



Dr. Rick Cobb
Superintendent

7217 S.E. 15th Street
Midwest City, OK 73110
(405) 737-4461
rcobb@mid-del.net

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

To whom it concerns:

Academically, nothing is more important than teaching students to read, write, and listen effectively. A student who not only excels in the language arts, but also enjoys them, will achieve more academically than a student who does not. With this in mind, I enthusiastically support the current draft of the Oklahoma Academic Standards for English/Language Arts.

I have reviewed the standards as they are to be presented, and I have had opportunities to review drafts throughout the development process. I have colleagues, including several people who have worked for me, who have participated in the process as well.

Two things strike me as most exceptional about these standards. First is that every standard includes strands for reading and writing. That means that at all grade levels, we will expect students not only to consume language, but to create it as well. They will be using the vocabulary that they are learning. They will be applying critical thinking skills throughout the grade spans. Even better, they will be learning with the purpose of becoming independent readers and writers.

The second selling point to me is the care taken in vertical alignment between grades. Once adopted, these standards will give us a skills progression that will help teachers develop their own instructional units and prepare students for each successive grade. Ultimately, the assessments that will be in place to test students will be more representative of what they know and can do than what we have seen during recent years.

I commend the leadership of Superintendent Hofmeister, the Oklahoma State Department of Education, and all the professionals who selflessly gave their time to this effort. Oklahoma's schoolchildren will surely benefit from this work.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rick Cobb
Mid-Del Public Schools