

FROM: District Superintendents

DATE: August 21, 2013

RE: **Supporting Families in Raising the Grade for Oklahoma Children**

Dear Parents,

Great news for you and your children! Our state is making some significant changes to improve the quality of education in Oklahoma. As positive as the changes are, change in general can be challenging at times for any of us to handle. This tends to be especially so during the transition phase. We are in the middle of transitioning to a new set of standards now. The purpose of this letter is to keep your family well informed so you can understand the specific challenges we are facing as we make the move toward raising the bar for students in Oklahoma. We thought you'd like to know the following:

- **What educational changes can you expect to see?** In 2010, our legislators called for the implementation of college and career ready standards for PreK-12 students in Oklahoma. That commitment raised the educational bar for your children. Beginning this year your children's teachers will be delivering more rigorous instruction aimed at helping your children achieve these college and career ready standards.
- **How will these educational changes benefit your children?** Your children will be taught what they need to know for jobs of the 21st century; jobs that require them to think on their feet and solve problems.
- **How might test scores be affected?** We expect that as our schools begin to align assessments to the new, more rigorous academic standards, your children's test scores may drop. This is understandable and even expected. As teachers and students become accustomed to this new, better way of learning, your children's test scores will rebound.

Thank you for your family's continued support of improving education in our state! It is important that we all stay the course on implementing college and career ready standards and more rigorous assessments for your children and Oklahoma's future. We have raised the bar in the past for children. Time and again, they successfully rise to meet the challenge. If there was ever a state that has proven it can rise to a challenge and come out on top, it's Oklahoma! If you would like to learn more about this transition year and our road ahead, please visit www.theroadaheadok.com.