



OKLAHOMA
STATE DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION



**OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS
FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

Improving our future by degrees

Dear Education Leader,

Before the launch of the Oklahoma Math Pathways Task Force, an alarming percentage of students who go straight to college from high school – a staggering 40 percent – required remedial coursework. This costly detour – an estimated \$22 million across all subjects – drastically reduces the likelihood that students will graduate with associate and bachelor's degrees, leading many to never achieve their career aspirations. Thanks to higher standards that are increasingly aligned with the expectations of Oklahoma colleges and universities, the percentage of students requiring mathematics remediation has dropped to an all-time low – 27.7 percent from 31.8 percent in 2005. While Oklahoma's efforts to improve the student journey toward a postsecondary degree are encouraging, we believe there is still much to be done to ensure students graduate high school with the mathematics skills necessary to be college and career ready. One promising strategy to further reduce remediation is a new high school course for seniors, College Career Math Ready (CCMR).

Developed by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) in partnership with the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE), Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) and Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, CCMR is geared toward students within a few points of ACT's math benchmark score of 19. The CCMR curriculum is focused on developing students' conceptual, critical thinking and problem-solving skills, all of which are needed for college and the workplace. With its emphasis on experiential, real-world math applications as opposed to rote memorization or skill drills, CCMR is positively impacting student readiness.

A recent SREB study indicates that Oklahoma students who successfully completed CCMR saw significantly higher ACT scores (2-3 points on their ACT composite score, on average) than those who did not take a fourth year of math in high school. A separate study, conducted jointly by the OSDE and OSRHE, followed CCMR students into their first year at Oklahoma colleges and universities and compared their outcomes to similar students. Graduates of CCMR passed developmental math courses in college at a rate **20 percent higher** than their peers with similar results on the ACT who took no math during their senior year of high school. In fact, for students not already meeting the ACT benchmark of 19, CCMR graduates were better off in developmental math than others who took Algebra 2, Algebra 3, Pre-Calculus and even AP Calculus AB.

The evidence of the course's success is significant and compelling. Through CCMR, we can simultaneously reduce the need for costly remedial coursework and increase students' chances for success in college-level mathematics. For these reasons, we strongly encourage Oklahoma high schools to offer CCMR and other fourth-year math courses for seniors and echo the Oklahoma Math Pathways Task Force's recommendation that Oklahoma's public higher education institutions include CCMR as a multiple measure when determining mathematics placement.

OSDE will continue to offer free CCMR professional development opportunities for teachers. Future workshops are scheduled for March and June 2020. [Click here for more information or to register.](#)

The College Career Math Ready course can help us ensure Oklahoma students are ready for the bright futures they deserve. We hope you will consider making room for CCMR in your high school offerings and as part of your college or university placement decisions. Together, we can reverse Oklahoma's workforce gap and create a stronger state for the next generation.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joy Hofmeister".

Joy Hofmeister
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Glen D. Johnson".

Glen D. Johnson
Chancellor, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education