



RYAN WALTERS

STATE SUPERINTENDENT *of* PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oklahoma City, Oklahoma – Superintendent Ryan Walters praised the additional \$22.58 million deposited into the Teacher Empowerment Fund today:

“The Teacher Empowerment Fund is the vehicle we need to reward our best and brightest teachers and is the path for our best teachers to make six figures while remaining in the classroom. I am committed to developing and rewarding the very best teachers in Oklahoma.

These additional funds will help ensure that high-performing teachers stay in the classroom, help strengthen the next generation of teachers, and most importantly, help our students achieve academically.

I want to personally thank Governor Stitt, Senate President Pro Tempore Greg Treat, Senate Education Committee Chairman Adam Pugh, House Speaker Pro Tempore Kyle Hilbert, and the rest of the Oklahoma Legislature for their leadership in helping ensure this program gets the funding it needs to be successful.”

Through the Teacher Empowerment Fund, teachers may earn as much as \$80,000 in additional income: a maximum of \$40,000 in annual incentive salary from their district as well as a corresponding State match up to \$40,000.

Additional information about the program may be found on the OSDE website: <https://sde.ok.gov/comprehensive-teacher-pay-reform>. For any additional questions, contact: OTEP@sde.ok.gov.

OSDE will continue to be in contact with superintendents and teachers across the state with details about how to apply for this program.

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