



Oklahoma Historical Society

Founded May 27, 1893

Oklahoma History Center • 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive • Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917
(405) 521-2491 • Fax (405) 521-2492 • www.okhistory.org

February, 21, 2019

The Honorable Joy Hofmeister
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Oklahoma State Department of Education
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Superintendent Hofmeister:

I was honored to serve as a member of the Executive Committee for the revision of the Oklahoma Academic Standards for Social Studies. The final product is a reflection of the hard work of many educators and community leaders from diverse backgrounds working together for the common good of public education. I was impressed with the desire of those on all aspects of the revision to ensure not only accuracy, but a breadth of topics and historical events that would engage students from all backgrounds. I would also like to note the hard work and dedication of the staff at the Department of Education. They navigated the many steps this process must go through with incredible efficiency and professionalism.

My area of focus and expertise during this process was the standards as they apply to Oklahoma history. The revised standards explore varied key events, movements, and patterns in Oklahoma history with a new focus of further inclusion of contributions and events affecting American Indians, African Americans and Latin Americans in Oklahoma. The topics addressed are done so in a manner that allow for students to not only learn a particular fact, but to understand how to connect the dots of history. The standards as they are currently proposed will, in my opinion, allow students to proceed beyond a history lesson in which the goal is only the memorization of names and dates, but foster an environment that creates a love of history due to the engaging nature in which it will now be presented.

Therefore, I would like to offer my support of the revision of the Oklahoma Academic Standards for Social Studies and offer my sincere thanks for allowing me the honor of serving on the committee.

Sincerely,

Bob Blackburn, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Oklahoma Historical Society

Mendy Tubbs
Principal



Stephanie Holt
Duwayne Hampton
James Singleton
Vice Principals

"Engaging Minds, Inspiring Hearts, Pursuing Excellence"

McAlester High School
1 Buffalo Drive, McAlester, OK 74501
Phone: 918-423-4776 Fax: 918-423-8688

To Whom It May Concern:

I wanted to express my satisfaction with the new Social Studies Standards developed by the Oklahoma State Department of Education. I have taught all social studies courses offered in the state of Oklahoma for 9th-12th graders. I have also taught classes for students with special needs, students on grade level, and students above grade level in 3 different AP social studies classes at McAlester High School. I have been very pleased with both the process of developing the new standards and the final product. Brenda Chapman and her team have done a tremendous job including educators from all over the state in the process of reviewing the old standards to identify areas of concern and rewriting the standards in a way that addresses those concerns from educators.

After this revision and editing process, the new standards were reviewed by an executive committee that brought together a variety of individuals who possess unique levels of expertise in regards to the project. I was fortunate to serve on this executive committee. I witnessed first hand how thoroughly Brenda Chapman and the committee reviewed the work done by the standard writing and review teams. The executive committee ensured that all concerns were addressed appropriately and that the end product provided educators with a clear, concise guide for teachers to design their lessons and classes around.

I believe that educators will find the new standards to be very helpful in understanding the expectations for their classes. After reviewing the public comments, we found many educators and curriculum experts were very pleased with the finished product. I am excited about the improvements made by all of those involved on the standards revision process.

Sincerely,

Ryan Walters

rwalters@mcalester.k12.ok.us



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The Chickasaw Nation
Post Office Box 1548 • Ada, Oklahoma 74821
(580) 436-2603 • Fax (580) 436-4287
<http://www.chickasaw.net>

BILL ANOATUBBY
GOVERNOR

February 15, 2019

Ms. Brenda M. Beymer-Chapman, J.D., Director
Office of Instruction, Suite 315
Oklahoma State Department of Education
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105-4599

Dear Ms. Beymer-Chapman:

Enclosed with this letter are the Chickasaw Nation's comments for the Draft Oklahoma PreK-12 Social Studies Standards. The Chickasaw Nation appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback to the recently released Draft Oklahoma PreK-12 Social Studies Standards. It is evident from the draft standards that the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE), Office of American Indian Education, has worked to broaden the range of focus and specificity for the instruction and inclusion of American Indian perspectives and histories. Through this work, it is apparent the OSDE has become receptive to participation by tribal nations in the educational process of American Indian students.

We appreciate the inclusion of American Indian tribes and tribal educators in the discussion and development of the new Social Studies Standards. We believe the new standards will provide a greater opportunity for students to become more culturally-aware and informed of the 39 tribal nations in the state of Oklahoma. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Lisa John, secretary of culture and humanities, at (580) 436-7258 or at lisa.john@chickasaw.net.

Sincerely,

Bill Anokatubby
Bill Anokatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation

BJA:jt

Enclosure

For the Draft Oklahoma Pre-K-12 Social Studies Standards

There appears to be a substantial increase in the number of content standards that are directly tied to American Indian histories, cultures and traditions. This is a vast improvement from the past, where teachers and lesson plan developers may have had meaningful and pertinent information to share but essentially had to try to match the lesson with existing standards that vaguely aligned with the topic. The language of each standard presented in the draft is broad enough to give lesson plan developers the ability to be creative in their approach while still focusing on a specific content standard.

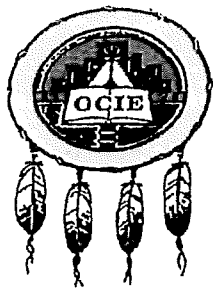
The early grades now have a stronger focus on culture, traditions and history. This allows for the opportunity to help children develop a positive self-image through reinforcing a greater sense of pride in their unique heritage at a younger age. In addition, the draft standards are more focused on skills to prepare students to be more informed, participating citizens of Oklahoma and the United States.

There are also standards listed that will facilitate lessons that teach about the impact American Indian tribes had on this country historically, and continue to have today.

The most noticeable addition to the standards, which is introduced at the third grade level, relates to the subject of sovereignty for tribal governments in Oklahoma. We are in agreement the new standard's sequencing of sovereignty starting at younger grades will help with students understanding the relationship between tribal nations, the state of Oklahoma and the federal government. Nonetheless, we believe a strong approach to introducing this significant topic at this grade level would be to involve students in a modeling activity rather than present the material in textbook form. Because the standards are still in draft form, it remains to be seen how the major textbook publishing companies will embrace the changes and include relevant information with new editions and releases.

In light of this, tribal education agencies (TEA) in Oklahoma can work to develop lesson plans that target the standards and objectives as they are written, and make them available to teachers as soon as possible. The benefit of this approach is that it will allow TEAs to provide relevant lesson plans and demonstrate how they are based directly on the state department of education's Social Studies Standards.

Lastly, we believe the new standards are open-ended enough to ensure TEAs have the flexibility and opportunity to discuss their respective tribal culture, history, language and traditions through developed lesson planning. This approach will also provide an opportunity for tribal nations to provide materials, information, speakers, resources, etc., to classroom teachers for a better and more complete education of all students.



OKLAHOMA COUNCIL FOR INDIAN EDUCATION

Dr. Samantha Benn-Duke, President

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Oklahoma City, OK 73101

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February 22, 2019

Ms. Brenda Beymer-Chapman
Office of Curriculum and Instruction
Oklahoma State Department of Education
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Ms. Brenda Beymer-Chapman:

The Oklahoma Council for Indian Education (OCIE) applauds and stands beside the passionate and diligent educators who are giving of their time and resources to demonstrate the dire situation that the state of education in Oklahoma has reached. Our students all deserve adequate resources and teachers who are well qualified and passionate about their subject areas and who truly care about making a positive difference in the lives of children who enter their classrooms daily.

Oklahoma has innumerable teachers who are among the best in the country, despite the pay that is far below the national and regional averages. We support efforts that fulfill the state's responsibility to fully fund our schools and represent our American Indian students in many capacities. We are pleased that the draft of the Oklahoma Academic Standards for Social Studies have been released and include a significant increase in tribal sovereignty that promotes healthy inclusion of American Indian perspectives. We fully support this inclusion of standards beginning in elementary levels and continuing throughout secondary standards. As a state originating as Indian Territory and now the home of 39 diverse tribes, Oklahoma deserves for its students to learn about our unique history, which includes tribal sovereignty.

We are pleased with the work of Mr. Julian Guerrero, Executive Director of the Office of American Indian Education and all of his colleagues who have spent countless hours of time in completing this monumental task. We advocate for these standards as they will increase a need for resources and professional development critical to continue providing positive learning environments that allow students from all ethnicities and backgrounds to thrive. We are pleased to write this letter of support for the draft standards.

Sincerely,

Lucyann Harjo
Past President, Oklahoma Council for Indian Education
Navajo Nation
Cell Phone: 405-314-6450
Email Address: Lharjo2@norman.k12.ok.us



Oklahoma Social Studies Supervisors Association

*Mission: to collaboratively promote the common interests of social studies
instruction, curriculum, research, and professional growth*

February 12, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

The Oklahoma Social Studies Supervisors Association is writing this letter in support of the proposed Oklahoma Academic Standards for Social Studies. The Oklahoma Social Studies Supervisors Association is a consortium of Social Studies content coordinators throughout Oklahoma. We have now spent multiple weeks and several meetings discussing the new standards and what their implementation means for Oklahoma's students. Our conclusion is that they will significantly enhance our instruction to allow students to be college and career ready.

The proposed standards are challenging and will build on the strengths of the current Oklahoma Academic Standards. Civic learning, engagement, and critical thinking are the desired results of a well-rounded social studies education, and the proposed standards are rich with content and skills that help develop a sense of civic awareness. The vertically aligned progression of social studies practices from Prekindergarten to twelfth grade highlights age-appropriate expectations for social studies practices and provides clarity for parents and teachers. The attention to connections among the grade levels and visible vertical alignment are much needed additions.

The Oklahoma Social Studies Supervisors Association believes that the proposed standards will support higher rigor and student achievement in all social studies courses. For these reasons, we write in support of the proposed Oklahoma Academic Standards.

Respectfully,

Members of the Oklahoma Social Studies Supervisors Association

Elizabeth Rogers
Social Studies Content Specialist
Edmond Public Schools

Amy Wall
Social Studies Content Specialist
Putnam City Public Schools

Patricia Anduss
6-12 Social Studies Chair
Bartlesville Public Schools

Peter Brown
Social Studies Coordinator
Oklahoma City Public Schools

David Burton
Social Studies Coordinator
Moore Public Schools

Courtney Moore
OKAGE Program Manager
Geography and Environmental
Sustainability

Mert Martens
National Social Studies Supervisors
Association

Heather Goodenough
Secondary Social Studies Instructional
Specialist
Broken Arrow Public Schools

Jane Purcell
Social Studies & Business Education
Coordinator
Norman Public School

Matthew Colwell
Social Studies, Gifted/Talented,
and Advanced Placement Coordinator
Mid-Del Public School



The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA.
Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability

February 13, 2019

Joy Hofmeister
State Superintendent
Oklahoma State Board of Education

Dear Superintendent Hofmeister and the State board:

I am writing this letter to you in support of the revised Oklahoma Geography common education standards. As a professor of Geography and Associate Chair of the Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability at the University of Oklahoma, and in my role as interim coordinator of the Oklahoma Alliance for Geographic Education (OKAGE), and as president of the OKAGE board of directors, I have spent the last twenty-five years working towards improving geographic literacy in Oklahoma. OKAGE is a statewide partnership consisting of collegiate, pre kindergarten - 12th grade teachers of geography and social studies and business and agency professionals. OKAGE has been advancing geographic literacy in our state through providing educators with professional development opportunities, academic networking, innovative teaching strategies, classroom materials, and model geography education programs.

What I have learned in my time working at OU and with OKAGE is that one key to producing a geographically literate citizenry is through the use of state standards which serve as both guideposts and benchmarks for teachers. These standards are especially important for Geography, which is an often misunderstood discipline. The perception of Geography for many is that it is simply knowing where places are and the locations of landmarks such as capitals and rivers. These items are important in understanding the world around us, but, more importantly, Geography is the study of places on Earth and their interrelationships as well as our relationships as humans with these locations and the environment. Geography provides students with a conceptual framework for linking events they experience at home and school with the world beyond their doorstep. Geography also allows students to develop a more thorough understanding of multi-cultural concerns and environmental affairs.

Geography does more than help students understand the world; it makes them become better citizens. They are able to learn about and locate important events, whether they are local, regional, national, or international. Thus, students develop the ability to understand the relationship between geography and national or international policies and environmental issues. Ultimately this creates informed citizens who have the ability to use geographical knowledge to make informed decisions regarding the best use of the nation's resources.

100 E. Boyd Street, SEC 510, Norman, Oklahoma 73019

PHONE: (405) 325-5325


WEBSITE: <http://geography.ou.edu>



Ultimately therefore, Geographically informed students will be effective leaders for our country.

In short, we cannot educate our students to be informed citizens without Geography. This is especially true at the younger grades when students are just beginning to develop an understanding of the world around them. Teachers and educators that work with our children need the necessary tools to be able to teach these students. OKAGE has worked hard toward this end through workshops, lesson plan development, and a wide range of professional development and outreach programs, but we would be unable to aid in the development of the necessary curriculum and products without the state standards to serve as a framework for the key aspects of geographic knowledge. The state standards allow teachers to focus their teaching on relevant topics that have been identified and vetted by the standards committees and the Geographic education community overall across the state. Our ability as educators to educate an informed citizenry depends on our collective ability to identify the critical and necessary core concepts to be taught to the students. The state geography standards allow us to do this. As Geography is a broad and synthesizing discipline, geographic knowledge expands when the key principles are taught as part of a consistent year-to-year strand throughout common education. Thus, it is crucial to have standards that clearly identify and articulate this strand throughout all of the elementary grades. The critical 6th and 7th grade Geography classes can, with the right design of the standards and with properly trained teachers and with the support of groups like OKAGE, serve as a capstone and as an integrative summary which will develop in the students the necessary synthesis to advance their knowledge of their surroundings and their place in the world, and position students to succeed in high school and beyond. Thus, OKAGE and myself strongly support the ongoing efforts to advance and improve our state and our childrens' education through the state geography standards. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if there is anything else with which I can help.

Sincerely,



J. Scott Greene, Ph.D.
Professor and Associate Chair
Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability, University of
Oklahoma
Interim Coordinator, and President, Board of Directors, Oklahoma Alliance for
Geographic Education

February 11, 2019

Peter Brown, President
Oklahoma Council for the Social Studies

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Oklahoma Council for the Social Studies in support of the proposed Oklahoma Academic Standards for Social Studies. The Oklahoma Council for the Social Studies is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing resources and professional development for all social studies educators in Oklahoma. OCSS is made up of a diverse group of educators from across the state who have spent countless hours working on the standards writing and draft committee, in addition to providing meaningful feedback during the public comment period.

The proposed standards build on the strengths of the current Oklahoma Academic Standards and provide greater rigor, as well as guidance and support for teachers. Civic learning and engagement is the desired end result of a well-rounded social studies education, and the proposed standards are rich with content and skills that help develop a sense of civic awareness. The vertical progression of social studies practices highlights age-appropriate expectations for social studies practices and provides clarity for parents and teachers.

The Oklahoma Council for the Social Studies board believes that the proposed standards will support higher rigor and student achievement in all social studies courses. For these reasons, we write in support of the proposed Oklahoma Academic Standards.

Sincerely,

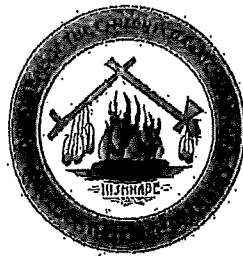
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peter Brown', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Peter Brown
President
Oklahoma Council for the Social Studies

CHAIRMAN
John A. Barrett

VICE CHAIRMAN
Linda Capps

SECRETARY-TREASURER
D. Wayne Trousdale



Jbarrett@potawatomi.org

Lcapps@potawatomi.org

Dtrousdale@potawatomi.org

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION

February 22, 2019

Ms. Brenda Beymer-Chapman
Office of Curriculum and Instruction
Oklahoma State Department of Education
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Director Brenda Chapman:

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation, a federally recognized tribal nation, has submitted comments and reviewed the Draft PreK-12 Social Studies Academic Standards. We appreciate the opportunity to have provided feedback and encourage continued efforts to solicit collaboration with the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE).

It is evident from the draft standards that the Office of American Indian Education and the Office of Curriculum and Instruction have worked to broaden the range of focus and specificity for the instruction and inclusion of American Indian perspectives and histories. Particularly, we are encouraged at the opportunity, enabled by the draft standards, to teach more local history of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation to our local school districts.

Through this work, it is apparent the OSDE has become receptive to increased tribal collaboration to improve educational services for all American Indian students. We are pleased to offer our letter of support for the draft social studies standards and are encouraged at the opportunity to see improved efforts for tribal consultation through this essential work. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Tesia Zientek, Director of Education at 405-275-3121 x1431 or at tesia.zientek@potawatomi.org.

Sincerely,

Linda Capps
Vice Chairman
Citizen Potawatomi Nation

cc: Julian Guerrero Jr.
Executive Director of American Indian Education
Oklahoma State Department of Education



February 10, 2019

Oklahoma State Board of Education

Re. Social Studies Standards

Dear Oklahoma State Board of Education:

The Oklahoma Council on Economic Education's (OCEE's) mission is to promote personal finance and economic education in Oklahoma—and we have been doing so for 65 years. Our goal is to reach and teach every child in every district and school so that they can make better decisions for themselves, their families and their communities.

OCEE carries out its mission by educating the educators: providing the curriculum tools, the pedagogical support, and the community of peers that instruct, inspire, and guide. We strive to meet the teachers where they are with what they need.

With this mission in mind, the Oklahoma Council on Economic Education supports the proposed change and update to the Oklahoma Academic Standards in Social Studies. Within the standards, there is an increase in personal finance and economic concepts that educators can easily accommodate to. This increase, is what we hope, will be the first of several components to strengthen personal finance and economic education in our state. These concepts start to make a stronger connection to what other states are doing which will make access to resources greater for educators in our state.

Oklahoma is one of six states in the nation that does not require economics standards to be implemented. We are one of 25 states that does not require a high school economics course to be taken. This certainly sets our students apart and these additions start to bridge that gap.

Further, we appreciate the work of the State Department of Education to have well-rounded committees with different areas of expertise. We are familiar with the credentials of some of the committee members and appreciate the integrity of the selection process and information provided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Lee".

Amy Lee
Executive Director

Oklahoma Council on Economic Education
100 N University Dr., Box 103
Edmond, OK 73034
405.974.OCEE

Our Mission: To promote personal finance
and economic education in Oklahoma.

www.econisok.org

www.moneyisok.org

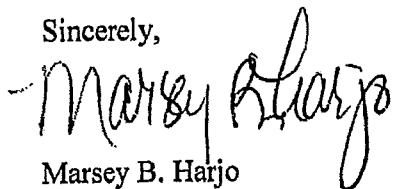
February 4, 2019

Oklahoma State Department of Education
Office of Indian Education
2500 North Lincoln Blvd. Rm 433
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

To Whom It May Concern:

I am honored for the opportunity to comment on the proposed modification in the recently released Draft Oklahoma PreK-12 Social Studies Standards. I am a Seminole tribal citizen. I understand that Oklahoma's ESSA Consolidated State Plan, *Oklahoma Edge*, is strategic in its efforts to strengthen collaboration with diverse stakeholders in working toward a strong and equitable education system. I recognize the new Social Studies standards as a step toward quality inclusion of Oklahoma's diverse tribal nations, and a foundation step toward expanding collaborative efforts of tribes to support public education throughout the state. I express my support of the suggested amendments to the Standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marsey B. Harjo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marsey B. Harjo
Community Cultural Specialist
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

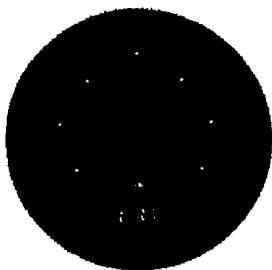
Wichita and Affiliated Tribes

Terri Parton
President

Jesse E. Jones
Vice President

Myles Stephenson Jr.
Secretary

Vanessa Vance
Treasurer



Shirley Davilla
Committee Member

Nahusheah Mandujano
Committee Member

Matt Roberson
Committee Member

Tribal Administration
P.O. Box 729 · Anadarko, OK 73005
Telephone (405) 247.2425 Fax (405) 247.2430
www.wichitatribe.com

February 22, 2019

Director Brenda Chapman
Social Studies and Personal Finance Literacy
Office of Curriculum and Instruction
Oklahoma State Department of Education
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard
OKC, OK 73105

Dear Director Chapman:

Understanding the importance of Tribal Sovereignty is perhaps the most critical responsibility of Oklahoma public schools. The Wichita and Affiliated Tribes have urged the inclusion of American Indian perspectives throughout the revision process. It is apparent, after reviewing the draft social studies standards, that the Oklahoma State Department of Education has worked to increase the representation of Tribal Sovereignty.

The Wichita and Affiliated Tribes appreciates and welcomes the opportunity to provide input on all activities to increase the representation of American Indian perspectives. It is evident that the Office of American Indian Education and Office of Curriculum and Instruction has been in great collaboration around this work. The Tribe applauds the work of Mr. Guerrero and Ms. Chapman and encourage continued efforts to increase tribal sovereignty moving forward.

Tribal Sovereignty is a pillar of Oklahoma's story, one that requires more culturally-responsive teaching and are pleased to see that these standards support such a critical effort. Please contact me at (405) 247-2425 ext. 101 or terri.parton@wichitatribe.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Terri Parton, President
Wichita and Affiliated Tribes



Kiowa Tribe
HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM
806 Wynan Court · Anadarko, Oklahoma · 73005
Phone: (580) 654-6324 – Fax: (405) 648-7078
higherred@kiowatribe.org

February 22, 2019

Director Brenda Chapman
Oklahoma State Department of Education
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Brenda Chapman:

We believe in greater opportunities for collaboration between the 39 Tribal Nations throughout the State of Oklahoma and local school districts. We are pleased to know that the Oklahoma State Department of Education Office of American Indian Education, in collaboration with the Office of Curriculum and Instruction, produced a strong set of draft academic standards for social studies.

It is evident from reviewing the draft standards, the result of the thorough work of Mr. Julian Guerrero and the countless tribal representatives and educational stakeholders who were a part of the entire process, that they better represent the experiences of all tribes who call Oklahoma home. Furthermore, they broaden opportunities for educators to make local connections when teaching the histories and contemporary experiences of Oklahoma tribes.

Tribal Nations have and continue to contribute to the fabric of Oklahoma's story. Through these standards, we have an incredible opportunity to also share the story of the Kiowa Tribe. We are enthusiastic about the more inclusive nature of the social studies standards and we look forward to the advancement of tribal collaborations with the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Please do not hesitate to reach me with additional questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Sunny K. Hegwood, Ph.D.
Comanche Nation Citizen
Director, Higher Education Grant Program
Kiowa Tribe
580-654-6324
shegwood@kiowatribe.org



Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
2025 South Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801
405-275-4030

Edwina Butler-Wolfe
Governor

February 21, 2019

Ms. Brenda Beymer-Chapman
Office of Curriculum and Instruction
Oklahoma State Department of Education
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4599

Director Brenda Chapman:

I am pleased to write this letter of support on behalf of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe regarding the Draft PreK-12 Social Studies Academic Standards. Our tribal nation has a strong and rich history that deserves to be heard and I believe these standards enable local public schools the opportunity to include our story in classroom teaching.

Since time immemorial, the American Indian perspective has had to be a constant advocate for the teaching of tribal sovereignty at an early age, these standards help us do that. I am pleased to know that the Oklahoma State Department of Education is following through on its commitment to tribal nations. It is imperative that the Office of American Indian Education continues to be solicited for collaboration with other departments and offices throughout the agency in order to facilitate great achievements like the draft standards.

As a retired educator myself, I believe in public education and its power to uproot individuals from poverty. I have great appreciation for the Executive Director of the Office of American Indian Education and his colleagues for striving to bring more representation of Tribal Nations to the table. I commend this work, support its current version, and urge that these draft standards be approved for adoption in order to increase our responsibility to teach tribal sovereignty for all.

Sincerely,

Edwina Butler-Wolfe
Governor
Absentee Shawnee Tribe
405 275-4030, Ext: 6308
edwinab@astribe.com

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Reggie Wassana
Governor



Gilbert Miles
Lieutenant Governor

February 22, 2019

Ms. Brenda Beymer-Chapman
Office of Curriculum and Instruction
Oklahoma State Department of Education
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4599

Director Chapman:

The American Indian story is rich in history, culture, and continues to have a strong impact on Oklahoma since time immemorial. We appreciate the inclusion of American Indian tribes and our tribal educators being afforded the opportunity to contribute to the revision process for the Oklahoma Academic Standards for Social Studies. Particularly it is evident from the current draft standards that the Oklahoma State Department of Education has worked to increase inclusion and academic rigor together.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and our education community are pleased with the draft standards and believe the new standards will provide a greater opportunity for students to become more culturally-aware and informed of all the 39 tribal nations in the State of Oklahoma. It is apparent that your commitment to American Indian education has begun to change, we are appreciative of the work of Mr. Julian Guerrero Jr. at the Office of American Indian Education and the Office of Curriculum and Instruction.

American Indian history deserves a greater representation in all academic standards, and believe these draft standards are a step in the right direction for increased Tribal Sovereignty representation for all.

Sincerely,

Reggie Wassana
Governor
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
(405) 422-7734 / Rwassana@c-a-tribes.org