



# Altus Schools

*"Where Dreams Grow"*

January 27, 2016

Oklahoma State Board of Education  
Oliver Hodge Building  
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Honorable Members of the Oklahoma State Board of Education,

I am writing this letter to show our support for Altus Public Schools of the proposed Oklahoma Academic Standards for Mathematics and English/Language Arts. The process for the development of the Oklahoma Academic Standards was initiated from start to end with a "Grass Roots" approach. Oklahomans from all across the state have been given the opportunity throughout this process to create and review the proposed academic standards. Unlike the Common Core Standards that were previously created by outsiders and without the mechanism for review and modification, the proposed Oklahoma Standards are our State's very own academic standards. As a result, I believe Oklahomans will embrace the proposed academic standards and educators will feel compelled to implement the proposed Oklahoma Academic Standards because of their true faith that these standards will best serve the needs of our students in Oklahoma.

In Oklahoma, we have much room for improvement in our public schools. We applaud the effort and commitment from Superintendent Joy Hofmeister, other staff members at the Oklahoma State Department of Education, and the Oklahoma State Board of Education for advancing meaningful and relevant school reform. Together, along with the educators in our public schools in Oklahoma, we will move forward and make our schools the best we can for the betterment of our future in Oklahoma. Whether it's preparing our students for postsecondary education in higher education or in a career technology institution or preparing our students for successful entry into the workforce, Oklahoma needs higher academic standards that are more rigorous and relevant to the future job opportunities in Oklahoma.

Altus Public Schools supports the approval of the proposed Oklahoma Academic Standards. We embrace the proposed Oklahoma Academic Standards, and we encourage swift action for approval so that we will have ample time to prepare for the implementation of the new academic standards for the start of the 2016-17 school year.

Thank you for consideration, and thank you for your service to the great State of Oklahoma!

Respectfully,

Roger Hill  
Superintendent



PO Box 1149, Glenpool, OK 74033  
918-322-9500

January 21, 2016

Superintendent Joy Hofmeister  
State Superintendent of Education  
Oklahoma State Department of Education  
Oliver Hodge Building  
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Superintendent Joy Hofmeister,

I had the opportunity to review the newly authored Oklahoma Language Arts Standards and Oklahoma Math Standards that were developed by committees of Oklahoma educators. Thank you for providing a time for members of the Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee to read and evaluate the standards.

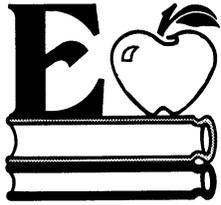
I was very pleased with the Oklahoma Language Arts Standards. The vertical alignment of these standards is extremely helpful to Oklahoma educators and will allow teachers to clearly see their areas of focus for each grade level. The flow of standards between each grade level shows a progression of student development that is invaluable to each grade level. The removal of redundant skill sets in each grade level allows the teacher to focus on the newly introduced skills and increased rigor of grade level standards. The written document demonstrates the natural way that students should learn reading and writing by bundling cohesive skills together in an integrated learning process. This will help teachers take a more real world approach to student learning which will dramatically increase their career and college readiness.

The Oklahoma Math Standards were written in everyday language that will be clearly understood by teachers. The vertical alignment of the math standards is even more important as it becomes crucial that students in each grade level learn and demonstrate proficiency in grade level standards to be ready to add the next brick of learning. These standards provide a fantastic road map of student's mathematical development throughout their academic career and place emphasis on each stage of learning. The focus on math integration with real world application promotes critical thinking and problem solving.

Glenpool Public School District supports the new Oklahoma Language Arts Standards and Oklahoma Math Standards and is very appreciative of the outstanding work that was done as well as the ability of the Oklahoma State Department of Education to make this a high priority to have these standards in place for the 16-17 school term.

Sincerely,

June L Gerred  
Director, Instructional Technology  
Glenpool Public Schools



# EDMOND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Empowering all students to succeed in a changing society*

Superintendent Joy Hofmeister  
State Superintendent of Education  
Oklahoma State Department of Education  
Oliver Hodge Building  
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Superintendent Joy Hofmeister,

Edmond Public Schools is writing this letter to show our support for the Oklahoma Academic Standards for Math and ELA. As a school district, we have been extremely involved with the standards writing process. Our content specialists, administrators and teachers have also had numerous opportunities for reviewing the standards. Many of our stakeholders have participated in the opportunities that have been provided by the state and through content consortiums. It is our determination that these standards are a quality product and will benefit the students of Edmond and Oklahoma.

We are very excited about several areas. To name a few:

- Vertical/horizontal progression as well as grade- by- grade alignment
- User- friendly format
- Research based
- Emphasis on both content and process
- Critical/independent reading and writing, speaking and listening
- Increased alignment to ACT and NAEP
- Rigor
- Developmentally appropriate

Edmond Public Schools is proud to endorse these new standards as they are being presented. We commend the State Department of Education and all of the participants across the state who gave of their time in developing these standards.

Sincerely,

Tara L. Fair  
Associate Superintendent

Superintendent Hofmeister and State Board of Education,

January 21, 2016

As members of the English Language Arts Consortium, we would like to express our support of the new Oklahoma Academic Standards for English Language Arts. Throughout the instructional design and process of formulating new standards, members of the consortium have actively participated. During the window when draft 3 of the standards was open for public comments, we shared the draft with the English teachers in our districts. Based on our careful analysis of the standards, we provided feedback.

Currently and looking ahead to the future, we know Oklahoma students will need to be proficient in communication, reading, and writing. Every standard now includes a reading and writing strand delineated by grade-level. This inclusion supports the importance of teaching writing tied to text.

Realizing these academic standards require longevity to meet the needs of our students both now and in the future, standard 7 “Multimodal Literacies” addresses how students will acquire information. As information continues to be shared digitally, in print, and in interactive texts, standard 7 will enable teachers and students to interact with text in multiple ways both now and in the future. Standard 7 will assist in preparing students for the skills necessary in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and beyond.

Collectively, we are enthusiastic about the prospect of working with the 8 English Language Arts Standards. We appreciate the inclusion of standard 8 “Independent Reading and Writing” because it validates the high priority we feel is necessary to promote reading for a variety of purposes. We know that a typical college freshman must have reading stamina to read 600-800 words on average, per week. Standard 8 ensures students will have multiple opportunities to read and explore text for both academic and personal reasons.

We remain optimistic as we await the final legislative approval of the Oklahoma Academic Standards for English Language Arts.

Respectfully,  
Members of the English Language Arts Consortium

Suzanne Holt  
ELA Instructional Specialist  
Broken Arrow Schools

Karey Cross, M.Ed.  
ELA Coordinator  
Dove-Discovery Public Schools Charter

Linda McVay  
Elementary ELA Content Specialist  
Edmond Public Schools

Kristen Jones  
Instructional Coach  
Enid Public Schools

Tonya Morgan  
Secondary ELA Curriculum Resource  
Instructor  
Jenks Public Schools

Teresa Jackson  
Director of Middle Schools  
Lawton Public Schools

Jan Jackson  
Reading Specialist  
McAlester Public Schools

Michelle Burks, M.Ed.  
Elementary Reading & ELA Coordinator  
Moore Public Schools

Julie Moore  
ELA Curriculum Coordinator  
Mustang Public Schools

Danielle Calvin  
Literacy Coordinator  
Oklahoma City Public Schools

Melissa Ahlgrim  
Elementary ELA Coordinator  
Putnam City Schools

Julie Enlow  
Instructional Coach  
Sapulpa Public Schools

Andrea Dickson  
Director of Curriculum  
& School Improvement  
Sayre Public Schools

Sheila Urton, PMP, MLIS  
Elementary ELA/Social Studies &  
Gifted & Talented Coordinator  
Yukon Public Schools

Susan Viles  
District Test & RSA Coordinator  
Woodward Public Schools

Prentice Redman  
Reading Specialist  
McAlester Public Schools

Ginger Howe  
Secondary ELA Coordinator  
Moore Public Schools

Raylene Rhynes  
Curriculum Coordinator ELA  
Oklahoma City Public Schools

Gwyn Wert  
Literacy Coordinator  
Oklahoma City Public Schools

Ranee Staats  
Secondary ELA Coordinator  
Putnam City Schools

Debbie Van Horn  
Instructional Coach  
Sapulpa Public Schools

Donna J. Morris, Ms. Ed.  
Secondary ELA/Social Studies &  
Career Tech Coordinator  
Yukon Public Schools

Michelle McDonald  
Curriculum Interventionist  
Woodward Public Schools



# The El Reno Public Schools

Offices of the  
Board of Education

• P.O. Box 580

(405) 262-1703  
• El Reno, Oklahoma 73036

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January 21, 2016

Oklahoma State Board of Education  
2500 N. Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Superintendent Hofmeister and Members of the Oklahoma State School Board ,

On behalf of El Reno Public Schools, we am writing to you to give our support for the newly created Oklahoma Academic Standards for Mathematics. Our district finds the standards represent a sustainable approach for increasing mathematical proficiency, improving student achievement, and advancing the preparation of academic and career opportunities.

The strength of the standards is identified through the purposeful alignment within and across grade levels. Students will gain greater mathematical aptitude due to the increased emphasis placed on both content and process, which will improve the development and retention of skills. The standards also provide the best opportunity in successfully preparing Oklahoma students in achieving the requirements for college and career readiness. The alignment to NAEP and ACT ensures a more rigorous structure within the standards, which will help students reach basic proficiency levels with higher achievement rates. The increased attainment results will further promote Oklahoma as a highly competitive and academically comprehensive state on a national level. It is important to note that while the standards have been improved to address the skills identified by national comparison assessments, it is evident that careful consideration has been given to ensure the requirements are grade level appropriate. The vertical alignment, purposeful progressions, and depth of objectives per standard are what set the new Oklahoma Academic Standards for Math apart from Common Core State Standards. A deeper focus on fewer standards, along with grade-level specific targets to affirm achievement gains, are what makes these standards the best for Oklahoma students.

We are confident that the new Oklahoma Academic Standards for Mathematics will significantly improve student achievement and productively provide a strong foundation as students continue their educational and career endeavors.

Sincerely,

Craig McVay  
Superintendent, El Reno Public Schools

Julie Owens  
Mathematics Curriculum Director, El Reno Public Schools



# EDMOND MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

1000 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Edmond, Oklahoma 73013

Administration (405) 340-2850  
Guidance Office (405) 340-2938  
Freshman Academy (405) 340-2851

Fax (405) 330-7355  
Fax (405) 330-7318  
Fax (405) 340-2862

January 22, 2016

Superintendent Joy Hofmeister  
State Superintendent of Education  
Oklahoma State Department of Education  
Oliver Hodge Building  
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Re: Oklahoma Math Standards

Dear Superintendent Hofmeister:

We are writing this letter in support of the Oklahoma Math Standards that have just been written by a committee of Oklahoma mathematics educators. Having had the opportunity to give input during the writing process, the entire Memorial High School mathematics department believes these are clear and concise standards that will help all Oklahoma students become college and career ready.

With the mathematical actions and processes embedded in each strand, we feel the new standards have more rigor than our current standards. This is vital in order to insure our students learn to become mathematical thinkers and communicators. They must be able to take the skills they have learned and apply them in different circumstances. As math educators, we also know the information must flow smoothly from one grade to another. The attention to connections among the grade levels and visible vertical alignment are much needed additions.

Once again, we are in full support of the Oklahoma Math Standards and the math standards writing committee. We feel these standards are a step in the right direction in order to make certain our students are college and career ready.

Sincerely,

The Mathematics Department  
Edmond Memorial High School  
1000 E. 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Edmond, OK 73013

  
Melony Coen, Mathematics Chair

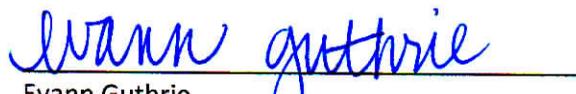
  
Maddie Algeo

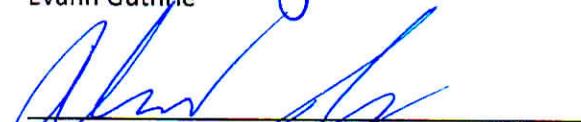


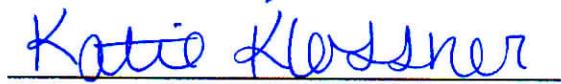
Home of the Bulldogs

  
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Marcus Altstatt

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Brown

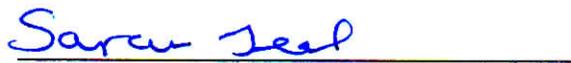
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Evann Guthrie

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Inga

  
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Katie Klossner

  
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Michelle Madison

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Pat St. Clair

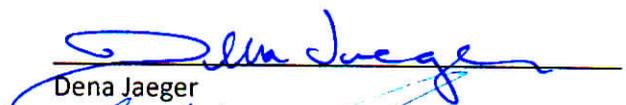
  
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Sarah Teal

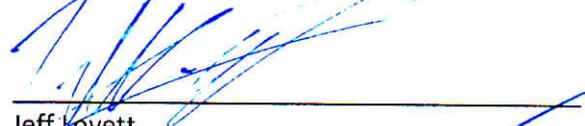
  
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Jennifer White

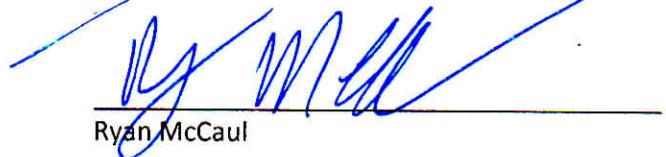
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Bowware

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stacy Golden

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Halle Herbert

  
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Dena Jaeger

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Lovett

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan McCaul

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristina Stevenson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda Welch

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lorna Williams

# BROKEN ARROW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Educating Today

Leading Tomorrow



1/21/2016

Janet C. Dunlop, Ph. D.  
Broken Arrow Public Schools  
701 S Main Street  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012

Oklahoma State Board of Education  
Oliver Hodge Building, Oklahoma State Capitol

**Dear Oklahoma State Board of Education,**

It is with full confidence that Broken Arrow Public Schools endorses the new Oklahoma State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Our confidence stems from the process through which the Oklahoma State Department of Education engaged multiple groups to participate in the writing, editing and advising, and final draft of these standards. The alignment of the standards to college and career ready skills, and the precise vertical alignment provide a much better roadmap for our teachers to use. We feel strongly that these standards will provide our students with a more rigorous and deep understanding of the concepts and skills needed to be equipped citizens and successful in college and career. We ask that you approve these standards as our new standards for schools.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet C. Dunlop, Ph.D.". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Janet C. Dunlop, Ph. D.  
Associate Superintendent  
Broken Arrow Public Schools

State Board of Education  
2500 N. Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

January 15, 2016

Dear Superintendent Hofmeister,

As math curriculum leaders from districts across the state of Oklahoma, we are writing you today to give our support for the newly created Oklahoma Academic Standards for Mathematics. We believe these clear and concise standards will provide excellent guidance for teachers as they prepare students for college and careers. We have had the opportunity to closely examine the standards at each draft stage, and are confident that they provide a more rigorous and better structured framework for instruction than our current standards. In addition, they are closely aligned to both the ACT and NAEP. The vertical progressions are clearly outlined for teachers and provide a useful tool for parents to use to support their children's academic growth. We especially appreciate the specificity of the standards and the integration of both mathematical actions and processes.

It is without hesitation that we fully endorse and support the adoption of the Oklahoma Academic Standards for Mathematics. In addition, we pledge to use our combined expertise and resources to prepare and support mathematically literate teachers across the state.

Sincerely,

The Central Oklahoma Math Consortium

Members:

Tammy Todd, Secondary Math Director, Putnam City Schools

Paula Dyer, Elementary Math Director, Putnam City Schools

Andrea Brock, Moore Public Schools

Michele Hale, Yukon Public Schools

Dawna Schweitzer, Yukon Public Schools

Telannia Norfar, Oklahoma City Public Schools

Denise Locke, Mustang Public Schools

Heather Sparks, Mid-Del Schools

Linda Hall, Education Consultant

Becky Spencer, Secondary Content Specialist, Edmond Public Schools

Susan Sawyer, Elementary Content Specialist, Edmond Public Schools

Barbara Cole, Chickasha Public Schools

Cynthia Walker, Lawton Public Schools

Stephanie Garis, Enid Public Schools

Debbie Worley, Math Content Specialist, Choctaw-Nicoma Park Public Schools

Margie Moore, Elementary Math Specialist, Broken Arrow Public Schools

Kerry Weingartner, Secondary Math Specialist, Broken Arrow Public Schools

Mava Goddard, Math Instructional Specialist, Glenpool Public Schools



2901 North Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
405-524-1191 office  
405-524-1196 fax

January 26, 2016

State Board of Education  
Oliver Hodge Building  
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Honorable Members of the Oklahoma State Board of Education,

On behalf of the members of the Cooperative Council for Oklahoma School Administration (CCOSA), we are writing this letter to offer our support for the proposed Oklahoma Academic Standards for Mathematics and English / Language Arts. As the only statewide organization representing public, private, and charter school leaders, we are keenly aware of the importance of having standards in place as quickly as possible. Hearing from our members about their involvement in the review and development of the proposed standards gives us tremendous confidence in the process utilized by the State Department of Education to create these new standards.

Oklahomans from all walks of life were afforded a meaningful opportunity to review and create the proposed academic standards. The process used to create these standards was deliberately inclusive of all interested voices, leaving out only those that chose not to participate in the many steps of review, development, and refinement. The proposed standards are designed to prepare students for successful entry into the workforce, career technology institutes, or higher education. Importantly, the educators involved in this process have determined that the proposed standards will benefit the students of Oklahoma.

We appreciate the commitment to continuous improvement from Superintendent Hofmeister, the staff of the State Department of Education, and the members of the State Board of Education. As it relates to state academic standards, we know that there is never a final product. Standards are frequently reviewed and modified with an eye toward improving student achievement. Sustained fidelity to a comprehensive process of standards review and refinement will ensure that all Oklahoma students receive the high quality educational experience to which they are entitled.

CCOSA supports the approval of the Oklahoma Academic Standards as proposed by the State Superintendent and the many other Oklahomans involved in this process. It is imperative that the standards are quickly acted upon so that school leaders and teachers can begin the important work of training and implementing these new standards by August of 2016.

Please feel free to share this letter with any other interested entities during the approval process.

Respectfully,

  
Steven Crawford  
Co-Executive Director  
CCOSA

  
Ryan Owens  
Co-Executive Director  
CCOSA

**From:** Burchfield, Debbie  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 21, 2016 4:47 PM  
**To:** 'terrie.cheadle@sde.ok.gov'  
**Subject:** New State Standards

To: Oklahoma State Board of Education  
Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary, State Board of Education

Dear Members of the State Board of Education,

As a member of the State Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee chaired by Dr. Cindy Koss at the State Department of Education, I was afforded the opportunity to review the latest draft of the Oklahoma State Academic Standards during one of our meetings on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. While I was not able to review the standards in their entirety, what I did see reflected a great deal of research and thought as to how to create standards of integrity and rigor. In the Jenks School District, a Curricula Continua containing standards and objectives that integrate national and state standards is produced each school year in one (sometimes two or three) specific curricular areas. Rigor and vertical alignment is assured through the use of specific language assuring the expectation of continuous growth for students. I was pleased to note that the ELA standards that I read through also demonstrated rigor, alignment, and an integrative approach that weaves the standards together.

Thank you for your interest in assuring that Oklahoma students receive a quality education via rigorous academic standards.

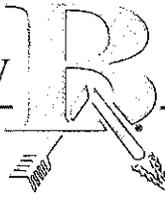
Sincerely,

*Debbie Burchfield, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent, Student Services  
Jenks Public Schools*

# BROKEN ARROW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Educating Today*

*Leading Tomorrow*



January 26, 2016

Oklahoma State Department of Education  
Oliver Hodge Building  
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Oklahoma State Board of Education:

As Superintendent of Broken Arrow Public Schools, I respectfully submit my endorsement of the new Oklahoma State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Our district has full confidence in these standards.

We have much respect and appreciation for the process by which the Oklahoma State Department of Education involved multiple groups throughout the journey of developing these new standards. Many have had opportunity to write, edit and provide input towards the final draft. The alignment of these standards to college and career ready skills will certainly benefit Oklahoma's students. The precise vertical alignment will greatly assist teachers. We believe these standards provide a level of rigor and deep understanding of concepts and skills that are needed in preparing students for a successful future.

In conclusion, we ask that you approve these standards as our new Oklahoma State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jarod Mendenhall, Ed.D." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jarod Mendenhall, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Broken Arrow Public Schools



January 25, 2016

Superintendent Joy Hofmeister  
Oklahoma State Department of Education  
Oliver Hodge Building  
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Superintendent Hofmeister:

I am writing to express support of the proposed Oklahoma Academic Standards. On January 8th, I attended the general session of the review of the Math and ELA standards. I was impressed with the presentation given by Dr. Cindy Koss. Dedication and true perseverance on the part of the committee members was evident as they spoke to the standards they had labored over for several months. I was particularly pleased that thought and planning were given to train teachers this spring and summer on how to implement the proposed standards.

I am grateful for their efforts to create quality standards for Oklahoma's students. Moving forward with standards that will better prepare our children for an evolving and demanding workforce is vital to the future of Oklahoma and essential for our students. The committee should be commended for their work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Bixler".

Mrs. Amy Bixler  
11208 Valhalla Lane  
Yukon, Oklahoma 73099

*Commission of Educational Quality and Accountability  
Elementary School Teacher Representative*



Kent Shellenberger Ed.D  
Superintendent  
(405) 789-3801  
kshel@bps.k12.ok.us

Rocky George  
Business Manager  
(405) 499-4602  
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Jennifer Fuller  
Encumbrance Clerk  
(405) 499-4605  
jfuller@bps.k12.ok.us

DeLana Massey  
Treasurer  
(405) 499-4605  
dmassey@bps.k12.ok.us

Administration  
Fax (405) 499-4606

January 26, 2016

Dear Members of the State Board of Education,

This letter is in support of the newly created and Governor mandated Oklahoma Academic Standards for the English Language Arts and Mathematics academic content areas. House Bill 3399 directed the State Department of Education to develop Standards "by Oklahomans for Oklahomans." The resulting Standards demonstrate academic rigor and a clear pathway to student learning competencies needed for 21<sup>st</sup> Century college and career ready students.

The Standards align with appropriate hierarchical developmental and student learner critical thinking skills. Each of the content areas clearly describe an overview of both scope and sequence of student achievement expectations. The Standards provide an excellent template of very specific and clear student learner outcomes.

As the superintendent of Bethany Public Schools and acting member on the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability, I give my full support for the final version of English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards.

Sincerely,

Kent Shellenberger, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

*Providing Opportunities for Excellence*

# Oklahoma City Public Schools

January 19, 2016

Dr. Cindy Koss  
Deputy State Superintendent of Academic Affairs  
Oklahoma State Department of Education  
2500 North Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma City Public Schools

## **RE: Letter of Support**

Dear Dr. Koss,

It is with excitement and gratitude that the Oklahoma City Public Schools extends our letter of support for the heroic work your team, our state writing team and the thousands of educators and business men and women who have contributed to the development of the new Oklahoma State Academic Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics. We thank you for remaining committed to the creation of Academic Standards written by and for Oklahomans.

The research behind these new standards provides a strong foundation that will assure that the children of Oklahoma will be prepared for college, careers and the world beyond. The level of rigor and the expectation that ALL students can perform at higher levels is evident in these new standards. The thoughtful structure of each content area reflects the uniqueness of what students need to know/be able to do within those academic strands. And there is a clear scaffolding of standards from one grade level to another, building foundational learning from Prekindergarten through twelfth grade.

We support the completed standards and highly encourage all involved in the decision making of standards approval to do the same with confidence. These are standards that will truly raise the bar for every student, moving Oklahoma into a new realm of possibilities for public education.

Please thank your team and the writers for their dedication and willingness to listen to voices across the state while standing firm on research around high-impact teaching and learning. We look forward to a unanimous vote by state decision-makers so that school districts in Oklahoma may begin preparations for a strong start to the 2016-17 school year.

Sincerely,

Lynn D. Barnes  
Senior Executive Director PK-12 Academics  
Oklahoma City Public Schools

Putnam City Schools  
5401 NW 40<sup>th</sup>  
Oklahoma City, OK 73122  
405.495.5200, ext. 1236

Dr. Cindy Koss  
Deputy Superintendent of Academic Affairs  
Oklahoma State Department of Education  
2500 North Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Dr. Koss,

Putnam City Public Schools whole-heartedly supports the work of you and your team for your efforts in creating math and English standards. The leadership at the Oklahoma State Department and the involvement of stakeholders and community members is commendable. We are thankful the process has been diligently vetted. Oklahoma students will benefit and teachers will be better equipped to prepare students for college and career.

My team and I have recently had the opportunity to look at the standards and agree that they have many attractive qualities that will be effective. Among them are clarity and continuity from one grade to the next. The intentional foundation skills and vertical alignment are evident and these are essential to fill gaps in learning. We were also pleased to see that the redundant skills per grade level have been removed so teachers can own what they teach and better support each other. In the end, it honors student learning.

It is with much gratitude that we support the standards, and we appreciate the Oklahoma State Department making this initiative a priority. In doing so, you put Oklahoma's children first.

Sincerely,

Patricia Balenseifen  
Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
Putnam City Schools



**Dr. Rick Cobb**  
Superintendent

7217 S.E. 15th Street  
Midwest City, OK 73110  
(405) 737-4461  
[rcobb@mid-del.net](mailto:rcobb@mid-del.net)

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Wednesday, January 20, 2016

To whom it concerns:

Academically, nothing is more important than teaching students to read, write, and listen effectively. A student who not only excels in the language arts, but also enjoys them, will achieve more academically than a student who does not. With this in mind, I enthusiastically support the current draft of the Oklahoma Academic Standards for English/Language Arts.

I have reviewed the standards as they are to be presented, and I have had opportunities to review drafts throughout the development process. I have colleagues, including several people who have worked for me, who have participated in the process as well.

Two things strike me as most exceptional about these standards. First is that every standard includes strands for reading and writing. That means that at all grade levels, we will expect students not only to consume language, but to create it as well. They will be using the vocabulary that they are learning. They will be applying critical thinking skills throughout the grade spans. Even better, they will be learning with the purpose of becoming independent readers and writers.

The second selling point to me is the care taken in vertical alignment between grades. Once adopted, these standards will give us a skills progression that will help teachers develop their own instructional units and prepare students for each successive grade. Ultimately, the assessments that will be in place to test students will be more representative of what they know and can do than what we have seen during recent years.

I commend the leadership of Superintendent Hofmeister, the Oklahoma State Department of Education, and all the professionals who selflessly gave their time to this effort. Oklahoma's schoolchildren will surely benefit from this work.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rick Cobb  
Mid-Del Public Schools



# DEER CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT

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*Dr. Diana Jones*  
*Executive Director of Teaching & Learning*  
*dianajones@dcsok.org*

January 25, 2016

Oklahoma State Board of Education  
2500 N. Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Honorable Members of the Oklahoma State Board of Education:

Please accept this correspondence as notification of support by Deer Creek School District of the Oklahoma Academic Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics. It is our hope that the standards will be approved as submitted.

Including all educators in the process development reinforces the credibility of the final draft. This professional process provided educators a variety of options for participation and should be commended. Some examples of participation include, the opportunity to be on the draft committee, opportunities for input and suggestions by all educators, not just those on the committee, and the continual communication regarding the timeline and revisions, as well as community and corporate input. It is important to note that our district had representation and input throughout the entire process: Deer Creek School District had a representative on the English Language Arts Committee and OSDE English Language Arts and Math representatives came to our district to present and gain input from our teachers about the standards. As a district, we communicated with and encouraged all of our staff members to provide feedback and input throughout the entire process and were pleased to see our suggestions as a part of the revisions throughout the draft stages.

The final drafts of the Oklahoma Academic Standards for English Language Arts and Math provide research-based, rigorous standards that are vertically aligned and viable to achieve. These standards will allow Oklahoma Educators to ensure that our students have the opportunity to be successful in their own personal learning progression of standards that are vertically aligned and systematically rigorous. The comprehensive development of the standards and examples leave no question(s) regarding the meaning or the intent of the standard. We feel confident that the students of Oklahoma will be prepared for their future no matter what school or district(s) they attend.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully,

Dr. Diana Jones  
Executive Director of Teaching and Learning  
Deer Creek School District I-006



# Hugo Public Schools



(580) 326-6483

208 N. Second St.  
Hugo, Oklahoma 74743

[www.hugoschools.com](http://www.hugoschools.com)

Fax (580) 326-2480

January 27, 2016

State Board of Education  
Oliver Hodge Building  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Honorable Members of the Oklahoma State Board of Education,

On behalf of the students, parents, teachers, support staff and board of education at Hugo Public Schools I am writing to offer our support for the proposed Oklahoma Academic Standards for Mathematics and English/Language Arts.

The admirable process by which these standards were developed involved all stakeholders willing to contribute. All stakeholders are ready for standards that will prepare students for the workforce or higher education.

Hugo Public Schools support the approval of the Oklahoma Academic Standards as proposed by the State Superintendent and the others involved in this process. The need for this approval is immediate. Preparation for the implementation of these standards must begin now to enable educators to be ready in August 2016.

I sincerely appreciate the work you do as state board members. Your consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated.

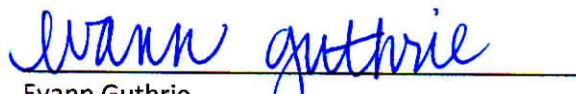
Sincerely,

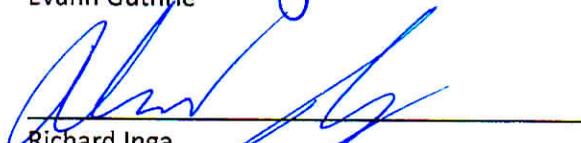
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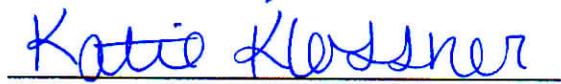
Tod Harrison  
Superintendent

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marcus Altstatt

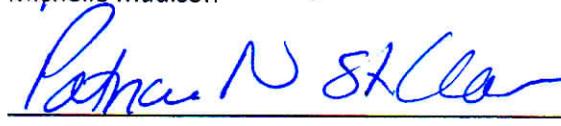
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Brown

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Evann Guthrie

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Inga

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Katie Klossner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Madison

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Pat St. Clair

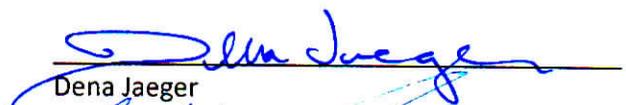
  
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Sarah Teal

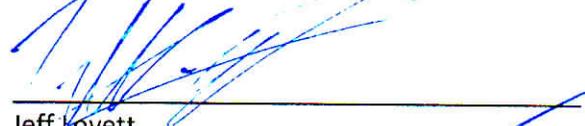
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer White

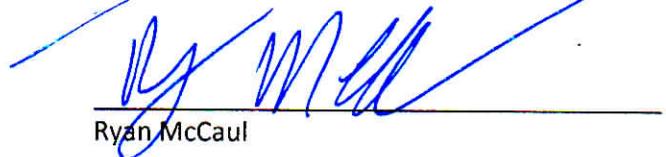
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Bowware

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stacy Golden

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Halle Herbert

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dena Jaeger

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Lovett

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan McCaul

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristina Stevenson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda Welch

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lorna Williams



OKLAHOMA PUBLIC SCHOOL RESOURCE CENTER

January 19, 2016

Oklahoma State Board of Education  
Oliver Hodge Education Building, Room 1-20  
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear State Board of Education Members,

The Oklahoma Public School Resource Center (OPSRC) would like to offer support for the new standards that have been drafted by a committee of Oklahoma educators. We believe that the standards represent an upgrade over the current Oklahoma math and reading standards and will help ensure that students in our state are college and career ready.

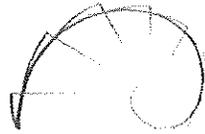
The OPSRC represents over 110 public school districts and charter schools across the State of Oklahoma. A number of member schools as well as OPSRC staff have participated in the process of drafting and reviewing the standards and agree that the standards represent a significant improvement over the existing standards for math and reading. We recognize that standards serve as an important target for educators and by raising the bar, the new standards should help ensure that students exit school with the skills necessary to succeed in today's economy.

We welcome the opportunity to provide this support and recommend that you approve these standards. Thank you for your service to Oklahoma's children and families.

Sincerely,

Brent Bushey  
Executive Director

**309 NW 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 103, Oklahoma City OK 73103  
(405) 212-4802 | [www.opsrc.net](http://www.opsrc.net)**



## Oklahoma Mathematics Alliance

November 30, 2015

Superintendent Joy Hofmeister  
State Superintendent of Education  
Oklahoma State Department of Education  
Oliver Hodge Building  
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

RECEIVED

DEC 09 2015

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES  
STATE DEPT OF EDUCATION

RECEIVED

Dr Koss

DEC 09 2015

State Dept. of Education

Dear Superintendent Joy Hofmeister,

The Oklahoma Math Alliance is a newly formed organization that is comprised of members from fourteen math organizations throughout the state. Our mission is to serve as an entity to which government, industry, other disciplines, and private foundations can turn for leadership and participation by the mathematical sciences and, afford advice and counsel.

It is the privilege of Oklahoma Math Alliance to write a letter of support of the Oklahoma Math Standards that are being developed by a committee of Oklahoma mathematics educators. The OMA believes these standards are a favorable advance in mathematics, and will ensure that Oklahoma's children are college and career ready.

Upon diligent review of the standards, and the process in which they were developed, we find that the proposed standards are rigorous for all students. Furthermore, we applaud the transparent process in which these standards have been developed. Mathematicians and math educators at all levels have been involved in each step of development. By allowing opportunities to comment, with revisions reflecting feedback, we are assured that the proposed standards are a true reflection of mathematical excellence that is valued by the educators of Oklahoma. We believe this involvement will ensure a fluid and successful implementation of the standards once they are adopted. Snyder et al (Snyder, Bolin, & Zumwalt, 1992), submitted that researchers support the notion that program development in schools would be more effective if educators were involved. In addition, we contend that the new standards are clear, concise, developmentally appropriate, and vertically aligned. It is evident that much time and effort has been dedicated to ensure that these standards have been aligned by grade level with purposeful progression. Furthermore, it is our belief that these standards are rigorous and sustainable. Much emphasis has been placed on developmentally appropriate standards and learning trajectories at each level of progression. This ensures that educators will be empowered to provide more meaningful experiences, and spend more time developing deep contextual understanding of content.

Sincerely,

Oklahoma Mathematics Alliance Members with representation from:  
(Oklahoma Council of Teachers of Mathematics, OKMath Leadership, Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance, Oklahoma Career Tech, Association of Oklahoma Mathematics Teacher Educators, Oklahoma Council of Supervisors of Mathematics, Oklahoma Council of Future Teachers of Mathematics, Teacher Leaders and Instructional Coaches Network, the Oklahoma chapters of the American Mathematical Society, Mathematical Association of America, American Statistical Association and the Central, North East and Southeast Mathematics Consortia)



# **ODSS** OKLAHOMA DIRECTORS of SPECIAL SERVICES

2901 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105 Telephone: (405) 524-1191

January 26, 2016

Oklahoma State Board of Education  
2500 N. Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Honorable Members of the Oklahoma State Board of Education:

On behalf of the members of the Oklahoma Directors of Special Services (ODSS), I am writing this letter in support of the proposed Oklahoma Academic Standards for Mathematics and English/Language Arts.

ODSS members are focused upon the educational success of Oklahoma students with disabilities. We appreciate the fact that the process used to create the standards included all interested voices, and we believe that the proposed standards are designed to prepare all students for successful transition into the workforce, career technology institutes, or higher education. We believe that the standards will benefit all students.

ODSS asks for prompt action to approve the standards so that teachers and school leaders can begin training, with the goal of implementing the new standards by August 2016.

We appreciate the efforts of Superintendent Hofmeister, the staff of the State Department of Education, and the members of the State Board of Education throughout this critical process.

Sincerely,

Andrea R. Kunkel  
ODSS Executive Director/CCOSA Staff Attorney

cc: ODSS Executive Committee



Oklahoma  
Community  
Service  
Commission

January 26, 2016

Oklahoma State Board of Education  
Oliver Hodge Education Building,  
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear State Board of Education Members:

The Oklahoma Community Service Commission (OCSC) is in support of the proposed Oklahoma Academic Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics. We believe that these standards will provide our students with the foundation to be successful as they enter college or the workforce.

The Oklahoma Community Service Commission is the non-profit entity that administers the AmeriCorps programs for the state of Oklahoma. Currently, over 850 AmeriCorps members are serving in 39 school districts and 45 non-profit organizations throughout the state.

Thank you for the efforts to improve the current educational standards in Oklahoma. I realize it is a daunting task and hope that you will approve the hard work of those involved in this process. Ultimately, these standards will provide the public education that the children in our state deserve.

Sincerely,

Melinda Points  
Executive Director



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STATE BOARD

NOV 9 2015

November 1, 2015

State Dept. of Education

State Board of Education  
Oklahoma State Department of Education  
Oliver Hodge Building  
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear State Board of Education:

The Oklahoma Council of Teachers of Mathematics is honored to write a letter in support of the Oklahoma Math Standards that are being written by a committee of Oklahoma mathematics educators. The OCTM Board feels the standards will help Oklahoma children become college and career ready.

After close inspection, we find that the new standards are rigorous for all students. We value the visible vertical alignment and connections among grade levels these new standards possess. As mathematics educators, these clear, concise and measurable standards are a positive change for the future of Oklahoma education. The vision and guiding principles for the standards ensures that our students will be mathematical thinkers and communicators. We also appreciate the transparent process and the ability for Oklahoma mathematicians and mathematics educators at all levels to be a part of the development by having opportunities to comment on the various drafts. We find that our voices and comments made an impact on the writing process.

In conclusion, we fully support the efforts of the mathematics standards writing committee and the Oklahoma Math Standards. These standards are just what Oklahoma students need in order to be college and career ready.

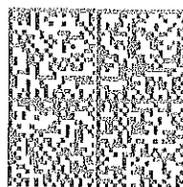
Sincerely,

Julie Klingensmith, OCTM President  
OCTM Board of Directors  
[www.okctm.org](http://www.okctm.org)

Norman High School  
911 West Main Street  
Norman, OK 73069

*State Board of Education*

*Oklahoma State Department of Education  
Divers Hodge Building  
3500 North Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105*

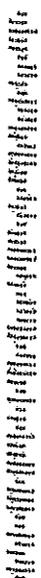


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State Dept. of Education

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OACTE 



Oklahoma Association of Colleges  
for Teacher Education

Affiliate of American Association of  
Colleges for Teacher Education  
Northeastern State University  
College of Education  
c/o Dr. Deborah Landry  
600 North Grand Avenue  
Tahlequah, OK 74464

January 25, 2016

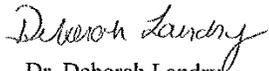
Dear Superintendent Hofmeister,

On behalf of the Oklahoma Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (OACTE), I am submitting a letter of support for the Oklahoma English/language arts and math standards. OACTE is an organization consisting of deans and chairs of education from the state's universities with educator preparation programs. Our mission is (1) to promote the learning of all PK-12 students, (2) to support the quality preparation of effective educational professionals; and (3) to facilitate collaboration among member institutions and stakeholders. The creation of these academic standards relates to all strands of our mission.

It is critical that Oklahoma's PK-12 learners have clear and rigorous standards to which assessment and instruction can be designed, and as former PK-12 teachers and now university professors and leaders we are appreciative of the opportunity to participate in this process. Many of our university content and pedagogy experts wrote and reviewed portions of the draft standards side-by-side with PK-12 experts and other stakeholders. The collaboration has produced appropriate standards that encourage college and career readiness, and the adoption of these standards will provide PK-12 educators and teacher preparation professionals needed direction for curriculum development and assessment plans to move Oklahoma education forward.

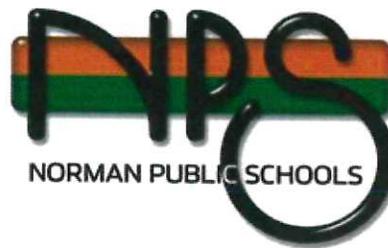
We support the draft standards and appreciate the process through which they were developed.

Sincerely,



Dr. Deborah Landry  
President, OACTE  
Dean, College of Education  
Northeastern State University  
Tahlequah, OK 74464

**Dr. Joseph Siano  
Superintendent**



**Administrative Services Center  
131 S. Flood Avenue  
Norman, OK 73069-5463**

January 25, 2016

Joy Hofmeister, State Superintendent  
Oklahoma State Department of Education  
2500 N. Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4599

Dear Superintendent Hofmeister,

I am pleased to write a letter of support for the Oklahoma English language arts standards and math standards, written by Oklahoma teachers and developed for Oklahoma students. I believe these rigorous standards provide a roadmap for teachers to move students towards college readiness and other post-secondary options. I congratulate the committee for their work.

In reviewing the English language arts standards I am most impressed with the eight overarching standards for college and career readiness. Appearing at every grade level, the eight standards provide a unity and focus among all grade levels and create a natural alignment across grade levels. While the grade level specific standards skill progressions are rigorous, they are also appropriately scaffolded.

Another strength of the English language arts standards is the focus on reading and writing for every standard at every grade level. This approach provides for the overall literacy of our students so they are able to read and negotiate any text they are given and also respond in writing. The mode specific grade level focus is a strength of these standards.

The math standards are also very well-written. They are rigorous, preparing students to problem solve, communicate, and reason about math. This will ensure that Oklahoma students are ready for the math they will have in college and to have the skills that are necessary in the workplace. The inclusion of the mathematical actions and processes create a solid foundation for students to have a positive attitude towards math and to understand math's relevancy to the real world.

It is important for the students of Oklahoma for our leaders to move forward and adopt these standards so our teachers can begin the work of implementation: revising curriculum, selecting materials, creating units and lessons, and developing appropriate assessment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dr. Joseph Siano'.

Dr. Joseph Siano  
Superintendent

JS/la



**Jenks**  
*Public Schools*

205 East B Street  
Jenks, OK 74037-3900  
(918) 299-4411  
[www.jenksps.org](http://www.jenksps.org)

January 26, 2016

Oklahoma State Board of Education  
2500 N. Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Honorable Members of the Board,

I am pleased to write today in support of the newly developed Oklahoma Academic Standards. I encourage the Board to adopt these standards, which reflect a thorough and well-researched approach to language arts and mathematics instruction for our state.

As a part of the Oklahoma State Department of Education's Teaching and Learning Advisory Council, I had several opportunities to review draft versions of the proposed academic standards. In addition, the Department sought input from teachers and content area experts from our district. These review opportunities reflect a commitment to make the standards writing process inclusive and to seek meaningful feedback from many stakeholder groups, including parents, members of the business community, university faculty, and public school teachers and administrators. As a result of this work, the final version of the Oklahoma Academic Standards that is presented for your consideration is a document that will assist school districts across the state as they strive to ensure that our students graduate prepared for success in post-secondary education and the workplace.

Sincerely,

Lisa S. Muller, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning



*Home of the Trojans*

# Mustang Public Schools

*Office of Assistant Superintendent*



January 22, 2016

Superintendent Joy Hofmeister  
State Superintendent of Education  
Oklahoma State Department of Education  
Oliver Hodge Building  
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Superintendent Joy Hofmeister,

Mustang Public Schools is writing this letter to show our support for the Oklahoma Academic Standards for Math and ELA. As a school district, we have conducted several standard reviews that included teachers, administrators and specialists. We have also sent teachers and administrators to participate in standard reviews with other groups across the state. From these numerous opportunities, it has been determined that these standards are a quality product and will benefit the students of Oklahoma. The outstanding qualities of these standards are endless and can become very detailed. Here are a few exceptional points we have identified:

- Methodical, inclusive approach to writing the standards
- Standards are placed at developmentally appropriate levels
- Research was a driving factor for the standards
- Oklahoma teachers were involved in the standards' writing process so the standards are truly Oklahoma standards
- Input was collected and addressed three different times from school experts across the state
- The documents are comprehensive including glossary, examples and research
- Comprehensive nature of the standards makes them user friendly from the new teacher to the master teacher
- Standards provide an explicit systematic alignment through a complete vertical progression
- Mathematical actions and processes are integrated
- Reading and writing processes are parallel and taught together

It is with much thought and review that Mustang Public Schools endorses these standards in the manner they are presented. It is imperative that the standards are not adjusted or changed through the approval process.

Furthermore, please feel free to share this information on with the State Board of Education, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and/or any other interested entities during the approval process.

Dr. Angela Mills  
Assistant Superintendent, Mustang Public Schools

## Texhoma Public Schools

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PO Box 648  
418 W. Elm St.  
Texhoma, OK 73949

Tom Schroeder, Superintendent (580) 423-7433  
Fax: (580) 423 7096

Kayla Yates, HS/MS Principal (580) 423-7433  
Fax: (580) 423-7141

Greg Higgins, Athletic Dir./ Admin. (580) 423-7371  
Fax: (580) 423-7096



January 27, 2016

State Board of Education  
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Honorable Members of the Oklahoma State Board of Education,

On behalf of Texhoma Public Schools, we want offer our support for the proposed Oklahoma Academic Standards for Mathematics and English / Language Arts we are keenly aware of the importance of having standards in place as quickly as possible. Hearing from organization members about their involvement in the review and development of the proposed standards gives us tremendous confidence in the process utilized by the State Department of Education to create these new standards.

Oklahomans from all walks of life were afforded a meaningful opportunity to review and create the proposed academic standards. The process used to create these standards was deliberately inclusive of all interested voices, leaving out only those that chose not to participate in the many steps of review, development, and refinement. The proposed standards are designed to prepare students for successful entry into the workforce, career technology institutes, or higher education. Importantly, the educators involved in this process have determined that the proposed standards will benefit the students of Oklahoma.

We appreciate the commitment to continuous improvement from Superintendent Hofmeister, the staff of the State Department of Education, and the members of the State Board of Education. As it relates to state academic standards, we know that there is never a final product. Standards are frequently reviewed and modified with an eye toward improving student achievement. Sustained fidelity to a comprehensive process of standards review and refinement will ensure that all Oklahoma students receive the high quality educational experience to which they are entitled.

Texhoma Public Schools supports the approval of the Oklahoma Academic Standards as proposed by the State Superintendent and the many other Oklahomans involved in this process. It is imperative that the standards are quickly acted upon so that school leaders and teachers can begin the important work of training and implementing these new standards by August of 2016.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Schroeder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Schroeder  
Superintendent  
Texhoma Public Schools  
PO Box 648  
Texhoma, OK 73949

# Stilwell Public Schools

**Geri Gilstrap, Superintendent**

1801 W. Locust  
Stilwell, OK 74960  
Phone (918) 696-7001  
FAX (918) 696-2193



**Board of Education**

CHAD SMITH, President  
GORDON CHRONISTER, Vice Pres.  
DELORES MARTIN, Clerk  
JESS MERRIOTT, Member  
ROBERT W. MUSKRAT, Member  
BEVERLY STARR, Treasurer

Office of the Superintendent

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the newly developed Oklahoma State Standards. These standards have been a collaborative endeavor for Oklahoma teachers, administrators and stakeholders alike. It is with great focus and diligence these standards have been developed over the past months. Every bit of input and commentary has been considered in the development of these standards and that has been a very appreciated and refreshing approach.

I personally have had veteran teachers within my district who have worked on subject area committees and even more who have commented on the standards as they were being developed. They have expressed to me that they are so proud to have their voices heard and their expertise in their field acknowledged and utilized! They take ownership of these newly developed standards knowing that they have had a hand in molding them.

These standards are truly what they are titled "Oklahoma State Standards," written, reviewed and revised by Oklahoma education professionals. They have been created to illustrate robust and rigorous standards that reflect what students in Oklahoma need to attain in order to succeed in post secondary education. I am confident in the work of so many in the field of education who have come together to create these new standards that are tailored to the needs of our Oklahoma students. I applaud the hard work that has gone into the development of these standards. This work will benefit the children of Oklahoma for years to come.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Geri D. Gilstrap".

Geri D. Gilstrap

# SAND SPRINGS SCHOOLS

11 WEST BROADWAY  
SAND SPRINGS, OK 74063-7625  
PHONE: 918-246-1400 FAX: 918-246-1401

**LLOYD SNOW, SUPERINTENDENT**

**ROB MILLER, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, HUMAN RESOURCES & ADMINISTRATION**  
**SHERRY DURKEE, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION**  
**GARY WATTS, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND GENERAL COUNSEL**

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January 27, 2016

Oklahoma State Board of Education  
2500 N. Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Honorable Members of the Oklahoma State Board of Education,

Sand Springs Schools appreciates the commitment to continuous improvement from Superintendent Hofmeister, the staff of the State Department of Education, and the members of the State Board of Education. As it relates to state academic standards, we know there is never a final product. Standards are frequently reviewed and modified with an eye toward improving student achievement. Sustained fidelity to a comprehensive process of standards review and refinement will ensure that all Oklahoma students receive the high quality of educational experience to which they are entitled.

The Sand Springs Schools supports the approval of the Oklahoma Academic Standards as proposed by the State Superintendent and the many other Oklahomans involved in this process. It is imperative that the standards are quickly acted upon so that school leaders and teachers can begin the important work of training and implementing these new standards by August of 2016.

Warmest Regards,



Lloyd W. Snow,  
Superintendent

# Burcham Elementary

1401 N. Lark  
Weatherford, OK 73096  
580.774.0812

## Home of the Eagles

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January 26, 2016

State Board of Education  
Oliver Hodge Building  
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Honorable Members of the Oklahoma State Board of Education,

On behalf of the teachers and administrators at Burcham Elementary, Weatherford Public Schools, I am writing this letter to offer our support for the proposed Oklahoma Academic Standards for Mathematics and English / Language Arts. As an early childhood center (PK-1) public school, we are keenly aware of the importance of having standards in place as quickly as possible. We have tremendous confidence in the process utilized by the State Department of Education to create these new standards. Oklahomans were afforded a meaningful opportunity to review and create the proposed academic standards. The process used to create these standards was deliberately inclusive of all interested voices, leaving out only those that chose not to participate in the many steps of review, development, and refinement. The proposed standards are designed to prepare students for successful entry into the workforce, career technology institutes, or higher education. Importantly, the educators involved in this process have determined that the proposed standards will benefit the students of Oklahoma.

We appreciate the commitment to continuous improvement from Superintendent Hofmeister, the staff of the State Department of Education, and the members of the State Board of Education. As it relates to state academic standards, we know standards require frequent review and modification with an eye toward improving student achievement to ensure that all Oklahoma students receive the high quality educational experience to which they are entitled. It is imperative that the standards are quickly acted upon so that Burcham Elementary, and all other schools, can begin the important work of training and implementing these new standards by August of 2016. We greatly appreciate your attention and all the work you do for Oklahoma schools.

Respectfully,

*Marla Pankratz*

Marla Pankratz, Principal



## DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

401 Mathematical Sciences Stillwater, OK 74078-1058  
Tel: 405-744-5688 Fax: 405-744-8275

November 24, 2015

Dear Superintendent Hoffmeister,

I am writing this letter in support of the proposed Oklahoma State Standards for Mathematics. As an assistant professor of mathematics at Oklahoma State University, my research field is undergraduate mathematics education -- particularly, issues related to how students learn and understand concepts in undergraduate mathematics courses. As such, the lens through which I assessed the standards centered on the extent to which the standards prepare students to be (1) successful in college-level mathematics, and (2) informed consumers of information in the modern world, while also examining the potential for (3) stimulating further interest in mathematics. I am happy to report that the standards show excellent promise on all counts.

First, the standards generally focus not only on the observable behaviors that we expect from students, but also on encouraging students to reason in ways that the mathematics education research literature have shown to be foundational. For example, standard A1.F.1 states:

Apply mathematical *actions* and *processes* to understand functions as descriptions of *covariation* (how related quantities vary together) in real-world and mathematical problems. (italics mine)

Covariational reasoning has been well-documented as a powerful method of reasoning about changing quantities, both at the K-12 and undergraduate level. Moreover, the distinction between *actions* and *processes* is another key contribution from the research literature. Briefly, an *action* is typically associated with an ability to apply a procedure one step at a time, whereas a *process* often involves the ability to coordinate multiple actions at once and has been shown to be a key feature in generalizing and looking beyond a single calculation or algorithm. Not coincidentally, a *process* conception of a function is thought to be necessary for reasoning covariationally. In terms of examining the proposed standards, the infusion of such constructs is reflective of the authors' use of the valuable lessons afforded by the mathematics education literature, perhaps the most important of which is the recognition that *how* students reason en route to a solution is just as (if not more) important than the solution itself. Moreover, the utility of these foundational ways of mathematical reasoning are not limited to the K-12 level, but have been shown to extend to college algebra, trigonometry, calculus, and beyond. To this end, the standards show great potential in preparing Oklahoma's students for college-level mathematics.

Second, the standards have great potential to engender robust understandings of statistical concepts. Such understandings are of paramount importance in today's 'big data' age. The proposed standards allow for the cultivation of what might be called 'statistical intuition' by introducing data analysis techniques from an early age. Moreover, the research literature in this area has shown that students greatly benefit from the use of real-world data and situations

because it encourages meaningful interpretation of their results. Accordingly, the standards (e.g. 7.D.2, PA.D.2) reflect such suggestions with constant attention to the importance of interpretations of real-world data. Furthermore, another consequence of today's 'big data' age is that most real-world data sets are unmanageably large without the use of technology, highlighting a critical need for students to be proficient with technology. The authors behind the standards clearly recognized this as well, as the standards encourage (and require) use of appropriate technology to assist with and enhance statistical analyses (e.g. A2.A.1.2).

Third, these standards also promote continuing interest in mathematics. For example, standard 6.GM.4 states:

Apply mathematical actions and processes to use translations, reflections, and rotations to establish congruency and understand symmetries.

Studying the mathematics of symmetry, in addition to fulfilling important curricular requirements, opens the door to a beautiful area of mathematics. Moreover, challenging students as early as sixth grade with such content (and then revisiting it in subsequent grades) provides ample time to develop and foster conceptual understanding of these important and endlessly interesting notions.

In summary, I am happy to provide my recommendation that these proposed standards be accepted. While I concede that I have not commented on important issues that are outside my expertise (e.g. how such standards will be implemented and assessed), I can say with confidence that these standards, in principle, provide the necessary structure to support students as they proceed through the K-12 mathematics curriculum and, eventually, to college.

If I can be of any assistance (including providing references for any of the above claims about the mathematics education literature), I would be most happy to oblige.

Sincerely,



John Paul Cook, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Mathematics  
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**OSAC Executive Board**

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January 25, 2016

Ms. Joy Hofmeister  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction,  
Oklahoma State Department of Education  
2500 North Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Superintendent Hofmeister:

As the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Schools Advisory Council and as a retired school superintendent with 34 years of experience in public education in Oklahoma, I would like to extend my support of the new Oklahoma Academic Standards.

Beginning my career as a teacher of English/Language Arts, I have been involved in the educational process in Oklahoma public schools at every level including curriculum development, alignment, and professional development to help teachers to understand the standards and to ensure that administrators measure how well those standards are taught. Over the years, I have dealt with my own frustrations as well as those of my fellow educators as we have had new standards adopted and handed to us to implement and measure. Finally, educators have had the opportunity to be actively involved with the community, the SDE, and other dedicated community members in developing standards that are vertically aligned with a skills progression that includes reading and writing, critical thinking skills, and the skills and knowledge base needed to become independent learners.

These new state standards represent a cumulative effort to include many voices in developing academic standards that represent our state, are based on research, and include relevance and rigor to prepare our students for postsecondary education and the world or work. I commend your efforts and the efforts of others who worked so diligently on the new standards, and I know that the children of our state will be the ultimate beneficiaries of your commitment to excellence and your ability to lead us in a unified effort to provide the best possible education for the children of Oklahoma.

Thank you,

*Executive Director*  
Ms. Billie Jordan

*Administrative Assistant*  
Mrs. Gail Ward

2403 N. 41<sup>st</sup> St. East  
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**Superintendent**

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January 27, 2016

Dr. Cindy Koss, Deputy Superintendent  
Oklahoma State Department of Education  
2500 N. Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Dr. Koss,

I would like to begin by thanking you and your team for all of the valuable, imperative, and challenging work that has gone into the development of the Oklahoma Academic Standards for Math and ELA. Two of my finest, Andrea Brock (Math Academic Resource Member) and Ginger Howe (Language Arts Academic Resource Member) have served faithfully on the committee and feel confident that our students across Oklahoma will indeed benefit. As you know, this is one of the most important pieces to our great big puzzle and we are ready to get started with the implementation process to include: working with teachers, material selection, selecting and creating professional development, and looking for an assessment tool (s) that will measure student growth.

After careful consideration of the standards, I would like to share my perspective. First, the math standards have the unique characteristic of being aligned vertically as well as horizontally. I believe that this attribute will enable our students to see how their math skills build each year upon the year before. Less repetition gives our students and teachers the opportunity and time to go deeper into the concept areas so that our students will have a greater knowledge base of each mathematical skill. I am particularly impressed by your utilization of the teachers in our state in writing the standards. After all, they will be the ones to use the standards and they will find it much easier to do so since they were written by educators for educators. Finally, the rigor that is in the standards is evident and is appropriate for each grade level.

As a former intermediate reading/language arts teacher, I was particularly pleased to see the standards as they relate to reading and writing. The integration of these subject areas is essential to a quality education. Additionally, I have noticed that the rigor for reading and writing is spread throughout the grade levels from PreK-12<sup>th</sup> grade. Our students, whether they are in primary grades or ready for high school graduation have the opportunity to learn research skills, critical reading skills, and presentation skills that will equip them for the future and for the career readiness that will prove invaluable to our state and our economy for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Romines  
Moore Public Schools

January 27, 2016

Dr. Cindy Koss  
Deputy Superintendent for Academic Affairs and Planning  
Oklahoma State Department of Education  
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Dr. Koss:

I want to provide formally to you through SREB the evaluation comments on the proposed English/Language Arts standards from our Virginia consultant: Dr. Kim P. Dockery. Dr. Dockery writes:

- ✓ Overall the document is easy to read and locate key information- good use of space and visual organization
- ✓ Overall the clarity and specificity of the document has increased in a very significant way. The glossary, Grammar Companion, Genre Guidance, Text Complexity bands, College and Career Readiness Reading Range and the References sections make this a very comprehensive document
- ✓ The opening with interconnected nature of the standards and the Clarity, Purpose and coherence sections is strong.
- ✓ Interconnectedness of reading and writing made explicit.
- ✓ Numbering system and vertical alignment are clear and intentionally laid out for teachers so that they can track the development and relationship of strands.
- ✓ Specificity has increased and examples are included to know what is taught at different levels.
- ✓ Great chart that shows how to read the standards!!
- ✓ Rigor has increased from the previous iteration and the PreK and K band is more appropriate.
- ✓ Vertical articulation is clearer and the progression of difficulty is visible in verb choice (i.e. identify, analyze, evaluate).
- ✓ the skills have been separated, rather than being lumped into one paragraph
- ✓ The introduction and the end of the document (Pg 74-109) are highly supportive and assist the educator in understanding the Standards.
- ✓ There is still repetition of writing standards but they are specific to the reading standards and illustrate the reciprocity of reading and writing.

Dr. Dockery notes that "this is a great product".

We are pleased to provide these comments and let SREB know if you need anything further.

Sincerely,



Dave Spence, President

January 27, 2016

Superintendent Joy Hofmeister  
State Superintendent of Education  
Oklahoma State Department of Education  
Oliver Hodge Building  
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Superintendent Hofmeister:

Speaking for the staff of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), I am pleased to support the recommended English/Language Arts and mathematics standards.

SREB is a regional education compact, established in 1948 and numbers 16 southern states as members. Our mission is to work with Governors, state legislators, and state and district educational leaders and policy-makers to improve education from PK-12 through postsecondary education. Our work includes state-level policy making, curriculum development and implementation, teacher and leader professional development, and benchmarking practices and outcomes.

Given its distinctive role spanning PK-12 and postsecondary education, SREB is especially focused on its college/career ready agenda – that is, the preparation of many more students to succeed in postsecondary education.

We know that high quality and clear standards that rise to the level of college/career readiness are fundamental to the readiness agenda and, when combined with supporting curriculum and assessment, will present a clear, concrete view of what readiness means in reading, writing and mathematics.

In our opinion and based on the evaluation of our expert and objective consultants from Virginia, we find the recommended standards to meet the college/career ready criteria.

Please note and share, if you wish, the attached documents that detail our consultant's positive evaluation of these standards.

Finally, let me congratulate you on how you employed a sound, inclusive statewide process that involved so many stakeholders, including postsecondary education. Most important, if adopted, Oklahoma will have a set of standards on which the public schools can move confidently and purposefully.

Thank you for involving SREB in this review.

Sincerely,

  
Dave Spence, President

SREB



Southern Regional Education Board  
592 10th St. N.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30318  
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sreb.org

January 26, 2016

Dr. Cindy Koss  
Deputy Superintendent for Academic Affairs and Planning  
Oklahoma State Department of Education  
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Dr. Koss:

Congratulations to all who had a part in creating the proposed final version of Oklahoma's college and career ready mathematics standards. The Oklahoma Academic Mathematics Standards 2016 are rigorous, clear, concise, and measurable. Oklahoma students who complete the PreK-12 standards presented in the 2016 final draft should be prepared for successful transition to postsecondary training and work.

The layout and organization of the mathematics standards document should prove user friendly for educators, parents, students, and the public. Mathematics teachers and curriculum specialists will find the vertical alignment documents very helpful in developing local curricula aligned with the state standards.

Best wishes for successful implementation of Oklahoma's new college and career ready mathematics standards.

Sincerely,

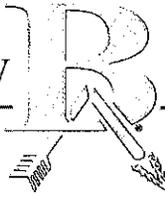
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia I. Wright".

Patricia I. Wright, Ed.D.  
SREB Mathematics Standards Reviewer

# BROKEN ARROW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Educating Today*

*Leading Tomorrow*



January 26, 2016

Oklahoma State Department of Education  
Oliver Hodge Building  
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Oklahoma State Board of Education:

As Superintendent of Broken Arrow Public Schools, I respectfully submit my endorsement of the new Oklahoma State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Our district has full confidence in these standards.

We have much respect and appreciation for the process by which the Oklahoma State Department of Education involved multiple groups throughout the journey of developing these new standards. Many have had opportunity to write, edit and provide input towards the final draft. The alignment of these standards to college and career ready skills will certainly benefit Oklahoma's students. The precise vertical alignment will greatly assist teachers. We believe these standards provide a level of rigor and deep understanding of concepts and skills that are needed in preparing students for a successful future.

In conclusion, we ask that you approve these standards as our new Oklahoma State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jarod Mendenhall, Ed.D." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jarod Mendenhall, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Broken Arrow Public Schools