

Oklahoma City Public Schools

January 19, 2016

Dr. Cindy Koss
Deputy State Superintendent of Academic Affairs
Oklahoma State Department of Education
2500 North Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma City Public Schools

RE: Letter of Support

Dear Dr. Koss,

It is with excitement and gratitude that the Oklahoma City Public Schools extends our letter of support for the heroic work your team, our state writing team and the thousands of educators and business men and women who have contributed to the development of the new Oklahoma State Academic Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics. We thank you for remaining committed to the creation of Academic Standards written by and for Oklahomans.

The research behind these new standards provides a strong foundation that will assure that the children of Oklahoma will be prepared for college, careers and the world beyond. The level of rigor and the expectation that ALL students can perform at higher levels is evident in these new standards. The thoughtful structure of each content area reflects the uniqueness of what students need to know/be able to do within those academic strands. And there is a clear scaffolding of standards from one grade level to another, building foundational learning from Prekindergarten through twelfth grade.

We support the completed standards and highly encourage all involved in the decision making of standards approval to do the same with confidence. These are standards that will truly raise the bar for every student, moving Oklahoma into a new realm of possibilities for public education.

Please thank your team and the writers for their dedication and willingness to listen to voices across the state while standing firm on research around high-impact teaching and learning. We look forward to a unanimous vote by state decision-makers so that school districts in Oklahoma may begin preparations for a strong start to the 2016-17 school year.

Sincerely,

Lynn D. Barnes
Senior Executive Director PK-12 Academics
Oklahoma City Public Schools