



JOY HOFMEISTER

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TO: The Honorable Mary Fallin, Governor of Oklahoma
The Honorable Jeffrey Hickman, Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Brian Bingman, President Pro Tempore of the Senate

FROM: Joy Hofmeister, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATE: December 31, 2015

SUBJECT: TLE Commission Report Pursuant to 70 O.S. § 6-101.17

The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) sincerely appreciates our collaborative partnership with the TLE Commission members, education stakeholders, and school districts with the implementation of state education laws and guidelines pursuant to 70 O.S. § 6-101.16A. With new leadership, the commission was eager to begin a year focused on quantitative options and legislative action.

The primary focus of the TLE Commission in 2015 was quantitative indicators for student academic growth. The commission voted to eliminate the use of student learning objectives and other academic measures in an effort to study alternatives which would provide more meaningful data.

A study of over 40 states was conducted in order to find quantitative tools which are currently in use. This study, along with guidance from the Southern Regional Education Board and the South Central Comprehension Center, found six measurement tools for the TLE Commission to study.

Through working groups which included TLE commissioners, Oklahoma educators, and researchers as well as feedback groups representing 25 districts in Oklahoma, the TLE Commission approved three measures on November 5th for recommendation to the State Board of Education. These measures included district-approved benchmark assessments, state-approved diagnostic assessments, and teacher portfolios. The State Board approved these measures in December, along with the addition of student surveys.



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Dr. Andy Baxter, Vice-President for Educator Effectiveness with the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), provided a variety of feedback to the TLE Commission during 2015. SREB conducted focus report presentations as well as a needs assessment based on feedback from the educational community in Oklahoma and national best practices. These findings offered guidance on teacher growth, accountability, and professional development.

The TLE Commission remained engaged in legislative changes in 2015. Dr. Robyn Miller, Deputy Superintendent for Educator Effectiveness and Policy Research, made regular presentations and sought feedback on the ESEA flexibility waiver. Senator John Ford provided frequent updates on Senate Bill 706, which dealt specifically with TLE law. The commission and the public was informed of the federal changes involving the Every Student Succeeds Act, which shifted control of the evaluation process from the federal level to the state level.

Along with a new chairperson, the TLE Commission welcomed new members Senator Susan Paddack, Mary Melon, Corey Holland, and Representative Michael Rogers. Long-time members Anna King and Dr. Keith Ballard completed their service to the commission.