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STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA
MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Janet Barresi

DATE: April 9, 2012

SUBJECT: Reward Schools

On February 9, 2012, the U.S. Department of Education approved Oklahoma's Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Request. As part of the ESEA Flexibility Request, Oklahoma identified 127 schools as Reward Schools.

- Highest-Performing Reward Schools are schools that were in the top 10% of performance, based on all statewide assessments administered in the school, in each of the three previous years.
- High-Progress Reward Schools are schools that were in the top 10% of improvement in reading and mathematics proficiency rates between 2008-2009 and 2010-2011.

Reward Schools will receive the following recognitions and rewards as time and funding allow:

- Honor all Reward Schools at State Board of Education Meeting
- Create a Press Release listing all Reward Schools
- Recognize Reward Schools through REAC³H Network
- Ensure that all Reward Schools are included in State Superintendent's Listening Tour
- Request citations from the Governor and State Legislators
- Conduct a "Reward School Day at the Capitol" for recognition by the Legislature and the Governor during Legislative Session
- Ensure that all Reward Schools are represented through various advisory groups and councils
- Invite Reward Schools to provide training sessions at statewide conferences and regional workshops
- Provide more autonomy regarding state and federal funds to local educational agencies (LEAs) with one or more Reward Schools if the LEA can demonstrate that the flexible use of funds will lead to greater results in the Reward Schools and the other schools in the LEA

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- Exempt Reward Schools from annual monitoring of certain accreditation requirements and certain site plans (to be determined)
- Provide financial rewards to Reward Schools – with an emphasis on high-progress schools and high-poverty schools – if funding is available
- Offer grant opportunities to Reward Schools willing to partner with Priority Schools, Focus Schools, or schools earning grades of C, D, or F in the State’s A-F School Grading System within the same LEA or in surrounding LEAs to assist all partner schools with continuous improvement
- Establish a School Recognition and Support Registry for businesses, community organizations, and philanthropic organizations to engage with schools specific to their needs for continuous improvement

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