself like pouring milk from a small plastic pitcher.</li> <li>• Encourage your child to keep trying. You are working so hard to get the ball in the basket. Sometimes it takes lots of tries!</li> </ul>
<p><b>Self-Control</b></p> <p>Over the first 3 years, your child is beginning to develop self-control—the ability to manage his feelings and actions in acceptable ways. He is also learning to wait, share, and work out problems with his friends.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use words to help your child understand his feelings. You are really mad because we have to leave the park.</li> <li>• Give choices to older toddlers. Would you like to read books before or after we brush teeth?</li> <li>• Stay calm when your child is upset. This helps him feel safe and get back in control.</li> </ul>

# Kindergarten Parent Math and Reading Practice Tips

Kindergarten is the best way to put your child on track for success. This time is full of playing, singing, and craft-making, but it is balanced with writing, reading, and math lessons.

## Math

- **Practice Shape Recognition-** a pizza is a triangle shape, a stop sign is an octagon
- **Solve Puzzles-** let them learn shapes, patterns, and sizes
- **Apply Math in Everyday Life-** count everyday things like stuffed animals, forks on the table, etc
- **Play Number Guessing-** pick a number and let them guess by hinting if it is higher or lower
- **Learn to Count Money-** give children a piggy bank and pass of unwanted coins such as pennies

## Reading

- **Read Every Day-** the easiest way to develop their skills is reading daily
- **Develop Your Child's Curiosity for Books-** ask questions about the stories: if there is a giraffe ask what they know about that animal
- **Read Non-Fiction Books-** include books about animals, bugs, etc to encourage curiosity about the world
- **Sing Songs to Your Child-** listening to lyrics can help children develop vocab
- **Encourage Writing and Drawing-** scribbling, drawing pictures to fit stories encourage it all



# Ready-for-School Checklist

## Language and General Knowledge

### My child:

- Has many opportunities to talk and listen
- Is read to every day
- Has access to books and other reading materials
- Is learning about print and books
- Has his television viewing monitored by an adult
- Is encouraged to ask questions
- Is encouraged to solve problems
- Has opportunities to notice similarities and differences
- Is encouraged to sort and classify things
- Is learning to write her name and address
- Is learning to count and plays counting games
- Is learning to identify and name shapes and colors
- Has opportunities to draw, listen to and make music and to dance
- Has opportunities to get first-hand experiences to do things in the world-to see and touch objects, hear new sounds, smell and taste foods and watch things move

## Social and Emotional Preparation

### My child:

- Is learning to explore and try new things
- Is learning to work well alone and to do many tasks for himself
- Has many opportunities to be with other children and is learning to cooperate with them
- Is curious and is motivated to learn
- Is learning to finish tasks
- Is learning to use self-control
- Can follow simple instructions
- Helps with family chores

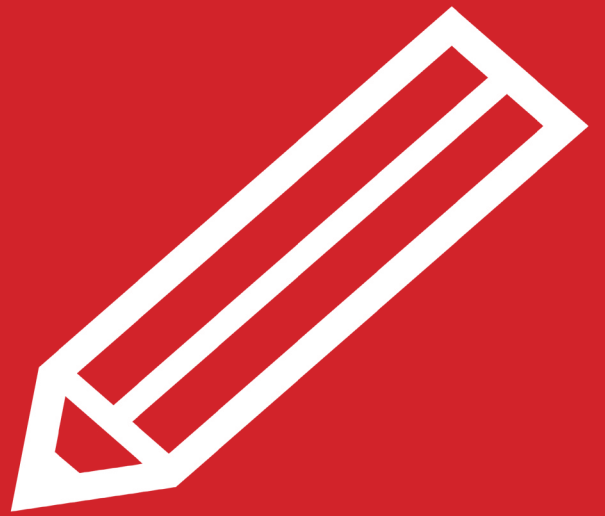
## Good Health and Physical Well-Being

### My child:

- Eats a balanced diet
- Gets plenty of rest
- Receives regular medical and dental care
- Has had all the necessary immunizations
- Runs, jumps, plays outdoors and does other activities that help develop large muscles and provide exercise
- Works puzzles, scribbles, colors, paints and does other activities that help develop small muscles

For a free copy of U.S. Department of Education's guide, *Helping Your Preschool Child* go to: [www.edpubs.gov](http://www.edpubs.gov) or contact the urban league at 405-424-5243.

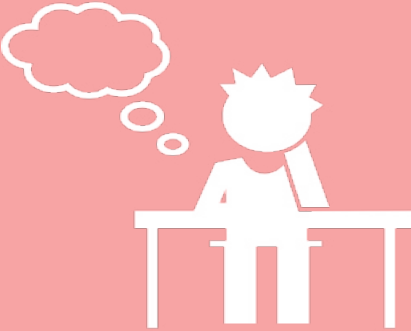
# Guiding Your Child Through Grade School



# Fundamentals of Learning

For kids in elementary school and middle school the **Oklahoma Core Curriculum Tests** are important ways to track your child's success. The major benchmarks in elementary and middle school that lead to educational success are third grade reading levels and eighth grade math skills. Third grade reading levels predict whether a child is more likely to fall behind the rest of their peers. Eighth grade math skills predict future success in college readiness.

To make sure your child reaches these benchmarks pay attention to their progress throughout all of their grade school education.



The OCCT, Oklahoma Core Curriculum Test measures the levels of your child's knowledge. Important tests or benchmarks to pay attention to are the third grade reading and the eighth grade math.

Although there is no set test prep you can tell your child's preparedness based on grades and discussions with their teacher. If you are worried mention this to their teacher and find outside ways they can continue practicing their skills.

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## 1st Grade- 5th Grade

In elementary school, reading with your child is a must. Even after kids have learned to read on their own, teachers and education specialists recommend that parents continue reading with their kids, choosing books that are too difficult for them to read on their own. Take turns reading from a book together.

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## 6th Grade - 8th Grade

During middle school, it is important to make sure your child attends class everyday. Starting as early as preschool, too many absences can undermine a child's ability to read well, do math and develop the persistence needed to succeed in school. By middle school, kids who are absent regularly becomes a red flag as a sign that a student will likely drop out of high school. Falling behind and missing classes during these years leave kids unprepared to meet benchmarks that lead to high school and beyond.

# Know your child's teacher

As a parent you know your child the best. Parents often believe that teachers are the best leaders for their kids learning but teachers appreciate parents who give them cues to what issues a child is facing at home.

## Contact your child's teacher at the beginning of the year

- Show your interest to the teacher so they know you want to be updated throughout the year

## Parent teacher conferences

- Attend parent teacher conferences, these are the best ways to communicate the needs of your child to their teacher
- Talk about your child's talents, skills, hobbies, study habits and any special sensitivities such as concern about weight or speech difficulties

## Mention things going on at home

- This helps a teacher know if they need to take special care with your child or organize extra work to keep them on pace with the rest of their grade
- Examples: family move, new baby, illnesses

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## What a Teacher Expects from You

- Help your student by developing a routine or specific time for homework where you are available to help or listen if needed. You are vital to their success.
- Ensure your child is at school, on time, every day possible. Arrange for vacations, trips, etc. during days off school.
- Make sure your child eats a healthy breakfast each morning so they can function in class.
- Make sure your student is getting adequate sleep at night to support their growing body and mind.
- Be a positive role model in your child's eyes who shows interest in reading and learning new things.



# Parents Tips:

For busy parents the easiest way to encourage your child's learning is by asking questions. Talking about school helps both you and your child communicate with the teacher about what your kid needs. As a parent you know your child best.

## **Communicate**

Asking questions is the easiest and fastest way to encourage your child's learning. Asking them about their day reinforces what they have learned and also shows that school is important to you and should be for them.

Questions to ask:

- Ask which subjects your child likes or dislikes
- What subjects are giving them a hard time
- What subject are they having a hard time learning
- What did you learn? Emphasis on what your kid learned not what grade they recieved

Listen to your child:

- As your child ages more than likely they will grow more sensitive as emotions change
- Social pressures grow during this time which can lead to stress and attitudes that previously did not exist
- Be patient
- If you ask a question make sure to listen and respond to let them know you are paying attention



## **Fun ways to continue learning: After school recording**

Repetition of subjects help kids store the memory of what they have learned

- Children often get home before busy parents
- Set up an area at the dining table or a place in their room where your kids can write down or record what they have learned
- Make the space fun provide crayons, markers, or even encourage videos using social media tools that inspire your kid to get creative while continuing their learning process.
- Encourage them to tell stories about their friends, classmates, or field trips
- Take the time to watch and respond with a question or comment about something specific



## Middle School 6th- 8th Grade

- Encourage your child to get involved in STEM- science, technology, engineering, and math (teachers will have tips and tools to help)
- Connect learning to current events
- Take the focus off the grade and just encourage them to enjoy learning
- Encourage your child to join an extracurricular activity
- Ask questions about your child's classes and teachers. Ask about homework and assignments. Knowing that you care will help your child take school seriously.
- Explore their interests in their favorite subjects
- Find out if electives are available and sign your child up for ones that match their interests

### **Planning for High School Don't be afraid of HONORS CLASSES!**

Pre-enrolling in honors classes for 9th grade is the best way to start high school off right. If your student is too nervous to take all honors classes remember the courses they showed interest in and pick those.

- Class rotations start in middle school be aware that while your student may have one homeroom teacher multiple teachers are with your kid throughout the day

# High Schoolers and Parents Guide to College





# Create Your Checklist

## STUDENT COLLEGE READINESS 9-12TH GRADE

### Students

- Take challenging classes in core academic subjects.
- Work with one of your parents to estimate your financial aid using the FAFSA4caster.gov
- Save for college.
- Get involved in school- or community-based activities that interest you or let you explore career interests.
- Ask your guidance counselor or teachers what Advanced Placement courses are available
- Start a list of your awards, honors, paid and volunteer work, and extra-curricular activities.

### Parents

- Talk to your child about college plans as if he or she will definitely go to college.
- Keep an eye on your child's study habits and grades—stay involved.
- Encourage your child to take Advanced Placement or other challenging classes.
- Add to your child's college savings account regularly; and make sure you are fully aware of the provisions of the account.

# Visiting College

- Starting junior year students are given a selected amount of excused absences to visit colleges
- Find out how many days your student has to visit colleges and make use of them

- It is important to visit colleges to help inspire your child to set goals and select the best fit for them

- Visit the campus starting junior year and ask you college host questions:



- What activities and services are available to help students get settled during their first year?
- What is the total cost of attending college?
- What types of financial aid does the college offer and how do I apply?
- What activities are available to students?
- What services (such as transportation and shopping) are available locally? Or any other questions you may have.



# Types of Schools and Degrees



## Research University:

Offers bachelors, graduate and professional degrees. These schools typically have greater size and diversity and offer a wide range of majors to students.

Example: University of Oklahoma

## Certificate:

Credential awarded for an organized program of study that does not lead to an academic degree.

## Public Liberal Arts University:

Grants bachelor's degrees in arts and science fields, including humanities. These schools tend to have smaller class sizes that facilitate close interaction between faculty and students.

## Associate in Arts or Associate in Science Degree:

Awarded upon completion of two years of full-time college work. State Regents recognize these degrees transfer to any university.

## Regional University:

Offers bachelor's and master's degrees, and in some instances, associate or professional degrees. These schools have a smaller population than research universities.

Example: University of Central Oklahoma

## Associate in Applied Science Degree:

Grants associate degrees for transfer to four-year institutions or for career preparation. They usually offer flexible class schedules with smaller class sizes.

## Community College:

Offers associate degrees for transfer to four-year institutions or for career preparation. They usually offer flexible class schedules with smaller class sizes.

Example: Oklahoma City Community College

## Bachelor's Degree:

Degree requires four years of full-time college work (minimum 120 credit hours). The State Regents recognize three types of bachelor's degrees – Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of (Specialty), such as Music, Engineering, etc.

## Technical Branch:

Grants applied associate degrees, some Bachelor of Technology degrees and a limited number of associate degrees for transfer to four-year institutions. Technical branches emphasize education and training in technical fields.

Example: Metro Tech

# Financial Aid

There are four different types of financial aid available: scholarships, grants, work-study and student loans.

## FAFSA

To apply for federal financial aid (grants, work-study and student loans), Oklahoma's Promise and the Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant Program (OTAG), you and your parents must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You'll need to have your parents' tax return(s) – along with yours – to complete the FAFSA. Even if you don't think you need financial aid (or qualify for it), fill out the FAFSA anyway. Most students qualify for some form of federal financial aid! Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after Oct. 1 of your senior year and each year you need financial aid. Visit [StartWithFAFSA.org](http://StartWithFAFSA.org) to find FAFSA completion tools, including video tutorials available in English and Spanish.



## Oklahoma's Promise

Oklahoma's Promise allows students to earn a college tuition scholarship if they meet certain academic and conduct requirements in high school. You must sign up in the eighth, ninth or 10th grade, and your family's income cannot be more than \$50,000\* per year at the time you apply. There are additional financial, academic and conduct requirements to get and keep the scholarship in college.

## Scholarships

**GO LOCAL.** Many clubs, civic organizations and churches offer scholarships. If you aren't sure, ask! Applying locally for scholarships means you're competing against fewer people.

**DON'T MISS THE BOAT.** Apply for as many scholarships as possible and keep track of the requirements for each one so you don't miss out on free money by forgetting to include your transcript or submitting your application after the deadline.

**DO THE "WRITE" THING.** Many scholarships require an essay, but don't let that discourage you. Scholarships that require essays have fewer applicants, which means you have a greater chance of winning the award.

**DO YOUR RESEARCH.** Set up an appointment with your school counselor to talk about your scholarship options. Many colleges post available scholarships on their websites. Check with the school(s) you plan to attend to learn about scholarships they may offer.

Sign up for Oklahoma's Promise now if your family meets requirements outlined at [okpromise.org](http://okpromise.org).

Explore [OKcollegestart.org](http://OKcollegestart.org) and [UCanGo2.org](http://UCanGo2.org) to learn more about paying for college. Start researching the colleges you're interested in and learn what types of financial aid they offer. Find out if scholarships are available in the fields you're interested in and what the requirements are so you can plan early to apply. Scholarships are called "free money" because they don't have to be paid back. Students earn scholarships based on financial need, grades, talents and life experiences.

Ask family members to open an Oklahoma College Savings Plan account by calling 877.654.7284 or visiting [ok4saving.org](http://ok4saving.org). OCSP offers tax advantages for families, and funds can be used at nearly all colleges and universities in the United States.

# Tests Are Important

- Review the test results for children at all levels.
- Learn from graded material- class materials and sections build from one to the next.
- Discuss the wrong answers with your child and ask for help to find out why they were missed
- If teacher's comments are unclear ask to clarify.

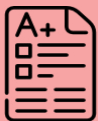
## Do's and Don't's

### Do

- Do encourage children
- Provide books and magazines for your child to read at home
- Provide a quiet, comfortable place for studying at home
- Make sure your child attends school regularly
- Meet with your child's teacher as often as possible to discuss his/her progress
- Ask the teacher to suggest activities for you and your child to do at home to help prepare for tests and improve your child's understanding of schoolwork
- Give your child a well rounded diet. Most schools provide free breakfast and lunch for economically disadvantaged students

### Don't

- Don't be too anxious about a child's test scores. If you put too much emphasis on test scores, this can upset a child.
- Don't judge a child on the basis of a single test score. Test scores are not perfect measures of what a child can do. There are many other things that might influence a test score. For example, a child can be affected by the way he or she is feeling, the setting in the classroom, and the attitude of the teacher. Remember, also, that one test is simply one test.



## Standardized Testing: ACT and SAT

Both the ACT and SAT are available in Oklahoma. High schoolers should start preparing for the ACT and/or SAT towards the end of 9th grade and take their first one no later than fall semester junior year. The earlier students take the test the earlier they can find their weak points and correct them.

For students looking to attend schools out of state the SAT is sometimes required by colleges. If your student is questioning which one to take have them call the college's admissions office.

# 2017 SAT Dates

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/deadlines>

SAT Date	SAT Subject Tests Available	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline	Deadline for Changes
<b>Oct 7th, 2017</b>	SAT subjects offered on this day go to website to find out which ones	<b>September 8th, 2017</b>	September 27, 2017 (for online or phone registration)	<b>August 15, 2017</b>
<b>Nov 4th, 2017</b>	SAT subjects offered on this day go to website to find out which ones	<b>October 5th, 2017</b>	October 25, 2017 (for online or phone registration)	<b>September 27, 2017</b>
<b>Dec 2nd, 2017</b>	SAT subjects offered on this day go to website to find out which ones	<b>November 2nd, 2017</b>	November 21, 2017 (for online or phone registration)	<b>November 21, 2017</b>

## Test Locations

✓ **CARL ALBERT SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**  
 Address: 2009 S Post Rd, Midwest City, OK 73130  
 Center Code: 37135

✓ **JOHN MARSHALL MS/HS**  
 Address: 12201 N. Portland Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73120  
 Center Code: 37153

✓ **OKLAHOMA SCH OF SCIENCE + MATH**  
 Address: Ossm Library On 10th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73104  
 Center Code: 37152

✓ **UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA**  
 Address: Dale Hall, Norman, OK 73019  
 Center Code: 37140

\* Center Codes allow students to sign up for testing for free.



# Upcoming ACT Test Days and Locations Oklahoma City

<http://www.act.org>

- ✓ **Astec Charter School**  
Center Code: 216250
  - Test Dates
  - 28-OCT-17
  - 09-DEC-17
  - 10-FEB-18
- ✓ **Douglass High School**  
Center Code: 230510
  - Test Dates
  - 28-OCT-17
  - 09-DEC-17
  - 10-FEB-18
- ✓ **Dove Science Academy**  
Center Code: 229470
  - Test Dates
  - 28-OCT-17
  - 09-DEC-17
  - 10-FEB-18
- ✓ **Harding Charter Preparatory HS**  
Center Code: 218170
  - Test Dates
  - 28-OCT-17
- ✓ **Metro Technology**  
Center Code: 209560
  - Test Dates
  - 09-DEC-17
- ✓ **Mount Saint Mary HS**  
Center Code: 183800
  - Test Dates
  - 28-OCT-17
  - 09-DEC-17
- ✓ **Northwest Classen HS**  
Center Code: 232560
  - Test Dates
  - 28-OCT-17
  - 09-DEC-17
  - 10-FEB-18
- ✓ **Oklahoma Centennial High**  
Center Code: 236400
  - Test Dates
  - 28-OCT-17
  - 09-DEC-17
  - 10-FEB-18
- ✓ **Oklahoma City University**  
Center Code: 034160
  - Test Dates
  - 28-OCT-17
  - 09-DEC-17
  - 10-FEB-18

\* Center Codes allow students to sign up for testing for free.

# Upcoming ACT Test Days and Locations Oklahoma City cntd.

- ✓ **Oklahoma City Community College**  
Center Code: 034310
  - Test Dates
  - 28-OCT-17
  - 09-DEC-17
  - 10-FEB-18
- ✓ **Oklahoma School of Science & Math**  
Center Code: 063210
  - Test Dates
  - 28-OCT-17
  - 10-FEB-18
- ✓ **Oklahoma St Univ - Oklahoma City**  
Center Code: 034230
  - Test Dates
  - 28-OCT-17
  - 09-DEC-17
  - 10-FEB-18
- ✓ **Parkview Adventist Academy**  
Center Code: 206251
  - Test Dates
  - SUN 29-OCT-17
  - SUN 11-FEB-18
- ✓ **Putnam City High School**  
Center Code: 183320
  - Test Dates
  - 28-OCT-17
  - 09-DEC-17
  - 10-FEB-18
- ✓ **Putnam City North High School**  
Center Code: 154720
  - Test Dates
  - 28-OCT-17
  - 09-DEC-17
  - 10-FEB-18
- ✓ **Putnam City West Sr High School**  
Center Code: 198100
  - Test Dates
  - 28-OCT-17
  - 09-DEC-17
  - 10-FEB-18
- ✓ **Southeast High School**  
Center Code: 233610
  - Test Dates
  - 28-OCT-17
  - 09-DEC-17
  - 10-FEB-18
- ✓ **Westmoore High School**  
Center Code: 212900
  - Test Dates
  - 28-OCT-17
  - 09-DEC-17
  - 10-FEB-18

\* Center Codes allow students to sign up for testing for free.

# Federal TRIO Programs

Federal TRIO programs are federal outreach and student service programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds ( Low income individuals, first-generation college students, individuals with disabilities).

The doors are open

## Don't miss your opportunity

- The Federal TRIO Programs 2017 low-income levels is available
- Oklahoma State University Upward bound program offers students year-round support to participating students. Upward Bound gives the high school student a chance to learn first-hand what college life is all about and helps the student develop skills necessary to succeed in college. The program emphasizes reading, writing, math, science, and study skills. Personal, career, and academic counseling is also provided.
- Sooner Upward Bound is comprised of both an academic year curriculum and a six-week summer sooner academic institute, The curriculum is designed to develop college-requisite competency. The program emphasizes reading, writing, math, science, and study skills. Personal, career, and academic counseling is also provided.

# School Choice Options: Choosing What's Best for Your Child



# Charter Schools

Charter schools are public schools. They are responsive to student needs and held accountable for improved student achievement and financial accountability. Charter schools operate with freedom from many of the regulations that apply to traditional public schools. In exchange for that flexibility, charters are held accountable not only to the state, but also their charter sponsor and governance board.

## Special Qualities

Charter schools are given freedom to innovate, choose their own curriculum and create their own discipline systems. Some specialty charter schools focus on areas such as math, fine arts, science or health (see magnet schools).

**Transportation:** Charter schools may or may not provide transportation.

**Tuition:** None, though some charter schools have activity or program fees.

**Sports & Extracurricular Activities:** Many charters offer many extracurricular activities, including sports.

## How to Apply:

Public charter schools are open to all students to enroll. When applications exceed the school's capacity, a random lottery is held. Students are not tested for admission.

Charter schools cannot "limit admission based on ethnicity, national origin, gender, income level, disabling condition, English proficiency, measures of achievement, aptitude, or athletic ability."

## Links and Sources

Oklahoma Public Charter School Association

[www.okcharters.org](http://www.okcharters.org)

State Department of Education -

[www.ok.gov/sde/faqs/oklahoma-charter-schools-program](http://www.ok.gov/sde/faqs/oklahoma-charter-schools-program)

Current Charter Schools of Oklahoma -

[www.ok.gov/sde/current-charter](http://www.ok.gov/sde/current-charter)

Additional source: [www.familiesempowered.org](http://www.familiesempowered.org)

# Educational Savings Account

EDUCATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS give families direct control over their child's share of education funding and allows parents to customize their child's education.

ESAs allow parents to withdraw their children from public schools and receive a portion of their public funding for defined educational uses, which may include private school tuition, online education, textbooks, tutoring, college admissions tests or college tuition and fees for concurrent enrollment.

ESA money is deposited into an account managed by the State Treasurer, and dispersed to parents on a debit card from which qualified educational expenses are paid. Parents can roll unused funds into a college savings account.

## Qualifications

Resident of Oklahoma. Student enrolled in Oklahoma public school full time for the first 100 days of the prior school year, eligible for pre-kindergarten or a child with a parent serving in active duty in the US military.

Students are no longer eligible to participate in the ESA program upon high school graduation or reaching age 21, whichever comes first.

## How to Apply

To enroll, the parent or legal guardian of a qualified student must sign an agreement form with the Office of the State Treasurer.

The parent agrees to use the ESA scholarship card only for qualified expenditures, not enroll the qualified student in a resident district, not accept a scholarship from



Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship program for students with disabilities, release the resident district from all obligations to educate the student and not use the ESA funds for computer hardware or technologic devices, transportation of the student, or consumable education supplies.

Application to participate in the ESA program is renewed annually.

# In District and Out-of-District Transfers

## In District Transfers

In District Transfers allow parents, who reside in a school district, to apply to have their child attend any of the schools within the school district. Approval depends on space available and according to the enrollment procedures for each school district. District policies, timelines, and procedures are available on each school district's website.

Transfers may be revoked by the school principal if the student's grades, attendance (absences or tardies), transportation arrangements, or behavior reach unacceptable levels.

### How to Apply

In District transfers are requested by filing a Transfer Request with the school district. Deadlines vary by district. Parents are not guaranteed admission to the school of choice. Parents with multiple children must submit separate Transfer Requests for each child. Transfer requests must be renewed annually.

## Out-of-District or Open Transfers

Out-of-District Or Open Transfers allow parents, who reside in a school district, to apply to have their child attend a school outside of the district in which they reside. Approval depends on space available and according to the enrollment procedures for each school district. District policies, timelines, and procedures are available on each school district's website.

### How to Apply

In accordance with Oklahoma State law, parents may apply to transfer their student to a school district other than the one assigned by the location of their residence. A State Department of Education form is completed and submitted by the following timelines and procedure.

- No later than May 31 of the school year preceding the year the transfer is desired, parent/guardian may file an Open Transfer application to the Receiving District.
- No later than May 31 of the same year, the Receiving District must notify the resident district that a transfer application has been filed, and notification is via the Receiving District entering applications in the Wave online no later than May 31.
- No later than July 15, the Receiving District's board of education shall approve or deny Open Transfer applications, verified by entering the decision in the Wave online, and must notify the parent/guardian of their transfer decision.
- No later than August 1, a parent/guardian who was notified of an approved Open transfer shall provide written notice to the Receiving District that their child/student will be enrolling in the receiving district.

For both in district and out-of-district transfers, parents are responsible for the transportation of their child to and from school.

# Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship

The LINDSEY NICOLE HENRY SCHOLARSHIP allows the parent or guardian of a public school student with a disability to exercise their parental option and request to have a Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship awarded for their child to reenroll in and attend a private school.

This scholarship is provided if the child is on an Individualized Education Program (IEP), prior to the request, and has spent the previous school year in attendance at an Oklahoma public school by being reported by a school district for funding purposes during that year.

Parents must formally withdraw their child from the public school district where he/she is enrolled upon receipt of approval for the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship. Failure to withdraw the child from the district may affect eligibility status to receive the scholarship.

## How to Apply

1. The parent must choose an approved private school (see link below).
2. The Scholarship Application must be submitted by the parent/guardian to the State Department of Education by mail or fax, with the required documentation, by December 1 of the year that parent/guardian is seeking the scholarship
3. The application process must be completed and submitted to the State Department of Education for each year the parent/guardian chooses to participate in Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship.

To apply for renewal of the scholarship, submit a current Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship application to the State Department of Education in June or July, prior to the beginning of the academic year.

If the application is received and/or approved after the current school year begins, the scholarship is pro-rated after the date of approval by the State Department of Education. If the parent/legal guardian of a child receiving the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship fails to submit a renewal application by December 1 of each year, the scholarship will be terminated.

Send the completed application, by mail to the address below, or fax documents to (405) 522-2380

Oklahoma State Department of Education,  
Special Education Services  
Attn: Anita Eccard  
2500 N. Lincoln Blvd  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105



# Parent Trigger

Legislation to establish a Parent Trigger law in Oklahoma was introduced in 2012. Seven states have passed parent trigger laws including California, Connecticut, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, Ohio and Texas.

The PARENT TRIGGER LAW empowers parents whose children attend a systematically or persistently failing school to circulate a petition calling for transformation options. These options include: bringing in new school leadership, at least 50% new school staff, new school management by converting the school to a charter or use a Parent Trigger campaign as leverage to bargain with school and district leaders for change. If a majority of parents sign a valid petition, school district officials must do what the parents ask.

Reforms must be implemented at the start of the next school year. No more waiting for years for complicated 'turn around' or 'transformations' to be implemented and begin to show results. To achieve quick results, children are moved to better schools to start learning more – right away.

## SOURCES BY SECTION

### Foreward:

<http://okgazette.com/2017/08/04/oklahoma-city-public-schools-leaders-take-initial-steps-toward-educational-equity/>

### Early Childhood:

[http://www.childrennow.org/files/4414/2567/6393/CN\\_ELD-LCFF-Primer\\_2014.pdf](http://www.childrennow.org/files/4414/2567/6393/CN_ELD-LCFF-Primer_2014.pdf)

<https://www.zerotothree.org/document/170>

<http://www.parenttoolkit.com/grade-levels/early-education>

### Grade School:

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/collection/what-to-expect-grade/guide-to-kindergarten>

<http://www.kidsource.com/education/working-teachers-and-schools#st-hash.TL5yDDt3.IFT9SsRb.dpbs>

<http://www.parenttoolkit.com/academics/advice/parent-teacher-conference-guide-to-middle-school>

<http://www.pbs.org/weta/twoschools/getinvolved/empowering/busy.html>

<http://www.thelearningcommunity.us/resources-by-format/tips-for-parents/parent-involvement.aspx>

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/going-to-school/grade-by-grade/>

<http://www.smartfirstgraders.com/first-grade-reading.html>

<http://www.kidsource.com/education/working-teachers-and-schools#st-hash.TL5yDDt3.IFT9SsRb.dpbs>

[http://www.ccrscenter.org/sites/default/files/CCRS%20Center\\_Predictors%20of%20Postsecondary%20Success\\_final\\_0.pdf](http://www.ccrscenter.org/sites/default/files/CCRS%20Center_Predictors%20of%20Postsecondary%20Success_final_0.pdf)

[http://readyssetgrad.org/sites/default/files/parentguide\\_middleschool.pdf](http://readyssetgrad.org/sites/default/files/parentguide_middleschool.pdf)

## **School Choice Options:**

[www.ok.gov/sde/lindsey-nicole-henry-lnh-scholarship-program-children-disabilities](http://www.ok.gov/sde/lindsey-nicole-henry-lnh-scholarship-program-children-disabilities)

[www.ok.gov/sde/student-transfers](http://www.ok.gov/sde/student-transfers)