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January 21, 2016

Superintendent Joy Hofmeister
State Superintendent of Education
Oklahoma State Department of Education
Oliver Hodge Building
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Superintendent Joy Hofmeister,

I had the opportunity to review the newly authored Oklahoma Language Arts Standards and Oklahoma Math Standards that were developed by committees of Oklahoma educators. Thank you for providing a time for members of the Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee to read and evaluate the standards.

I was very pleased with the Oklahoma Language Arts Standards. The vertical alignment of these standards is extremely helpful to Oklahoma educators and will allow teachers to clearly see their areas of focus for each grade level. The flow of standards between each grade level shows a progression of student development that is invaluable to each grade level. The removal of redundant skill sets in each grade level allows the teacher to focus on the newly introduced skills and increased rigor of grade level standards. The written document demonstrates the natural way that students should learn reading and writing by bundling cohesive skills together in an integrated learning process. This will help teachers take a more real world approach to student learning which will dramatically increase their career and college readiness.

The Oklahoma Math Standards were written in everyday language that will be clearly understood by teachers. The vertical alignment of the math standards is even more important as it becomes crucial that students in each grade level learn and demonstrate proficiency in grade level standards to be ready to add the next brick of learning. These standards provide a fantastic road map of student's mathematical development throughout their academic career and place emphasis on each stage of learning. The focus on math integration with real world application promotes critical thinking and problem solving.

Glenpool Public School District supports the new Oklahoma Language Arts Standards and Oklahoma Math Standards and is very appreciative of the outstanding work that was done as well as the ability of the Oklahoma State Department of Education to make this a high priority to have these standards in place for the 16-17 school term.

Sincerely,

June L Gerred
Director, Instructional Technology
Glenpool Public Schools