

Update on Parental Choice Act for the 2025 – 2026 School Year

The Oklahoma State Legislature amended the Parental Choice Tax Credit Act during the 2024 Legislative Session, including improvements to the program. Here are the important changes:

- Alignment with the School Year:** The Parental Choice Tax Credit Act is now aligned with the school year (August – May) rather than the tax year (January – December).
 - The Parent Choice Program enrollment process opens on **February 18, 2025**, for the 2025 – 2026 school year.
 - ALL** students **MUST** enroll or re-enroll in the Tax Credit Program starting **February 18, 2025**.
- Adjusted Gross Income Calculation:** The combined adjusted gross income will now only apply to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) within the household.
 - Income from other non-parent or non-legal guardian household members (e.g., grandparents, siblings, friends, etc.) will not be included.
- Tax Credit Deductions:** The tax credit received by the parent or legal guardian cannot have any debt, liability, fee, or interest owed by the parent or legal guardian to the State of Oklahoma.
 - Previous debts owed to the state (e.g., unpaid fines, college tuition, delinquent taxes, etc.) will not be deducted from the tax credit.
- Income Verification:** If the parent or legal guardian provides documentation on the application that they receive income-based government benefits (e.g., SNAP, TANF, SoonerCare), additional income verification is not required.
 - The parent's or legal guardian's income will not be verified through previously filed tax returns, as participation in these programs is sufficient proof of income.
- Tax Credit Non-Taxable:** The tax credit received by the parent or legal guardian is not considered taxable income.
 - This issue was not addressed in the original legislation, but it has now been clarified to ensure the tax rebate is not taxable income under any circumstances.

THE PARENT CHOICE PROGRAM ENROLLMENT PROCESS OPENS ON **FEBRUARY 18, 2025, FOR THE 2025 – 2026 SCHOOL YEAR.**