

7-19-2012

HELLO AND WELCOME TO MY REGULAR VIDEO MESSAGE. I'M JANET BARRESI, OKLAHOMA'S STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

IT'S BEEN A BUSY SEASON, AND I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO PROVIDE A REGULAR UPDATE THIS SUMMER.

LAST WEEK I GOT TO DO ONE OF THE BEST PARTS OF MY JOB – ANNOUNCING TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS WAS VERY SPECIAL FOR ME. THE 12 FINALISTS COME FROM ALL PARTS OF OUR STATE AND REPRESENT THE BEST IN EDUCATION. I'M TRULY INSPIRED BY THESE EDUCATORS. NO MATTER WHO WINS THE TITLE OF TEACHER OF THE YEAR IN SEPTEMBER, THE STUDENTS ARE THE BIG WINNERS.

ON THE TOPIC OF TEACHING, I'D LIKE TO DIRECT YOU TO OUR ITUNES U PORTAL WHERE WE HAVE BREAKOUT SESSIONS ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FROM OUR RECENT VISION 2020 EDUCATION CONFERENCE.

JUST GO TO OUR HOMEPAGE AND CLICK ON THE VISION 2020 BANNER. SELECT BREAKOUT SESSIONS AS A FREE DOWNLOAD AND ENJOY THE WEALTH OF LEARNING.

I SPOKE AT THE CONFERENCE ABOUT 2012 BEING A TURNING POINT FOR EDUCATION IN OUR STATE. WE HAVE A LINEUP OF MAJOR REFORMS THAT ARE TAKING EFFECT FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR. THESE INCLUDE:

- ACE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS.
- A NEW TEACHER AND LEADER EFFECTIVENESS SYSTEM TO HELP EDUCATORS GO FROM GOOD TO GREAT
- A LAW ON THE BOOKS SINCE 2009 REQUIRING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO INTERVENE IN CHRONICALLY FAILING SCHOOLS
- NEW STATEWIDE ACADEMIC STANDARDS ESTABLISHING MORE RIGOR IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS -- AS WELL AS NEW STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES.
- THERE ARE NEW READING REQUIREMENTS FOR THIRD GRADERS THAT WILL TAKE EFFECT IN 2013-2014, SO THAT STUDENTS ARE BETTER PREPARED FOR THE FOURTH GRADE AND BEYOND.
- AND A NEW A-F REPORT CARD SYSTEM THAT WILL ISSUE LETTER GRADES FOR SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICT PERFORMANCE THIS FALL.

IT'S A LOT ALL AT ONCE. AND I JUST WANT TO PAUSE HERE AND ACKNOWLEDGE ALL OF THE HARD WORK, TIME COMMITMENTS AND STRESS THAT THESE CHANGES BRING. OUR EDUCATORS ARE TAKING ON A LOT AND THEY DESERVE OUR THANKS.

ALL OF THIS FEEDS INTO A UNIFYING GOAL: BY THE YEAR 2020, EACH CHILD IN OUR STATE SHOULD GRADUATE PREPARED FOR THE DEMANDS OF COLLEGE, CAREER AND CITIZENSHIP. I CALL IT THE C3 PLAN.

RECENTLY, THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DEVELOPED SEVEN STAIR STEP GOALS TO REACH COLLEGE, CAREER AND CITIZEN READINESS BY 2020. THESE FORM A ROAD MAP TO EXCELLENCE. THEY ARE:

TEACHER AND LEADER EFFECTIVENESS

AN EMPHASIS ON STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH)

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

FOURTH-GRADE READINESS

SIXTH-GRADE READINESS

HIGH SCHOOL READINESS, AND FINALLY

COLLEGE, CAREER AND CITIZEN READINESS

I'VE ASSIGNED LEADERS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO BRING EACH OF THESE GOALS TO FRUITION. EACH GOAL WILL BE BUILT ON MEASURABLE OUTCOMES THAT WILL PROPEL OUR STUDENTS TOWARD SUCCESS IN LIFE BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL.

THANKS FOR WATCHING AND I'LL SEE YOU SOON.