



To: SC3-OSDE
From: Shannon Riley-Ayers
cc: Lori Connors-Tadros
Date: September 14, 2015
Re: Request for Draft Oklahoma Academic Standards for PreK to Grade 4 Review

Thank you for the opportunity to review the ELA standards for grades PK-4. I have outlined below just a few comments. Please reach out to me with any questions. Overall, I found the standards to be research-based, sequential, and well-defined.

The addition of the progression chart helped to make the standards easier to follow and clearly outlined the relationship between the standards from one grade level to the next. This format also highlighted that, at times, a standard is the same across two grade levels. I believe that this is appropriate and wouldn't necessarily wordsmith the standards to reflect trivial differences just so that the standards read differently. However, I suggest the addition of language explaining the rationale of these similarities to teachers.

When addressing writing standards for Pre-K it is important to highlight dictation as a means of written communication for these young learners. This is addressed in Standard IV, but I found it missing in Standard II.

One revision I strongly suggest is the inclusion of phonological awareness for Pre-K and K. This standard is omitted in the current draft. There is a strong research base outlining that phonological awareness is closely related to later learning. Information around rhyming, alliteration, and separation of syllables, onset and rime, and then individual phonemes should be included.

There are a few edits that I'm sure will be addressed by a line editor. I highlight just two here to bring to your attention. First, fluency and comprehension are "defined" rather than written as a standard for children. Second, both preschool and pre-kindergarten are used in the Pre-K standards and I would suggest consistency.

One final comment is that ELA does not develop in isolation of other domains. I am hopeful that there will be comprehensive standards for teachers that encompass all content areas such as science, social studies, and physical development. It is important for teachers to see the intersection of multi-domain standards and work toward integration of subject areas in their classrooms. Lastly, play and playful learning is crucial in the early childhood curriculum and I would recommend that this is highlighted somewhere in your standards document.