

Vann Bui

8/6/24

Osage Nation Financial Assistance Services for School Clothing, Supplies, and Technology Assistance

The Osage Nation Education Department (ONED) recognizes starting a new school year can be a stressful time for our Osage families. The Osage Nation Congress enacted ONCA 22-91 for the purpose of providing funding to Osage families for school clothing, supplies and technology assistance to our Members of the Osage Nation who have school-aged children. The Osage Nation Financial Assistance Services for School Clothing, Supplies and Technology (ONFASSCSTA) is available for all legally enrolled members of the Osage Nation who attend pre-kindergarten through twelfth (Pre-K-12th) grade to assist with school clothing, school supplies, and school technology.

Eligibility Requirements

The ONFASSCSTA may only be used for school clothing, school supplies, and school technology assistance. In order to be eligible, the following requirements must be met:

1. Student(s) must be a legally enrolled member of the Osage Nation; and
2. Student(s) must be enrolled in a public, home school, private, charter, or boarding school in Pre-kindergarten¹ -12th grades and provide the applicable Verification of Enrollment:
 - a. The Verification of Enrollment form must be completed and signed by a school official. A current class schedule or most recent report card that includes the student's name, grade, academic year, and school information is acceptable only if all required information is listed.
 - b. Home-schooled students must submit a receipt from a verifiable company of the home-school curriculum and/or books to be used for the academic year with their application.
 - c. Students who are home-schooled via an online charter of a virtual academy must submit a letter with the company's official letterhead verifying the student is enrolled for the academic year.

Funding Levels

Each student that is eligible for the ONFASSCSTA will be awarded up to \$250 per academic year for the purchase of school clothing, school supplies, and school technology.

Funding Limitations

The following programs: Early Head Start, Head Start, Preschool and Wahzhazhi Early Learning Academy (WELA) are not eligible for assistance.

Misuse of funds may result in disqualification for the Program in the future and may result in court action for fraud pursuant to the laws of the Osage Nation. Misuse of funds means purchasing prohibited purchases as listed in the section below, Allowable Expenses.

¹ Pre-Kindergarten focuses on Kindergarten readiness for children, four years old, who will be starting Kindergarten within the next year.

The funding amount may change from one academic year to the next due to budget limitations and is subject to appropriation by the Osage Nation Congress.

Allowable Expenses

The ONFASSCSTA funds may only be used to satisfy the following defined purchases and/or expenses:

School clothes includes the following: tops/shirts, pants/shorts, dresses/skirts, undergarments/socks, winter gloves/scarves, coats, winter hats, and shoes/boots.

School supplies includes the following: items required for the student to complete enrolled courses such as paper, pens, notebooks, erasers, crayons, glue, colored pencils, backpacks, and other needs the Student may require to participate fully in class.

School technology assistance items includes the following: laptops, iPads, chrome books, computers, learning applications, calculators, chargers, headphones, and ear buds.

Non-allowed purchases include but are not limited to the following: toiletries, consumable items such as groceries, food/drinks, tobacco, alcohol, gas, cell phones, phone cards, and/or music cards, sports gear, makeup, jewelry, body sprays/perfumes/colognes, purses/accessories, hair products, televisions, ball caps and/or hats, phone or other electronic apps unrelated to school, etc.

Application Requirements

Applications will open for the new academic year on October 1st. Applications can be submitted online up until the deadline of May 1st of the following year.

Applications are not considered complete until all required documents have been submitted for each Student to the ONED by the deadline, unless otherwise noted. **Complete applications shall include the following:**

1. Fully completed and submitted online application through the service portal;
2. Copy of the Student's Osage Nation membership card (verified internally);
3. Completed Verification of Enrollment form signed by the school or most recent class schedule. School IDs will not be accepted;
4. If applicable, legal custody/guardianship documents if student is not living with biological parent(s). Marriage license, bank statement, social security card, driver's license, tax document, etc are not required..

Application Process

Applications for the Osage Nation Financial Assistance Services for School Clothing, Supplies, and Technology Assistance (ONFASSCSTA) is available on the Osage Nation website at: <http://www.osagenation-nsn.gov/>. Application must be received by the deadline; and no extensions of the application will be allowed. The Student's parent/guardian applying for the Student must be the legal/custodial parent, legal guardian or caseworker at the time the

application is submitted. **The Student's parent/guardian must submit a new application each academic year.**

Completed applications (with required documents) are processed in the order of the date received and assistance shall be given based on funding availability.

Payment

Assistance will be given in the form of direct deposit for the purchase of school clothing, school supplies, and school technology assistance. The Direct Deposit form is located with the application.

Data Privacy

The information contained within each application and any supporting documentation attached is a protected record under the Osage Nation Open Records Act. The Osage Nation will not disclose any record containing protected information without the written consent of the Student's parent/legal guardian unless the information is being used to perform the duties of an Osage Nation employee. The Student's information may be released to other Osage Nation Departments/Programs with which the Student or the Student's parent/legal guardian is receiving or requesting services and to the Office of the Osage Nation Attorney General for investigation to detect or eliminate fraud. Any information related to this Program shall be gathered pursuant to applicable Osage law and in accordance with this Data Privacy section and the Osage Nation Open Records Act.

Appeal Process

If a Student's parent/legal guardian believes his/her child has been denied in error, he/she must submit a written appeal within ten (10) business days of notification to the ONED stating the reason for the appeal. Within five (5) business days after receiving an appeal, ONED will submit a report to the Director. Within ten (10) business days of this report, the Director shall inform the complainant and the Secretary in writing of the decision. The decision of the Director shall be the final decision of the Department.

Contact Information

Email: schoolassistance@osagenation-nsn.gov

Phone: 918-287-5300

Physical Address: Osage Nation Education Department
Attn: School Assistance
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Hominy, OK 74035