



OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

JANET BARRESI  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

## Preliminary Test Score Overview

(Information will be updated after the 30-day correction window.)

### End-of-Instruction

- In Algebra I, Algebra II, US History, English II and English III, our student test scores are trending up although they are trending down in Geometry.
- We have a new end-of-instruction test in Biology I.
- The new test is more rigorous.
- Fewer students scored proficient or advanced on the more rigorous test than in previous years on the old test.

### Grades 3 through 8

- In grades 3 through 5, reading scores are trending up and math scores are looking the same as last year.
- In grades 6 through 8, reading scores are trending down and math scores are up and down depending on the grade level.
- We have new tests in grades 5 and 8 science and writing.
- The new tests are more rigorous.
- Fewer students scored proficient or advanced on the more rigorous tests than in previous years on the old test.
- For all of grades 3 through 8, more students took the regular assessment than in previous years.
- This increase in students taking the tests can be attributed in part to the fact that fewer students took the modified assessment for special education students being taught on grade level. This is a good overall indicator that shows we have increased expectations for all students.
- Due to the change in federal regulations, the modified assessment is being phased out by the State Department of Education.
- (There is a portfolio assessment for students whose disabilities do not allow for them to be taught on grade level. We will continue to have this test available in the future.)



OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

JANET BARRESI  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

## Background Information

In 2010, Senate Bill 2033 required the complete implementation of the more rigorous standards in English and math by the end of this school year.

Additionally, the State Board of Education has adopted new more rigorous standards in social studies, art and PE. We are currently rewriting the science standards. These last standards were written in Oklahoma, by Oklahoma educators with Oklahoma values in mind.

With the more rigorous standards come more rigorous assessments. As part of our transition, we included performance-based test questions last spring to help students and teachers ease into the new tests that are teaching our children to think on their feet, solve problems and develop critical thinking skills – everything they will be required to have as they graduate high school and enter college, train for the workforce or go directly into the workforce.

With the tougher test questions in science, writing and Biology I, we saw an initial drop in test scores across the state. We are also seeing fewer students scoring proficient in these subjects because we also raised the cut scores on these tests.

## What then are the desired results we hope to achieve?

We want our high school graduates to be able take college level, credit bearing courses when they get to college, not use precious resources taking remedial courses.

We want them to be able to enter the CareerTech of their choice and train for jobs that require proficiency in math and science.

We want them to think on their feet, think critically and solve real world problems. In other words, we want them to learn the skills they will need to be competitive in 21st Century jobs.

The next two years are critical. It will determine the type of education our children receive for the next two decades. Oklahoma must stay the course.

Superintendent Barresi is asking every Oklahoman to stand behind our teachers. Our teachers need our support now more than ever as we continue to work to Raise the Grade in Oklahoma.

Today, the Oklahoma State Department of Education is releasing preliminary test scores to districts. They will have a 30-day window to review the scores and make any necessary changes or corrections.

The State Department of Education will then calculate the A-F Report cards which will be released in late October.

## Statement of Support

To compete in today's economy, my company must constantly exceed our customers' expectations. And we're no longer competing with just Oklahoma or U.S. manufacturing. It's a global marketplace, which means our products – and our people – have to be intelligent, motivated and highly skilled employees who can think, adapt and solve problems on the fly.

I support Oklahoma's efforts to make our public schools more competitive and our students college and career ready. Yes, I understand that means that classwork is harder – students have to study more and teachers have to prepare and test more. But if we don't accept this challenge we are destined to see our economy decline and our American way of life disappear.

So raising the academic bar is not only in my company's best interests, it's in the best interest of Oklahoma's economy to make sure our children are studying relevant 'real world' topics and trends. As a parent I want this for my children. As a business owner I want all Oklahoma children graduating high school and college with the knowledge and abilities that make them well-prepared for making a good living and a good life.

But global competitiveness in the Oklahoma workforce of tomorrow won't happen without a serious shift in accountability in our educational system. I'm a third-generation Oklahoma business owner. I'm proud to join my grandparents and parents as hard-working taxpayers, who fully support the majority of our tax dollars going to our public schools. But all taxpayers need assurance that our schools are well-equipped to deliver the results we need to grow and prosper as a society in a rapidly changing world. We must set lofty goals, adopt meaningful measurements and establish a better system for rewards for the teachers who deliver the essential result – better-educated graduates who are college and career ready.

I believe our Oklahoma Academic Standards are a step in the right direction and that my employees and my customers – and all Oklahomans – will benefit from it.

**Chuck Mills**

*President, Mills Machine Company, Shawnee, OK  
Chairman-Elect, State Chamber of Oklahoma*