



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