

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 16, 2012

To: Janet C. Barresi, State Superintendent

From: Jeff Downs
Oklahoma State Department of Education

Subject: Oklahoma State Department of Education conditional approval of Science, Technology, and Engineering (STEM) focused fields of study

To the Oklahoma State Department of Education Board:

During the transition period to Oklahoma C3 (Common Core) standards, it is important that student learning and innovative initiatives continue to flourish in our pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade and technology center classrooms. In an effort to provide ongoing support to our Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) focused field of study academies, the Oklahoma State Department of Education would like to submit to the Board, on behalf of the Great Plains Technology Center, a focused field of study pre-engineering and biomedical application.

In 2004, the state legislature authorized that technology center districts may offer programs/career majors for sophomores (HB 2662). However, in order for sophomores to obtain academic credit for math and science courses above Algebra I and Biology I, students must be enrolled in a focused field of study. Over the last several years, technology center Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) focused field of study academies have demonstrated amazing success.

Just as our state curriculum is undergoing a transition to common core, so must our focused field of study application and approval process. Over the next few months the Oklahoma State Department of Education and Oklahoma State Department of Career and Technology Education will work together to improve the focus field of study application process including the transition to common core.

The Oklahoma State Department of Education would like to submit and recommend for approval the Great Plains Technology Center focused field of study application with the condition of cross walking the following math content to Oklahoma C3 standards.

Trigonometry
Pre-Calculus
Pre-Advanced Placement (AP) Geometry

The math content listed above will be cross walked with the Oklahoma C3 standards and will be submitted to the Oklahoma State Department of Education for final approval at the April 2012 board meeting.

Thank you for your consideration. It is important to receive conditional approval of this focused field of study so the Great Plains Technology Center may begin recruitment of sophomore students into the pre-engineering and biomedical focused field of study academies and not lose a window of opportunity for our Oklahoma students.