

Southern Nazarene University

CHARACTER | CULTURE | CHRIST

January 27, 2016

Dear Superintendent Hofmeister,

It is a privilege to write this letter of strong support for the proposed Oklahoma State Academic Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics. In reviewing these standards, a team of Southern Nazarene University faculty was assembled to provide feedback and input from the perspective of higher education faculty in these two particular subject areas. Strong, enthusiastic support was expressed by each of these individual faculty members for the respective areas they reviewed.

For the **English Language Arts** standard, high points and positives noted within this standard's content included the emphasis on the following:

- Multi-modal literacies
- Critical reading and writing standards
- Speaking and listening skills
- Research components and skills
- Vocabulary strengthening standards
- Formatting of the standards for ease in viewing and utilization

For the **Mathematics** standard, the following positive aspects within the standard were observed and articulated:

- Emphasis on the development of estimation skills
- Focus on change as fundamental to algebraic reasoning
- Focus on appropriate technology utilization by mathematics teachers
- Mathematical actions and processes are woven throughout yearly standards in helical fashion, building upon previous years development
- Inclusion of concepts related to algebraic reasoning and algebra strand at each level, starting at PK.
- Data and probability strand embedded in the standards assists in emphasizing the importance of data analysis and in developing data literacy.

As noted, I have included select general comments and key positive aspects expressed by our faculty for both standards. More detailed and in depth description and discussion of each of these are available if requested.

Again, it is a distinct privilege to express our strong support for the approval of the proposed Oklahoma State Academic Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics for strong and quality education for all Oklahoma P-12 students.

Respectfully,



Dr. Tim Taylor, Chair

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

6729 Northwest 39th Expressway Bethany, Oklahoma 73008 Office: 405.717.6267 Fax: 405.717.6282
www.snu.edu