

OFFICE of SCHOOL SUPPORT

OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



JANUARY • 2016

WHAT'S NEW

Superintendents/Principals,

On January 1, 2016, the Office of School Support launched the new Schoolwide/School Improvement Plan. This plan is designed to consolidate the requirements of two different federal programs, Title I and School Improvement, into one comprehensive report. Combining two reports into one is a step in reducing reporting burden on sites and administrators.

As we transition to the new plan, we are also transitioning the philosophy of that plan. In the past, the School Improvement/515 Application had a tendency to be focused on compliance and reporting what sites had purchased or activities they had scheduled throughout the past year. With the new Schoolwide/School Improvement Plan (SW/SI Plan), the goal is to focus on using the 9 Essential Elements framework as a guide in creating a site improvement plan for the upcoming year. As a result, the SW/SI Plan for 2016-2017 is due on October 1, 2016. This date will allow instructional leaders and the site teams to create a school improvement plan based on end of the year data such as attendance rate, benchmark results and/or preliminary state testing results released in June.

Many of you may be asking, so what does this really mean and look like? Almost 200 of the 240 sites with a priority designation have already submitted a Project 515 Application that is associated with SY14 designation funds in the amount of \$24,569. We encourage these sites to continue to follow these plans. If your site does NOT have a current plan, your regional School Support Specialists will be visiting with the instructional leaders of the site on the pros and cons of creating a Project 515 Application or moving forward with the School Wide/School Improvement Plan. Our goal is for all schools with 2nd year carry over dollars (\$24,569) to have a plan developed and budget submitted for these dollars before May 30, 2016. This will help sites transition to the FY17 and the allocations associated with SY15 designation and the Schoolwide/School Improvement Plan.

With the recent release of school designations, be looking for emails from the Office of School Support that will include a timeline of due dates and information regarding the regulations and responsibilities associated with each designation. If you have questions, please contact our office at 405-522-0140 or email me at Desarae.witmer@sde.ok.gov.

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SPOTLIGHT

Professional Development Take-Aways from Closing the Opportunity & Achievement Gap with Marcia Tate

Over three-hundred Oklahoma educators filled the Sheraton Midwest City Hotel's Reed Conference Center on December 11 to hear Dr. Marcia Tate share instructional strategies that engage the brain. Tate is the author of five best sellers: "Worksheets Don't Grow Dendrites: 20 Instructional Strategies that Engage the Brain," "Sit and Get Won't Grow Dendrites: 20 Professional Learning Strategies that Engage the Adult Brain," "Reading and Language Arts Worksheets Won't Grow Dendrites: 20 Literacy Strategies that Engage the Brain," "Shouting Won't Grow Dendrites: 20 Techniques for Managing a Brain-Compatible Classroom," and "Mathematics Worksheets Won't Grow Dendrites: 20 Numeracy Strategies that Engage the Brain." And, "engagement" was frequent and fun as Dr. Tate modeled with participants 20 brain-engaging instructional strategies.

In addition to the 20 instructional strategies, Tate described how to create a brain-compatible environment and provided ten characteristics of a brain-compatible classroom:

- Positive Environment
- Visuals/Visualization
- Music
- Relevant Lessons
- Rituals/Routines/Procedures
- Students Talking About Content
- Students Moving to Learn About Content
- High Challenge & Low Stress
- Content Taught in "Chunks" with Activities

Participants left the workshop with research-based information about the brain and learning as well as instructional strategies that could immediately be implemented in their classrooms. For additional information regarding Dr. Tate, visit her web site, www.developingmindsinc.com, which contains participants' testimonials and information about Dr. Tate's publications and services.

UPDATE

School Improvement Status Report (SISR)

The School Improvement Status Report (SISR) is back up and running. As a reminder the application is available through Single Sign-On. All designated schools will be required to submit data on this application. We will give updates on any deadlines as they become available. The biggest piece of data that schools will be responsible for is the benchmark data because those are site specific.

UPDATE

Transitioning to the Schoolwide/School Improvement Plan

Please note upcoming webinar dates that will have information for the transition to the Schoolwide/School Improvement Plan:

Thursday, January 28th 10am
Wednesday, February 10th 10am
Thursday, February 25th 10am
Tuesday, March 22nd 10am

You can register here: <https://oksdeevents.webex.com>

SPOTLIGHT

Ownership Creates Success in Kiowa Schools

Like many other small towns, the school is the focal point of the community in Kiowa. Kiowa Schools has a total of 320 children in grades Pre-K through 12th. The high school scored an A+ and the elementary a B+ on the latest report card released by the SDE, which puts our schools at the top of Southeast Oklahoma.

Our success stems from a staff that takes ownership of not only the school, but what is best for the community. The school provides Carson's Closet, a clothing and food pantry for students in need, funded by one fundraiser and local donations. This service was started by a teacher who recognized a need. That teacher attended and graduated from Kiowa-*Ownership*. All of the middle school and high school coaches are graduates of Kiowa High School -*Ownership*. After school tutoring is not done by remediation teacher, it is done by the regular classroom teachers creating *Ownership* in the life of a child you see every day. After school tutoring is focused on a weakness that has been observed in the classroom. It is not handed off to another professional instead it is *Owned* by the teacher recording the grades.

Educating students with special needs is always a tough task for any school system. At Kiowa, all special education teachers are team teachers-going into the regular classroom setting to assist students that have learning difficulties. These special education teachers get firsthand knowledge of the concepts that are being taught and can provide additional one on one instruction. Students may be taken to the resource room (special education classroom) only after they have received instruction in a regular setting. Last year, Kiowa Schools gained 10 percentage points in bottom quartile growth on the SDE report card from the previous year. In the absence of modified assessments, that growth was based on the test scores of students with special needs.

Kiowa Schools also has a full-time reading specialist that works in the same capacity as a special education teacher, but only focuses on the fundamentals of reading. No student at Kiowa has ever been retained in 3rd grade due to reading scores. The specialist works with regular classroom teachers with students that read at or below grade level. She benchmarks ALL children through online programs and communicates that information with the regular education teacher. This

Ownership Creates Success in Kiowa Schools (CONTINUED)

allows the regular teacher to concentrate on state objectives in core areas during class time. The specialist and classroom teacher review data together and make a remediation plan for students that may otherwise be left behind-*Ownership*. Remediation time is a coordinated effort that will NOT pull a student from a core class.

Early intervention and targeted attainable goals is the key for the A+ rating at the high school. Foundational learning in the primary grades results in measurable success in secondary grades. In 2015, Kiowa High School students had a composite ACT score of 22.3 where the state average for Oklahoma was just 20.7(ACT.ORG). The philosophy at Kiowa School is, "You can lead them to water but you can't make them drink. It is our job to make them thirsty!"-*OWNERSHIP*.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 18th

OSDE Office Closed - Marting Luther King, Jr. Day

February 15th

OSDE Office Closed - President's Day