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

Dear Honorable Members of the Oklahoma State Board of Education,

On behalf of the members of the Cooperative Council for Oklahoma School Administration (CCOSA), we are writing this letter to offer our support for the proposed Oklahoma Academic Standards for Mathematics and English / Language Arts. As the only statewide organization representing public, private, and charter school leaders, we are keenly aware of the importance of having standards in place as quickly as possible. Hearing from our members about their involvement in the review and development of the proposed standards gives us tremendous confidence in the process utilized by the State Department of Education to create these new standards.

Oklahomans from all walks of life were afforded a meaningful opportunity to review and create the proposed academic standards. The process used to create these standards was deliberately inclusive of all interested voices, leaving out only those that chose not to participate in the many steps of review, development, and refinement. The proposed standards are designed to prepare students for successful entry into the workforce, career technology institutes, or higher education. Importantly, the educators involved in this process have determined that the proposed standards will benefit the students of Oklahoma.

We appreciate the commitment to continuous improvement from Superintendent Hofmeister, the staff of the State Department of Education, and the members of the State Board of Education. As it relates to state academic standards, we know that there is never a final product. Standards are frequently reviewed and modified with an eye toward improving student achievement. Sustained fidelity to a comprehensive process of standards review and refinement will ensure that all Oklahoma students receive the high quality educational experience to which they are entitled.

CCOSA supports the approval of the Oklahoma Academic Standards as proposed by the State Superintendent and the many other Oklahomans involved in this process. It is imperative that the standards are quickly acted upon so that school leaders and teachers can begin the important work of training and implementing these new standards by August of 2016.

Please feel free to share this letter with any other interested entities during the approval process.

Respectfully,

  
Steven Crawford  
Co-Executive Director  
CCOSA

  
Ryan Owens  
Co-Executive Director  
CCOSA