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## Test Ready-March 2018

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### Noteworthy with Dr. Ellis

Happy March! As you know, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) has been replaced with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). As Oklahoma transitions into ESSA, I want to make sure you understand what that means for the designated sites in your district. Superintendents with a designated site(s) in their district should have received an electronic letter from Superintendent Hofmeister on Thursday, March 15, 2018, with information regarding school support and designations.

Sites currently designated as Priority, Focus 3, Focus 4, or Focus 5 will receive one final allocation of School Support funds similar to the March 2017, allocation amount. On June 30, 2018, all sites will be removed from designation to allow for effective transition to ESSA. School Support Specialists will be providing additional information to principals on the amount allocated and what schools will need to do to prepare to expend these funds. A list of currently designated sites (Priority and Focus) can be found on the [Oklahoma State Department of Education website](#).

Under ESSA, there is also a change in language regarding designation. Priority designation will now be called Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), and Focus designation will now be called Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI). The first designation of CSI schools is scheduled to be released in January 2019 for the 2018-2019 school year. The first designation of TSI schools will occur prior to the 2019-2020 school year.

Our office will provide a session at EngageOK on the Road this summer titled, "What Will School Support Look Like Under ESSA?" We would love to see you there!

If you have questions or concerns about this final allocation, the ending of current designation, or future designations under ESSA, please do not hesitate to reach out to your School Support Specialist or to me.

## Grant Talk

A letter is being sent out from SDE regarding the status of currently designated sites. New allocation and webinar information will follow. If you have questions or need further information, please contact your assigned School Support Specialist or Zada Sery at (405)521-4269 or [zada.sery@sde.ok.gov](mailto:zada.sery@sde.ok.gov). I am also available for over-the-phone/onsite technical assistance or GMS end-user training for new staff.

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## Leading Edge-Tips for Testing

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It is hard to believe it is already March, and testing season is right around the corner. April can be stressful for administrators, teachers, and students; however, a few simple, pre-test steps may help ease anxiety for everyone.

Administrators can prepare for the testing window by ensuring all test administrators/proctors completed the required state testing training. A quick walk-through of any testing classroom will guarantee that bulletin boards, posters, and curriculum aids are properly covered at least two days before the scheduled testing date. Testing materials must be properly stored in a secure location; thus, administrators must confirm that the location meets security requirements. Administrators need to check that test monitors are available to assist on testing days with a few monitors on emergency standby. A letter to parents will increase awareness of testing dates and times. Moreover, this type of communication is an opportunity to encourage parents to reschedule routine appointments and to emphasize the importance of student attendance.

Teachers can prepare by reviewing the test item specs with students several weeks before the testing window opens. This will allow time to reteach/review/clarify any concepts students may still be struggling with or have questions about. Exposure to the testing format will better prepare students for the actual Oklahoma School Testing Program (OSTP) tests. The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) website provides testing item specs and blueprints available for review on the Assessment home page. [Click here for SDE Test Item Specs and Blueprints](#) Discussing expectations and procedures with students will help them understand what the BIG day will look like and what to expect the day testing begins. Lastly, teachers can send a brief email or personal reminder regarding how they can help their children have a successful day:

- Make sure children arrive at school on time;

- Eat a healthy breakfast at home or at school;
- Ensure your child gets a good night's sleep;
- Encourage your child to take their time and do their best;
- Have a positive attitude.

Everyone has worked hard all year to ensure all students are working at or above grade level. Having testing procedures in place should help alleviate some anxiety for everyone involved.

## Spotlight School-Talihina Testing

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Talihina Public Schools is gearing up for this year's first Test Prep Workshop for the district's junior high and high school students in grades 7-12 on March 26-29 from 3:30 to 5:30 PM. Charlotte Fitzgerald, secondary level ELA teacher, will be facilitating the workshop in her classroom.

Workshop sessions will reinforce basic writing practices, test taking preferences, and test preparation in ELA.

Different types of essays and the use of each will be reviewed. Ms. Fitzgerald, will also focus on helping students improve written introductions and conclusions, in addition to developing individual abilities to effectively use prewriting strategies that make the writing process easier.



Objectives of the workshop include improvement in academic knowledge and skills of participating students who will also gain greater confidence in their writing, grammar and test taking abilities. The goal of the initiative is that student learning during the workshop will be

positively reflected in 2018 results of the Oklahoma State Testing Program.

The ELA workshop is free of charge for Talihina students, as will be similar programs in science and mathematics during subsequent weeks. Incentive programs to promote student participation are currently being discussed. Project 515 funds were budgeted by the district this school year to support salaries and benefits for teachers involved in the Test Prep Workshops, and also for advertising in the local newspaper to promote family awareness of the extended learning opportunity.

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## Professional Development Opportunities

- **Counseling-**  
Counseling Crisis Team Training's:  
3/22/2018 WOODWARD - High Plains Tech Center, 3921 34th Street,  
Woodward, OK 73801 201 A/B 100 <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/crisisteam-training-ne-woodward-tickets42906325976>  
3/23/2018 GUYMON - Guymon Public Library, 1718 N. Oklahoma Street,  
Guymon, OK 73942 Library Safe Room 48  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/crisisteam-training-ne-guymon-tickets42906681038>
- **Special ED-**  
3/26/18 TULSA -2 sessions Tulsa Tech-Lemley EOY Data Erik Friend, Tristan Bratcher 9:00-4:00  
3/27/18 MCALESTER-2 sessions Kiamichi Tech Center EOY Data Erik Friend, Tristan Bratcher 9:00-4:00  
3/28/18 LAWTON- Great Plains Tech EOY Data Erik Friend, Tristan Bratcher AM only 9:00-4:00  
3/29/18 WOODWARD HIGH PLAINS TECH. EOY Data Erik Friend, Tristan Bratcher AM only 9:00-4:00

### **Office of School Support Contact Information**

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