



January 27, 2016

State Board of Education
Oliver Hodge Building
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Honorable Board Members,

The Oklahoma State School Boards Association is appreciative of the exhaustive and thorough process that has led to the proposed new academic standards in math and English language arts.

The development and adoption process has been inclusive, and we are particularly grateful for outreach efforts to make sure school board members understood and participated in the process.

Thursday marks a significant milestone. We urge the board to approve the standards as proposed because we believe they establish a strong academic foundation for Oklahoma's public school students and create clear expectations for educators.

To meet the aggressive timeframe for standards implementation outlined in state law, it is our hope that the Legislature will act with urgency to approve the standards and hope that as members of the state Board of Education, you will join us and others in that call.

Standards alone do not ensure the academic success we seek for every student. Schools have much work to do before the 2016-2017 school year to put the new standards in place and provide educators with the much-needed support that will be required to implement the standards at the classroom level.

Thank you for your service and your leadership at this critical time for public education in Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

Shawn Hime
Executive Director, Oklahoma State School Boards Association

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