

Burcham Elementary

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Home of the Eagles

January 26, 2016

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

Dear Honorable Members of the Oklahoma State Board of Education,

On behalf of the teachers and administrators at Burcham Elementary, Weatherford Public Schools, I am writing this letter to offer our support for the proposed Oklahoma Academic Standards for Mathematics and English / Language Arts. As an early childhood center (PK-1) public school, we are keenly aware of the importance of having standards in place as quickly as possible. We have tremendous confidence in the process utilized by the State Department of Education to create these new standards. Oklahomans were afforded a meaningful opportunity to review and create the proposed academic standards. The process used to create these standards was deliberately inclusive of all interested voices, leaving out only those that chose not to participate in the many steps of review, development, and refinement. The proposed standards are designed to prepare students for successful entry into the workforce, career technology institutes, or higher education. Importantly, the educators involved in this process have determined that the proposed standards will benefit the students of Oklahoma.

We appreciate the commitment to continuous improvement from Superintendent Hofmeister, the staff of the State Department of Education, and the members of the State Board of Education. As it relates to state academic standards, we know standards require frequent review and modification with an eye toward improving student achievement to ensure that all Oklahoma students receive the high quality educational experience to which they are entitled. It is imperative that the standards are quickly acted upon so that Burcham Elementary, and all other schools, can begin the important work of training and implementing these new standards by August of 2016. We greatly appreciate your attention and all the work you do for Oklahoma schools.

Respectfully,

Marla Pankratz

Marla Pankratz, Principal