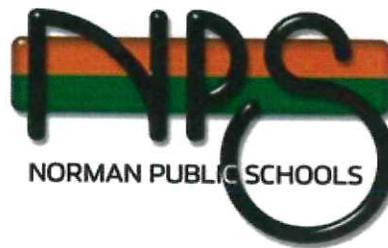


**Dr. Joseph Siano
Superintendent**



**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