

Dear Members of the State Board of Education,

As a member of the State Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee chaired by Dr. Cindy Koss at the State Department of Education, I was afforded the opportunity to review the latest draft of the Oklahoma State Academic Standards during one of our meetings on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. While I was not able to review the standards in their entirety, what I did see reflected a great deal of research and thought as to how to create standards of integrity and rigor. In the Jenks School District, a Curricula Continua containing standards and objectives that integrate national and state standards is produced each school year in one (sometimes two or three) specific curricular areas. Rigor and vertical alignment is assured through the use of specific language assuring the expectation of continuous growth for students. I was pleased to note that the ELA standards that I read through also demonstrated rigor, alignment, and an integrative approach that weaves the standards together.

Thank you for your interest in assuring that Oklahoma students receive a quality education via rigorous academic standards.

Sincerely,

*Debbie Burchfield, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent, Student Services  
Jenks Public Schools*