

# OFFICE of SCHOOL SUPPORT

OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



SEPTEMBER • 2015

## WHAT'S NEW

### Moving Forward:

George Bernard Shaw is credited for saying "Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything." Change is sometimes difficult and can be defined in many ways. For example, change is to make or become different. Change can also mean to undergo transformation or transition. As we move through the school year, we all will encounter an opportunity to experience or influence change. We are excited to share one of the many changes from our department as we move into the new school year. As noted in the newsletter title, our department is now officially the *Office of School Support*. We are thrilled and truly feel this represents our mission of providing you the support and resources needed to assist the teachers and students in your school.

A few more changes from our office come in the form of responsibilities associated with receiving a designation. The first is the School Improvement Status Report. This report can be found on your Single Sign On account and the first reporting window begins August 31st. A large component of this report is based on a site's benchmark data. If a site currently does not collect or review benchmark data, we ask that one begin implementing this practice as it is an essential element in making data driven decisions regarding school improvement. A timeline has been established for this report and can be located under the "Admin" tab of the SISR page. For more information, an interactive webinar has been scheduled for Friday, September 18th from 9-10AM. To sign up, go to <https://oksdetraining.webex.com> and look under "Upcoming" for the event.

Another change associated with school designation is in the area of Professional Development. Principals or superintendents of schools who have received a Focus or Priority Designation for three or more years are required to attend fifteen hours of professional development. This professional development should be based on the needs of the school or district and can be provided by a variety of resources. School leaders have from June 2015-July 2016 to obtain the professional development hours for the 2015-2016 school year. Attached to the newsletter email is the tracking sheet with additional information provided.

From first order change to second order change, remember to let go of the things you cannot change and focus on the things you can.

**Desarae Witmer**  
Executive Director

### CONTACT INFORMATION SCHOOL TURNAROUND TEAM

**Desarae Witmer, M.Ed.**  
Executive Director  
desarae.witmer@sde.ok.gov  
(405) 522-3263

**Beth Steele, M.Ed.**  
SIG Turnaround Director  
beth.steele@sde.ok.gov  
(405) 521-2809

**Zada A. Farris**  
Grants Consultant  
zada.farris@sde.ok.gov  
(405) 521-4269

**Janie Stewart**  
Division Support Coordinator  
janie.stewart@sde.ok.gov  
(405) 522-0140

**Nicholas Clayton, M.A.**  
Specialist  
nicholas.clayton@sde.ok.gov  
(405) 522-1476

**Stephanie Schutt, M.A.**  
Specialist  
stephanie.schutt@sde.ok.gov  
(405) 522-1493

**Jan Foreman, M.Ed.**  
Specialist  
jan.foreman@sde.ok.gov  
(580) 618-1000

**VaRhea Owens-Hopkins, M.Ed.**  
Specialist  
varhea.owens-hopkins@sde.ok.gov  
(405) 522-8299

**Beta Noel, M.Ed.**  
School Support Consultant  
beta.noel@sde.ok.gov  
(405) 522-0140

**Dr. Jill Shackelford, Ed.D.**  
School Support Consultant  
jillshackelford@me.com  
(405) 522-0140

**Linda Hibbs, M.Ed.**  
School Support Consultant  
linda.hibbs@sbcglobal.net  
(405) 522-0140

**Roberta Ellis, M.A.**  
School Support Consultant  
robertacoleellis@gmail.com  
(405) 522-0140

**Roberta Gaston, M.Ed.**  
School Support Consultant  
mrs.gaston@sbcglobal.net  
(405) 522-0140

## SPOTLIGHT

### School Improvement Grants

The Office of School Support recently applied for and received an award for \$5,080,935.00 from the United States Department of Education for the purpose of establishing an Oklahoma SIG (School Improvement Grant) Cohort 5. School Improvement Grants (SIG), are authorized under section 1003(g) of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. The purpose of the School Improvement Grant is to provide supplemental funding to LEAs that demonstrate the greatest need for the funds and the strongest commitment to use the funds to provide adequate resources in order to raise substantially the achievement of students in their lowest-performing schools.

The Oklahoma State Department of Education approved the following schools for sub grants:

- Liberty STEM Academy-Sapulpa Public Schools- Prek-5th grade, \$1,521,888.25 (Priority Designation)
- Temple Elementary School-Temple Public Schools- Prek-8th grade, \$800,000.00 (Focus Designation)

- Briggs Public Schools-Prek-8th grade, \$1,400,000.00 (Priority Designation)
- Strother Elementary School-Strother Public Schools- Prek-8th grade, \$1,105,000.00 (Priority Designation)

Liberty, Temple, and Strother Public Schools have selected the Transformation Model, and Briggs Public School has selected the new Evidenced-Based, Whole-School Reform Model. The grant award is for five years with year one being a planning year, years two through four being full implementation, and ending with year five as a sustainability year. Continued guidance and monitoring by the Office of School Support through site visits and the Grants Management System, as well as coordinated supports with other SDE departments based on the school's needs, will help ensure successful grant implementation. The Office of School Support is very excited about our new partnership with Cohort 5 and would like to congratulate them on being awarded the School Improvement Grant!

## REMINDER

### School Improvement Status Report (SISR)

The application is now available through Single Sign-On. The following are the dates that are required for schools that are in designation:

- Consultation, Baseline, and Initial Report – August 31st (open) to November 15th (close)
- Mid-Year – January 1st (open) to March 15th (close)
- End-of-Year – April 1st (open) to June 1st (close)
- Final Report - April 1st (open) to June 1st (close)

#### Fiscal Year '14 funds

FY14 Project 515 funds will be expiring soon! Priority schools that received these funds in FY14 must have them encumbered by **September 30, 2015**. A deadline for those claims will be announced after the application is available.

## WEBINAR SCHEDULE

### Look for our Upcoming Webinars

**Sept. 10, 10:00 AM:** Office of School Support FY15-16 Project 515 GMS Application Webinar Sign up here: <https://oksdevents.webex.com>

**Sept. 18, 9:00 AM:** Information on the new School Improvement Status Report (SISR) Application Sign up here: <https://oksdetraining.webex.com>

## MAKING THE GRADE

*Jerry McCormick*  
Maud Public Schools Superintendent

### Maud Elementary School – Swimming with Success!

It is a great time to be a Maud Tiger. As I reflect back after completing my second year as superintendent of Maud Public Schools, I am absolutely amazed with the growth of our students, teachers, support staff, administration, and community.

In search of a plan to move our school forward we chose to apply for the School Improvement Grant (SIG) and were fortunate enough to have been one of the four awarded schools in the state of Oklahoma. While writing the grant we felt one of the most critical components was selecting an external provider to assist with implementation of the Transformation Model and total comprehensive reform with school and community. Kim Collier of Collier Education Consulting, LLC, has done a wonderful job in providing the needed support and assistance in developing a successful academic plan for all students.

In order to sustain the reform efforts, quality professional development was provided in the following areas: Data disaggregation and analysis, establishing data systems and using data driven decision making, strategic planning, protocols for establishing a mission and vision, creating Professional Learning Communities, using differentiated instruction in the classroom, implementation of Response to Intervention, building academic vocabulary, strategies to improve reading and math performance, working with children of poverty, creating a school-wide behavior plan, working with gifted/talented students, and curriculum alignment and mapping. In addition, we have on-site coaching support in the classrooms to implement the strategies provided during professional development.

As I reflect on our successes within the first year of the School Improvement Grant, I feel one of the most powerful components has been the change in

culture. There is a focus on learning, collaboration, and results! We have implemented Professional Learning Communities and meetings are scheduled on a weekly basis for 90 minutes. During this time we write curriculum aligned with standards, use data driven decisions and focus on learner-centered improvement. Our teachers and administrators have deep discussions about what is happening in classrooms and with each student. Furthermore, our team establishes SMART Goals to assist us in accomplishing what is needed for improvement. We now have a plan in place to increase student academic achievement and improve teaching in the classroom. Needless to say our culture has changed within one year and we are looking forward to the continual change in the future.

Maud Elementary students have also increased performance on state tests. I am so proud of our students, teachers, and parents! We have a strong focus on increasing academic achievement and our data results indicate that what we are implementing toward reform is working. Our math group results by performance levels increased from the previous year in almost every grade level. Furthermore, most of the gains were from 22% to 43% overall improvement within each grade level. In reading,

our group results by performance levels increased from the previous year in almost every grade level as well. Most of the gains were from 20% to 45% overall improvement within each grade level. All I can say is, "WOW."

Finally, as we strive to improve community engagement, I want to highlight several partners that have also contributed to our success. We are working with Pioneer Libraries to support our reading initiative and provide a print rich environment in the classroom and home. This summer, Pioneer Libraries worked with our school in providing books and supporting our summer tutoring program. We also have members of the community that come into our school every Friday afternoon to read to our students. In addition, we are so excited to partner with the Avedis Foundation in Shawnee, Oklahoma. The Avedis Foundation awards grants to projects that improve health and wellness in Pottawatomie County. We were extremely proud to receive a grant in the amount of \$360,000.00 to renovate our pool and bath house, as the pool is the only recreational facility for our community. During our grand opening of the pool we had 176 people in attendance with such an appreciation of the renovation. At Maud Elementary, we are truly swimming with success!



# SITE VISITS

## Priority School Responsibility Checklist – Fall 2015

### ■ Communication of Priority Status

- Due Date: Beginning of 2015-16 school year
- Website posting of letter grade and designation

### ■ School Improvement Plan: (Single Sign-On – Grants Management & Expenditure Reporting)

- Located under "School Support" it is titled "School Improvement Plan- Project 515".
- Complete the following application tabs:
  - Contact Information
  - Identify Team Members
  - Practices
  - Budget Pages –Budget Detail
  - Personnel (if applicable)
  - Para-Professionals (if applicable)
  - Technology Justification (if applicable)
- All Priority schools have been allocated \$24,569.08
- Helpful Hint: Align practice narratives with budget.

The Office of School Support is keen on understanding how the site is spending the school improvement allocation as it directly relates to the site plan. The reviewer will be focused on School Improvement 1003(a) funds only.

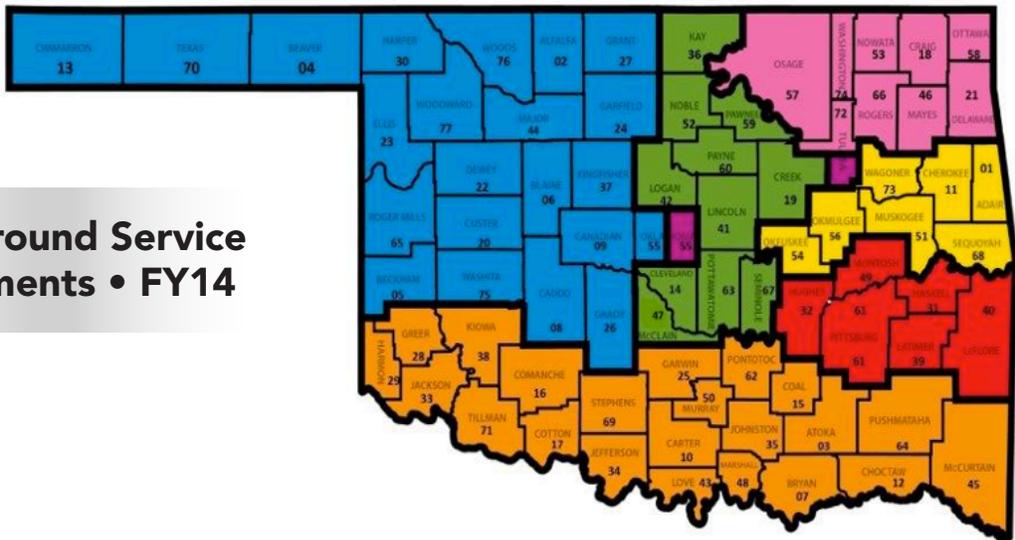
### ■ School Improvement Status Report (SISR): (Single Sign-On)

- Due Dates:
  - Consultation, Baseline, and Initial Report – August 31st (open) to November 15th (close)
  - Mid-Year – January 1 (open) to March 15th (close)
  - End-of-Year – April 1st (open) to June 1st (close)
  - Final Report - April 1st (open) to June 1st (close)

### ■ Site Visits

- Dates: To be determined by you and assigned specialist
- Sites should expect at least one visit to the school from your assigned School Support Specialist by October 31.
- A needs assessment will be completed during initial visit
- School improvement goals will be determined

## Wrap Around Service Assignments • FY14



<span style="color: blue;">■</span> SCHUTT 2-1493	<span style="color: green;">■</span> OWENS-HOPKINS 2-8299	<span style="color: pink;">■</span> CLAYTON 2-1476	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> VACANT SCHUTT 2-1493	<span style="color: red;">■</span> NEW FOREMAN	<span style="color: orange;">■</span> FOREMAN 580-618-1000	<span style="color: purple;">■</span> OKCPS/TPS CLAYTON, OWENS-HOPKINS, SCHUTT
02,04,05,08,09,13,20,22,24 26,27,30,37,44,55,70,76,77	14,19,36,41,42,47, 52,58,60,63,67	18,21,46,53,57, 58,66,72,74	01,11,51,54 56,68,73	31,32,39,40,48,61	03,07,10,12,15,16, 17,25,29,33,34,35, 38, 43,45,48,50,62,64 69,71	55,72