

8-17-2012

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

THIS WEEK, AS STUDENTS ACROSS OKLAHOMA ARE STARTING CLASSES
OR PREPARING FOR THEIR FIRST DAY BACK AT SCHOOL, I HAD THE
SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO DELIVER A DIPLOMA TO 95-YEAR-OLD LOIS
ROBERTS TURNER IN PONCA CITY.

TURNER WAS ORPHANED WHEN SHE WAS SEVEN, PULLED OUT OF SCHOOL
AFTER THE FIFTH GRADE AND ENLISTED IN THE U-S ARMY DURING WORLD
WAR TWO.

LOIS IS A HERO, AND GIVING HER A DIPLOMA WAS A GREAT WAY TO START A
NEW SCHOOL YEAR.

AFTER RECEIVING HER DIPLOMA, LOIS COMMENTED SHE WANTED THIS
OCCASSION TO UNDERSCORE THE IMPORTANCE THAT EVERY STUDENT
WORK HARD AND WORK TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL PREPARED
FOR WORK. I COULDN'T AGREE MORE.

AS WE BEGIN CLASSES ACROSS OKLAHOMA, I WANT TO ENCOURAGE
STUDENTS, EMPOWER PARENTS AND THANK TEACHERS FOR ALL THEY DO.

---pause slightly---

OKLAHOMA IS ON TRACK TO IMPROVE OUR SCHOOLS FOR EVERYONE.

RECENT TEST RESULTS DEMONSTRATE OUR STATE IS MAKING GAINS IN
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT - IN FACT, ALGEBRA II SCORES WERE UP 21
PERCENTAGE POINTS COMPARED TO 2008, WHILE OTHER END-OF-
INSTRUCTION TESTS SHOWED SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS AS WELL.

WE'RE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, BUT WE MUST STAY THE COURSE
WITH REFORMS.

THAT'S WHY EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PASSED A RESOLUTION FOR WHAT WE'RE CALLING THE C3 PLAN - WITH
THE GOAL THAT BY THE YEAR 2020, EVERY STUDENT GRADUATING FROM
AN OKLAHOMA HIGH SCHOOL WILL BE COLLEGE, CAREER AND CITIZEN
READY.

THE C3 PLAN IS BUILT AROUND A SIMPLE BUT POWERFUL IDEA -- THAT

STUDENTS MUST BE PREPARED FOR REAL LIFE IN THE 21ST CENTURY.

ALL OF THE REFORMS OKLAHOMA IS PURSUING ARE A PART OF THE C3 PLAN -- WHETHER IT'S REMAINING FIRM ON ACE, THE ACHIEVING CLASSROOM EXCELLENCE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, OR NEW REFORMS TO ENSURE 3RD GRADERS ARE READING ON GRADE LEVEL.

ONE OF OUR BIGGEST REFORMS IS SET TO BE UNVEILED PUBLICLY THIS FALL.

YOU WILL SEE NEW
A THRU F REPORT CARD FOR SCHOOLS -- SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS WILL BE GIVEN A GRADE OF A, B, C, D OR F -- SIMILAR TO GRADES GIVEN TO STUDENTS.

WHILE THE INTENTION OF RELEASING THESE REPORTS CARDS IS NOT TO POINT FINGERS AT ANYONE, IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY THAT WILL ALLOW PARENTS, CITIZENS AND ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO DETERMINE HOW A SCHOOL IS PERFORMING WITHOUT HAVING TO INTERPRET COMPLICATED INFORMATION.

THE REPORT CARDS WILL ALSO BE AN IMPORTANT PIECE OF INFORMATION PARENTS CAN USE WHEN DECIDING THE BEST EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

AND THE REFORM WILL OFFER A WAY FOR EVERY SCHOOL TO IMPROVE. THIS IS A CALL TO ACTION. THIS PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US TO JOIN IN THE EFFORT IN OUR OWN COMMUNITIES TO WORK WITH EDUCATORS ON ASSURING THE SUCCESS OF EACH CHILD.

THE RELEASE OF THE REPORT CARDS -- EXPECTED IN EARLY OCTOBER -- IS A CHANCE FOR PRODUCTIVE AND POSITIVE CONVERSATIONS.

THE END RESULT SHOULD BE THAT WE CELEBRATE SUCCESS, CHALLENGE OTHERS TO IMPROVE AND RAISE THE GRADE TOGETHER --- TO ENSURE EVERY SCHOOL IN OUR STATE SUCCEEDS FOR THE BENEFIT OF EACH CHILD.

THANKS FOR WATCHING, HAVE A GREAT NEW SCHOOL YEAR, AND I'LL SEE YOU SOON.