



PO Box 1149, Glenpool, OK 74033
918-322-9500

January 21, 2016

Superintendent Joy Hofmeister
State Superintendent of Education
Oklahoma State Department of Education
Oliver Hodge Building
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Superintendent Joy Hofmeister,

I had the opportunity to review the newly authored Oklahoma Language Arts Standards and Oklahoma Math Standards that were developed by committees of Oklahoma educators. Thank you for providing a time for members of the Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee to read and evaluate the standards.

I was very pleased with the Oklahoma Language Arts Standards. The vertical alignment of these standards is extremely helpful to Oklahoma educators and will allow teachers to clearly see their areas of focus for each grade level. The flow of standards between each grade level shows a progression of student development that is invaluable to each grade level. The removal of redundant skill sets in each grade level allows the teacher to focus on the newly introduced skills and increased rigor of grade level standards. The written document demonstrates the natural way that students should learn reading and writing by bundling cohesive skills together in an integrated learning process. This will help teachers take a more real world approach to student learning which will dramatically increase their career and college readiness.

The Oklahoma Math Standards were written in everyday language that will be clearly understood by teachers. The vertical alignment of the math standards is even more important as it becomes crucial that students in each grade level learn and demonstrate proficiency in grade level standards to be ready to add the next brick of learning. These standards provide a fantastic road map of student's mathematical development throughout their academic career and place emphasis on each stage of learning. The focus on math integration with real world application promotes critical thinking and problem solving.

Glenpool Public School District supports the new Oklahoma Language Arts Standards and Oklahoma Math Standards and is very appreciative of the outstanding work that was done as well as the ability of the Oklahoma State Department of Education to make this a high priority to have these standards in place for the 16-17 school term.

Sincerely,

June L Gerred
Director, Instructional Technology
Glenpool Public Schools



Dr. Rick Cobb
Superintendent

7217 S.E. 15th Street
Midwest City, OK 73110
(405) 737-4461
rcobb@mid-del.net

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

To whom it concerns:

Academically, nothing is more important than teaching students to read, write, and listen effectively. A student who not only excels in the language arts, but also enjoys them, will achieve more academically than a student who does not. With this in mind, I enthusiastically support the current draft of the Oklahoma Academic Standards for English/Language Arts.

I have reviewed the standards as they are to be presented, and I have had opportunities to review drafts throughout the development process. I have colleagues, including several people who have worked for me, who have participated in the process as well.

Two things strike me as most exceptional about these standards. First is that every standard includes strands for reading and writing. That means that at all grade levels, we will expect students not only to consume language, but to create it as well. They will be using the vocabulary that they are learning. They will be applying critical thinking skills throughout the grade spans. Even better, they will be learning with the purpose of becoming independent readers and writers.

The second selling point to me is the care taken in vertical alignment between grades. Once adopted, these standards will give us a skills progression that will help teachers develop their own instructional units and prepare students for each successive grade. Ultimately, the assessments that will be in place to test students will be more representative of what they know and can do than what we have seen during recent years.

I commend the leadership of Superintendent Hofmeister, the Oklahoma State Department of Education, and all the professionals who selflessly gave their time to this effort. Oklahoma's schoolchildren will surely benefit from this work.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rick Cobb
Mid-Del Public Schools

Mustang Public Schools

Office of Assistant Superintendent



January 22, 2016

Superintendent Joy Hofmeister
State Superintendent of Education
Oklahoma State Department of Education
Oliver Hodge Building
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Superintendent Joy Hofmeister,

Mustang Public Schools is writing this letter to show our support for the Oklahoma Academic Standards for Math and ELA. As a school district, we have conducted several standard reviews that included teachers, administrators and specialists. We have also sent teachers and administrators to participate in standard reviews with other groups across the state. From these numerous opportunities, it has been determined that these standards are a quality product and will benefit the students of Oklahoma. The outstanding qualities of these standards are endless and can become very detailed. Here are a few exceptional points we have identified:

- Methodical, inclusive approach to writing the standards
- Standards are placed at developmentally appropriate levels
- Research was a driving factor for the standards
- Oklahoma teachers were involved in the standards' writing process so the standards are truly Oklahoma standards
- Input was collected and addressed three different times from school experts across the state
- The documents are comprehensive including glossary, examples and research
- Comprehensive nature of the standards makes them user friendly from the new teacher to the master teacher
- Standards provide an explicit systematic alignment through a complete vertical progression
- Mathematical actions and processes are integrated
- Reading and writing processes are parallel and taught together

It is with much thought and review that Mustang Public Schools endorses these standards in the manner they are presented. It is imperative that the standards are not adjusted or changed through the approval process.

Furthermore, please feel free to share this information on with the State Board of Education, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and/or any other interested entities during the approval process.

Dr. Angela Mills
Assistant Superintendent, Mustang Public Schools

Oklahoma City Public Schools

January 19, 2016

Dr. Cindy Koss
Deputy State Superintendent of Academic Affairs
Oklahoma State Department of Education
2500 North Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma City Public Schools

RE: Letter of Support

Dear Dr. Koss,

It is with excitement and gratitude that the Oklahoma City Public Schools extends our letter of support for the heroic work your team, our state writing team and the thousands of educators and business men and women who have contributed to the development of the new Oklahoma State Academic Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics. We thank you for remaining committed to the creation of Academic Standards written by and for Oklahomans.

The research behind these new standards provides a strong foundation that will assure that the children of Oklahoma will be prepared for college, careers and the world beyond. The level of rigor and the expectation that ALL students can perform at higher levels is evident in these new standards. The thoughtful structure of each content area reflects the uniqueness of what students need to know/be able to do within those academic strands. And there is a clear scaffolding of standards from one grade level to another, building foundational learning from Prekindergarten through twelfth grade.

We support the completed standards and highly encourage all involved in the decision making of standards approval to do the same with confidence. These are standards that will truly raise the bar for every student, moving Oklahoma into a new realm of possibilities for public education.

Please thank your team and the writers for their dedication and willingness to listen to voices across the state while standing firm on research around high-impact teaching and learning. We look forward to a unanimous vote by state decision-makers so that school districts in Oklahoma may begin preparations for a strong start to the 2016-17 school year.

Sincerely,

Lynn D. Barnes
Senior Executive Director PK-12 Academics
Oklahoma City Public Schools



The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA.

OKLAHOMA WRITING PROJECT
Priscilla L. Griffith, Ph.D., Director
Audra Plummer, M.Ed.,
Co-Director for In-Service

January 21, 2016

Oklahoma State Board of Education
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Honorable Members of the Oklahoma State Board of Education:

The Oklahoma Writing Project is pleased to support the adoption of the Oklahoma Academic Standards for English Language Arts. The content of the standards is rigorous and requires students to engage in analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and creativity beginning as early as pre-kindergarten. OWP is confident application of these standards will ensure students are prepared for workplace and college success. In addition, the document is clearly written and user-friendly for all stakeholders.

Teachers across grade levels, representing the OWP professional community, reviewed an earlier draft of the standards and provided suggestions to strengthen the document. Our suggestions are reflected in the final version.

The Oklahoma Writing Project, a site of the National Writing Project, has been part of the University of Oklahoma since 1978. OWP serves teachers of writing at all grade levels, pre-K through university, and in all subjects. The mission of the OWP is to develop teacher leaders and to improve student achievement in writing and literacy in Oklahoma's schools, technology centers, and colleges. We believe every student deserves a good teacher of writing. Over the last five years the OWP has provided over 195,000 program service contact hours and reached over 8,000 teachers through our activities that include a summer institute for teachers, professional development to schools, and youth, family, and community activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the standards document. We appreciate the process of involving the community in the development of the standards through a wide reaching review process.

Sincerely,

Priscilla L. Griffith

Priscilla L. Griffith, Ph. D.
Professor
Ruth G. Hardman Chair in Education
Director of the Oklahoma Writing Project

Audra Plummer

Audra Plummer, M. Ed.
Co-Director for In-Service
Oklahoma Writing Project





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STATE BOARD

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State Dept. of Education

January 18, 2016

Oklahoma Board of Education
Oklahoma State Department of Education
Oliver Hodge Building
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Oklahoma Board of Education,

The Oklahoma Math Alliance is a newly formed organization that is comprised of members from sixteen math organizations throughout the state. Our mission is to serve as an entity to which government, industry, other disciplines, and private foundations can turn for leadership and participation by the mathematical sciences and, afford advice and counsel.

It is the privilege of Oklahoma Math Alliance to write a letter of support of the Oklahoma Math Standards that are being developed by a committee of Oklahoma mathematics educators. The OMA believes these standards are a favorable advance in mathematics, and will ensure that Oklahoma's children are college and career ready.

Upon diligent review of the standards, and the process in which they were developed, we find that the proposed standards are rigorous for all students. Furthermore, we applaud the transparent process in which these standards have been developed. Mathematicians and math educators at all levels have been involved in each step of development. By allowing opportunities to comment, with revisions reflecting feedback, we are assured that the proposed standards are a true reflection of mathematical excellence that is valued by the educators of Oklahoma. We believe this involvement will ensure a fluid and successful implementation of the standards once they are adopted. Snyder et al (Snyder, Bolin, & Zumwalt, 1992), submitted that researchers support the notion that program development in schools would be more effective if educators were involved. In addition, we contend that the new standards are clear, concise, developmentally appropriate, and vertically aligned. It is evident that much time and effort has been dedicated to ensure that these standards have been aligned by grade level with purposeful progression. Furthermore, it is our belief that these standards are rigorous and sustainable. Much emphasis has been placed on developmentally appropriate standards and learning trajectories at each level of progression. This ensures that educators will be empowered to provide more meaningful experiences, and spend more time developing deep contextual understanding of content.

Sincerely,

Oklahoma Mathematics Alliance comprised of members from:

Oklahoma Council of Teachers of Mathematics, National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics, OKMath Leadership Alumni, Oklahoma Career Tech Teachers Association, Future Oklahoma Mathematics Educators, Teacher Leaders and Instructional Coaches Network, Oklahoma State Department of Education, American Statistical Association, American Mathematical Society, Mathematical Association of America, Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators, Western Oklahoma Mathematics Consortium, Southeastern Oklahoma Mathematics Consortium, Northeastern Oklahoma Mathematics Consortium, Central Oklahoma Mathematics Consortium, Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance

BROKEN ARROW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Educating Today

Leading Tomorrow



1/21/2016

Janet C. Dunlop, Ph. D.
Broken Arrow Public Schools
701 S Main Street
Broken Arrow, OK 74012

Oklahoma State Board of Education
Oliver Hodge Building, Oklahoma State Capitol

Dear Oklahoma State Board of Education,

It is with full confidence that Broken Arrow Public Schools endorses the new Oklahoma State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Our confidence stems from the process through which the Oklahoma State Department of Education engaged multiple groups to participate in the writing, editing and advising, and final draft of these standards. The alignment of the standards to college and career ready skills, and the precise vertical alignment provide a much better roadmap for our teachers to use. We feel strongly that these standards will provide our students with a more rigorous and deep understanding of the concepts and skills needed to be equipped citizens and successful in college and career. We ask that you approve these standards as our new standards for schools.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet C. Dunlop, Ph.D.". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Janet C. Dunlop, Ph. D.
Associate Superintendent
Broken Arrow Public Schools