



Superintendent

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Dr. Cindy Koss, Deputy Superintendent
Oklahoma State Department of Education
2500 N. Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Dr. Koss,

I would like to begin by thanking you and your team for all of the valuable, imperative, and challenging work that has gone into the development of the Oklahoma Academic Standards for Math and ELA. Two of my finest, Andrea Brock (Math Academic Resource Member) and Ginger Howe (Language Arts Academic Resource Member) have served faithfully on the committee and feel confident that our students across Oklahoma will indeed benefit. As you know, this is one of the most important pieces to our great big puzzle and we are ready to get started with the implementation process to include: working with teachers, material selection, selecting and creating professional development, and looking for an assessment tool (s) that will measure student growth.

After careful consideration of the standards, I would like to share my perspective. First, the math standards have the unique characteristic of being aligned vertically as well as horizontally. I believe that this attribute will enable our students to see how their math skills build each year upon the year before. Less repetition gives our students and teachers the opportunity and time to go deeper into the concept areas so that our students will have a greater knowledge base of each mathematical skill. I am particularly impressed by your utilization of the teachers in our state in writing the standards. After all, they will be the ones to use the standards and they will find it much easier to do so since they were written by educators for educators. Finally, the rigor that is in the standards is evident and is appropriate for each grade level.

As a former intermediate reading/language arts teacher, I was particularly pleased to see the standards as they relate to reading and writing. The integration of these subject areas is essential to a quality education. Additionally, I have noticed that the rigor for reading and writing is spread throughout the grade levels from PreK-12th grade. Our students, whether they are in primary grades or ready for high school graduation have the opportunity to learn research skills, critical reading skills, and presentation skills that will equip them for the future and for the career readiness that will prove invaluable to our state and our economy for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Romines
Moore Public Schools