

OFFICE of SCHOOL TURNAROUND

OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



JULY • 2015

WHAT'S NEW

Moving Forward:

*Desarae Witmer
Executive Director*

The Office of School Turnaround is excited about the upcoming year and the opportunity to serve schools from around the state. One of the goals for our monthly newsletter is to provide you with a preview of information and any upcoming events. With that said, the OSDE is anxiously awaiting word from the USDE regarding the approval of the Oklahoma ESEA Flexibility Wavier. We should receive news before the first of August but wanted to give you a preview of some of the **proposed** new conditions and requirements.

Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, Graduation Rate will be reflected in the Bonus Point section of the A-F Report Card and in the Annual Measurable Objects (AMOs) as required by USDE. High schools with a graduation rate in the bottom 20% of all high schools will receive a Focus Designation. Based on this year's data, this would include any school with a graduation rate of 81% or below. In addition, high schools that have a subgroup with a graduation rate below the national average will receive a Targeted Intervention Designation. Based on this year's data, the averages for each subgroup in Oklahoma are well above the national average.

In regards to schools who have had a designation of Priority or Focus for more than three years, beginning in 2015-2016, the principal and superintendent of these schools will be required to attend 15 hours of professional development with an emphasis on school improvement strategies. The OSDE will be working with CCOSA and the OSSBA to ensure a variety of opportunities are available to you. For administrators who know they will need to fulfill this requirement, [EngageOK](#) will be the perfect opportunity to begin earning these hours.

Do you have questions about Title I or School Improvement? If so, be sure and stop by the Federal Programs Resource Room that is open on Wednesday and Thursday during EngageOK. Members of the Office of Federal Programs and the Office of School Turnaround will be available to provide hands on assistance and answer any questions.

We look forward to seeing you at EngageOK!



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WHAT'S NEW

Welcome Zada Farris

We welcome to the Office of School Turnaround, Zada Farris as our new Grants Consultant. Zada will be the resident expert on everything budgetary as we move forward. Zada comes to us from within the OSDE building, most recently from the Office of Federal Programs where she had been for the past two years. Zada brings over 10 years of experience operating in the field of grant management

in Oklahoma and Missouri.

Zada's focus will be on training and providing assistance to schools regarding GMS and budget management. Zada says, "I enjoy this field of work and I am excited to be joining the OST Team!" The Office of School Turnaround is fortunate to have Zada as a part of our team. Please feel free to contact her if you have questions.

SPOTLIGHT

Come See Us! EngageOK Sessions

Please join the School Turnaround Team at EngageOK for sessions designed to support school improvement efforts.

The sessions being offered include:

- **Professional Learning Communities: Getting Started** (Wednesday, 3-3:45 and Thursday 8-8:45) *Stephanie Schutt*

- **What Are Essential Elements for School Improvement** (Wednesday 3-3:45 and Thursday, 1-1:45) *Jan Foreman*

- **School Improvement Status Report: What You Need to Know** (Wednesday, 1-1:45 and Thursday, 2-2:45) – *Varhea Owens-Hopkins & Nick Clayton*

- **How do I get off the list? With the Oklahoma Data Review Process** (Wednesday, 8-8:45) *Desarae Witmer & Beth Steele*

- **School Designations: Regulations and Responsibilities** (Wednesday, 10:45-11:30) *Desarae Witmer & Beth Steele*

- **Secondary School Interventions for Struggling Students** (Thursday, 8-8:45 and Thursday, 10:45-11:30) *Dr. Cindy Koss & Desarae Witmer*

- **ESEA Flexibility Waiver** (Wednesday, 3-3:45 and Thursday, 1-1:45) *Dr. Cindy Koss*

The dates for EngageOK Summer Education Event are July 7th-9th and will be held at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City (<http://engage.ok.gov>). We hope to see you there!

SPOTLIGHT

Schoolwide School Sites Exempt from “Supplement not Supplant” Rule

**Federal Register 69, Vol. 69, No. 127 /
Friday, July 2, 2004/Notices**

Under these notices, the U.S. Secretary of Education authorized a Schoolwide School Site be exempt from complying with many statutory or regulatory provisions of those programs, if the intent and purposes of the programs are met in the Schoolwide Program. A School Site operating a Schoolwide Program is **NOT** required to demonstrate that

the services provided with Title I, Part A funds are supplemental to services that would otherwise be provided.

Please note that “District Level” expenditures are not exempt, because the “District Level” cannot be in Schoolwide status. For more information, the Office of Federal Programs will be presenting “Out of the Box with Title IA” at the EngageOK Conference, which will include this topic. Session will be held 7/8/15 at 2pm.

MAKING THE GRADE

Wynnewood – Priority to High Academic Progress: Central Elementary School’s Educational Journey

The passion in Tammy Grove’s voice is evident when she describes the educational journey made by her teachers and the children of Central Elementary School, Wynnewood Public Schools, Wynnewood, Oklahoma.

Grove serves as the principal of this Pre-Kindergarten through 4th grade site located in Garvin County. This elementary site houses about 360 students. An estimated breakdown of the demographics is 64% Caucasian, 12% Native American, 10% Hispanic, 10% African-American and the remaining 4% represented by Asian, Two or More Races, and/or other ethnicities.

Central Elementary School was designated as a priority school with a 59 F on the 2013 A-F Report Card. Immediately, Grove and her teachers and staff members began a collaborative process to determine instructional needs, identify at-risk students, and to provide appropriate, purposeful interventions. The 2014 A-F Report Card grade of an 85 B reflects their hard work and dedication to improve student achievement.

Below are a few of the steps that Central Elementary School implemented that moved the school from priority designa-

tion to being recognized as a “High Academic Progress” site:

- Protected Instructional Time – Policies are in place to eliminate distractions;
- Master Schedule – 90 minute blocks are scheduled for language arts;
- Team Collaboration – Instructional teams meet weekly to discuss and develop strategies based on current student data, to ensure alignment to Oklahoma state standards, and to develop pre- and posttests;
- School Effectiveness/Environment – Response to Intervention (RtI) and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) models are implemented;
- Parental Engagement – Regular communication with parents and patrons via a variety of modes to reach all stakeholders.

Congratulations to Superintendent Raymond Cole, Principal Tammy Grove, Central Elementary Staff Members and the students and parents of Central Elementary School, Wynnewood, Oklahoma.