ESSA TOWNHALL FEEDBACK SUMMARY

| Town Hall Locations and Dates               | Duncan, October 18, 2016  
|                                           | Ada, November 1, 2016     
|                                           | Oklahoma City, November 14, 2016  
|                                           | Tulsa, November 15, 2016   
|                                           | Enid, December 5, 2016     
|                                           | Yukon, December 6, 2016    
|                                           | Muskogee, December 12, 2016 |
| Conducted by                              | Superintendent of Public Instruction, Joy Hofmeister |
| Number of Attendees                       | Total: 998                
|                                           | Duncan: 343/Ada: 99/Oklahoma City: 87   
|                                           | Tulsa: 168/Enid: 85/Yukon: 102/Muskogee: 114 |

List of Questions and Summary of Responses

1. **What impact have you experienced from funding challenges?**
   - Lack of resources for teachers
   - Large class sizes
   - Limited textbooks
   - Limited technology
   - Loss of exceptional/effective teachers

   *Notable Quotes:*
   - *You can only guilt education majors for so long with “it’s for the kids” (teacher).*
   - *We have pro-books and are very lucky. Small towns don’t have that luxury (teacher).*

2. **What attributes describe a successful school?**
   - Parental involvement
   - Teacher empowerment
   - Community involvement
   - Consistent and fair discipline
   - Meaningful professional development
   - Students accountable for their own learning
   - Kids are excited and engaged
   - Collaborative
   - Proactive
   - Robust curriculum
   - More transparency
   - Pathways for Success
   - Positive morale of teachers
Safe for kids
Connection to real world
Resources to carry out and sustain initiatives
Strong leader
Arts-incorporated
Outreach programs from counselors

Notable Quotes:
Parents who aren’t there are not necessarily disinterested (retired teacher).
Students have to start early exploring career options (teacher).
I appreciate the Twitter talks on Sunday evenings; we learn from each other (principal).

3. **What is missing or in short supply?**

   Fewer students claiming education as a major
   Teacher shortage is a pipeline issue
   Grow the future through teacher programs in high schools
   Raise level of respect and recognize teaching as a noble profession
   Time to collaborate and plan
   Traditionally certified teachers
   Music as part of brain development
   Money
   Paper
   Businesses don’t want to come to state due to education system
   Clear strategy to keep curriculum from broadening
   Concurrent courses, expanded AP, internships
   Social and emotional soft skills
   Middle school guidance counselors
   Growth model for testing
   Consistency of instruction and assessments
   One-on-one time with teachers

Notable Quotes:
We don’t engage early enough with our kids to know what they want to do later in life (parent).
Students need academic choices in school – options are missing due to funding (superintendent).
4. **How would you describe a well-rounded education?**

Cross-curriculum learning, relevant to children’s lives
Develop love of learning
Fine Arts-embedded
Business partnerships
Educate families that their children need to learn basics at an early age
Technology
Diverse experiences
Exercise
Produce productive citizens
Sports
Becoming “life-ready” – not just focused on college and career
Hands-on and innovative – includes music, art, and drama
Pathways for kids
Exposure to professionals
A-F system change so that culture and climate are improved
Address needs for every student – hungry students, unchallenged students
Teacher externships from businesses
Allow teachers to be creative

*Notable Quotes:*
*Learn from others the importance of education (student).*
*Students should have their own opinions – think for themselves (student).*

5. **How is your school doing and how do you know?**

Excellent job due to community involvement
Standards are great – test model needs to follow
Relationships with students and work ethic are important
Extra-curricular activities are important
Teachers are performing at high levels but are under-appreciated
Known success due to communication
Rural settings have administrators teaching classes
Appreciate the effort to re-define the senior year
Kids have to feel safe in their country and not fear deportation
Parents have much to say – continue to invite their views
Teacher are resourceful, but overall they are not doing well
Teachers who value the identity of students
Efforts to improve classroom management, climate, restorative justice
Caution tracking of students
Difficult to run school on lowest per pupil expenditure nationwide
Need to provide role models for students – personnel and resources
Notable Quotes:
K-8 schools succeed in serving the community of rural areas (legislator).
Testing students is not the answer to measuring them – too many aspects to measure (student).
When kids come back from college and say that they were prepared (principal).

6. **How do we ensure that all students are successful?**

   Give students opportunities
   Adequately compensate teachers
   Funding
   Collective efforts
   Slow down process of government over-reach
   Remove unfunded mandates
   Hold high expectations for students and educators
   Human needs must be met
   Meet needs of diverse learners, including English learners

Notable Quotes:
If you don’t know anything about education, get on the local board (school board member).
Core subjects are important; education is the force against prejudice (student).

7. **What is it that makes this community so engaged?**

   Media attention has brought more volunteers
   Communication with legislators to hold them accountable
   Collaboration with businesses
   Industry programs with nothing expected in return

Notable Quotes:
Engaged parents are critical (parent).
If we create great schools, families will follow (superintendent).