

# OFFICE of SCHOOL SUPPORT

OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



FEBRUARY • 2016

## WHAT'S NEW

Superintendents/Principals,

It is hard to believe the first month of 2016 is already behind us and state testing begins for our 5th and 8th graders later this month. Many of you have been patiently anticipating information regarding the responsibilities and regulations associated with the SY15 Designations. We are going to break away from the traditional format of our monthly newsletter to provide you with information regarding the upcoming professional learning opportunity with Max Teaching followed by designation information and a fabulous School Spotlight story from Apple Creek ES in Moore, OK.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Office of School Support or your School Support Specialist for additional questions.

We look forward to working with you.

Desarae Witmer  
Executive Director

## SPOTLIGHT

### Cougar College Takes Over at Apple Creek Elementary

My philosophy in education is based loosely on nature. Momma ducks don't have their strongest swimming ducks wait by the water's edge while her weakest ducks catch up; instead, she gives her best swimmers tasks to complete while she works with her other ducks. We took this premise, and applied it to our students. Cougar College was born!

Cougar College is a school-wide, 1st – 6th grade, intervention program that targets students based on their individual needs for 40 minutes every day. Teachers meet as a team within each grade level to determine each student's performance level keeping in mind their individual strengths and weaknesses. The teachers use personal interactions, anecdotal records, STAR, AR, and a new computer-based

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Desarae Witmer, M.Ed.**  
Executive Director  
desarae.witmer@sde.ok.gov  
(405) 522-3263

**Beth Steele, M.Ed.**  
SIG Turnaround Director  
beth.steele@sde.ok.gov  
(405) 521-2809

**Zada A. Farris**  
Grants Consultant  
zada.farris@sde.ok.gov  
(405) 521-4269

**Janie Stewart**  
Division Support Coordinator  
janie.stewart@sde.ok.gov  
(405) 522-0140

**Nicholas Clayton, M.A.**  
Specialist  
nicholas.clayton@sde.ok.gov  
(405) 522-1476

**Stephanie Schutt, M.A.**  
Specialist  
stephanie.schutt@sde.ok.gov  
(405) 522-1493

**Jan Foreman, M.Ed.**  
Specialist  
jan.foreman@sde.ok.gov  
(580) 618-1000

**Varhea Owens-Hopkins, M.Ed.**  
Specialist  
varhea.owens-hopkins@sde.ok.gov  
(405) 522-8299

**Tina Spence**  
Specialist  
tina.spence@sde.ok.gov  
(405) 521-4513

**Janel Cypert, M.Ed.**  
Specialist  
janel.cypert@sde.ok.gov  
(405) 521-2841

**Deborah Cornelison, M.Ed.**  
Specialist  
deborah.cornelison@sde.ok.gov  
(580) 421-5405

**Beta Noel, M.Ed.**  
School Support Consultant  
beta.noel@sde.ok.gov  
(405) 522-0140

**Dr. Jill Shackelford, Ed.D.**  
School Support Consultant  
jillshackelford@me.com  
(405) 522-0140

**Linda Hibbs, M.Ed.**  
School Support Consultant  
linda.hibbs@sbcglobal.net  
(405) 522-0140

**Roberta Ellis, M.A.**  
School Support Consultant  
robertacoleellis@gmail.com  
(405) 522-0140

**Roberta Gaston, M.Ed.**  
School Support Consultant  
mrs.gaston@sbcglobal.net  
(405) 522-0140

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Designation Information, Guidance and Responsibilities:

The revision of the state requirements for SY15 Designations is an effort to reduce the reporting burden on sites as well to meet requirements associated with data review and collection.

### School Improvement Status Report (SISR):

#### Responsibilities:

- SY15 Focus and Priority Designation Sites completion of the SISR Consultation Tab, End of Year Report and Final Report.
- Due June 30, 2016.
- SY15 Targeted Intervention Sites do **not** need to complete this report.
- Sites exiting SY14 Focus Designation or Targeted Intervention Designation do not need to complete these reports.
- Sites exiting SY14 Priority Designation sites **will** need to complete these reports.

### Schoolwide/School Improvement Plan (SW/SI Plan):

#### Consolidated report between Title I and School Improvement

#### Responsibilities:

- SY15 Priority Designation Sites due October 1, 2016.
- SY15 Focus Designation Sites for African American students, Special Education students (IEP) and English Language Learners (ELL) is due October 1, 2016.
- SY15 Focus Designation Sites for below state graduation rate will **not** need to complete this report. These sites will upload a SMART Goal plan by October 1, 2016. This plan template will be released at EngageOK and will ask sites to indicate strategies and action steps implemented to reach the state's graduation rate.
- SY15 Targeted Intervention Sites for subgroup graduation rate below the national average do not need to complete a SW/SI Plan or SMART Goal.

### Professional Development Requirements:

#### Responsibilities for sites in the 3rd or 4th year of Focus or Priority Designation.

- SY14 Designations: 15 hours of Professional Development attended from June 2015-July 2016. These opportunities are at the discretion of the site and the district instructional leader. Documentation should be submitted by October 1, 2016 to the Regional School Support Specialists or the Focus Designation School Support Specialist.
- SY15 Designation:
  - Designation for the 3rd year:
    - 15 hours of Professional Development attended from June 2016-July 2017. These opportunities are at the discretion of the site and district instructional leader. Documentation should be submitted by October 1, 2017 to the Regional School Support Specialists or the Focus Designation School Support Specialist.
  - Designation for the 4th year:
    - 15 hours of Professional Development attended from June 2016-July 2017. These opportunities should be selected from OSDE approved events throughout the state. A list will be provided by the OSDE as of July 1, 2016. Documentation should be submitted by October 1, 2017 to the Regional School Support Specialists or the Focus Designation School Support Specialist.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## Designation Information, Guidance and Responsibilities: (CONTINUED)

### School Improvement Allocations:

- SY14 Carryover Allocations (\$24,569.08)
  - Project 515 or SW/SI Plan and budget created by June 1, 2016.
  - SY14 funds expire on September 30, 2016.
- SY15 Allocations are currently scheduled to be allocated by March 11, 2016.
  - SY15 Allocations to be budgeted with SW/SI Plan and due October 1, 2016.
  - SY15 1st claim is due by November 30, 2016.

## SPOTLIGHT

### Max Teaching Coming to Oklahoma City in March!

Want to **MAX**imize your instructional capacity? Join us on March 4, 2016, at the Moore Norman Technology Center (13301 S. Pennsylvania, Oklahoma City, OK 73170) to experience classroom strategies that are research-proven to help students develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and thinking through all content areas.

**MAX** is an acronym for the three steps of the teaching framework: **Motivation, Acquisition, and EXtension**. Through this framework, teachers of all content areas can help their students learn the content area as well as improve literacy skills.

MAX Teaching with Reading and Writing professional development activities are conducted by Dr. Mark Forget as well as by his team of professionals. His team demonstrates hands-on activities and models research-proven classroom strategies that assist students in learning course content while improving students' abilities in reading, writing, and communication skills. Educators leave MAX workshops with many strategies that can be immediately implemented in their classrooms. Visit Dr. Forget's website at <http://www.maxteaching.com> for more information about MAX strategies.

For tickets, please go to: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/max-teaching-tickets-21115583278?utm\\_source=eb\\_email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=order\\_confirmation\\_email&utm\\_term=eventname&ref=emailordconf](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/max-teaching-tickets-21115583278?utm_source=eb_email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=order_confirmation_email&utm_term=eventname&ref=emailordconf)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 15th

OSDE Office Closed - President's Day

## UPDATE

### School Improvement Status Report (SISR)

The School Improvement Status Report (SISR) is back up and running. As a reminder the application is available through Single Sign-On. All designated schools will be required to submit data on this application. However, because of the technical difficulties the only due date is June 30, 2016. The tabs that will be due on that date are the **Consultation** and the **End of the Year, and Final Report** tabs.

### Transitioning to the Schoolwide/School Improvement Plan

Please note upcoming webinar dates that will have information for the transition to the Schoolwide/School Improvement Plan:

Wednesday, February 10th 10am

Thursday, February 25th 10am

Tuesday, March 22nd 10am

You can register here: <https://oksdeevents.webex.com>

## SPOTLIGHT

### Cougar College Takes Over at Apple Creek Elementary (CONTINUED)

program called Stride to gather data and determine the best placement for each child. Students are then divided into groups based on this data. Originally, Cougar College was set up like a college schedule, Monday and Wednesday was designated for math skills; Tuesday and Thursday were designated as ELA skills; and Friday was writing. As the program has progressed, the teachers felt it was better to teach the same subject for two consecutive days rather than breaking it up. This is working much better because the teachers can spend even more time focused on a particular topic. Now we have Math on Mondays and Tuesdays, ELA on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

So, what's it look like? All 3rd grade students, regardless of homeroom teacher, who are struggling with basic addition are placed in a group; students who fully grasp addition, but need help with subtraction are placed in a group, and students who are mastering multiplication facts are placed in a different group, and so on. The lessons during Cougar College are structured to meet the needs of those particular students. Once a student starts performing better in that area, they are moved to a different group. They may be in a particular group working on a specific skill for 1 week, or 1 month; it all depends on the child, they are not moved on until they have the foundation they need to be successful with the next skill.

## Cougar College Takes Over at Apple Creek Elementary (CONTINUED)

Next, we added a person to each grade level during this time to reduce the group size and better allow for the teacher to meet the students' needs. This took a little creativity, flexibility, and we had to find 'extra' people throughout the building to pitch in. We have our Title I teacher, PE teacher, Music Teacher, and Art Teacher, each of our Special education teachers, and our Title I assistant all assigned to specific grade levels. We also have a weekly rotation between the grade levels for a gifted/talented program lead by our Media Specialist. She takes the top performing 25% of each grade level for one week during which time she provides extended learning activities that are exciting and challenging, as well as provides opportunities for students to acquire additional skills to help them reach the advanced performance level. These students also take this knowledge back into their classrooms and provide peer instruction during regular classroom activities.

The next important part we implemented was the flexibility between grade levels. This is why the program has to be school-wide at the exact same time for all grade levels. We have students who are in a grade level because of their age, and that can't be changed, but with Cougar College we can move them around for this 40 minutes. So, a 4th grade student who is reading at a 6th grade level, can be assigned to reading with the higher 5th grade group. On the flip side, if there's a 2nd grade student who is struggling in reading, and has a 1st grade reading level, that student can attend the higher level 1st grade group until the foundational skills are better acquired, and then go back to one of the typical grade level groups. We don't move them more than one grade level because of the larger age range it would introduce, but it does give us some flexibility to meet them where they are.

We also use a modified version of the popular Rtl system. We use our data from the beginning of the year to determine each child's 'piece' of the puzzle. This piece is labeled with a code that is known only to the teacher to protect the identification of the student. We place these pieces on our data board based on where they are performing. Again, we use the swimming idea to remind ourselves of where they are and where we want them to be. Strong swimmers who are doing great with just whole group instruction are placed in the green area; swimmers who are struggling a little and need some extra support are placed in the yellow area; and weak swimmers who need all of the help we can give them are placed in the red area. After each nine weeks' instructional period, we move the pieces around to show where they are performing now; their original colored piece never changes. This is huge for the teachers! They get to see students who are growing and improving. Red pieces moving into yellow is growth! The part that some may think is a downside, is when a green piece has to be moved to the yellow or red area; this isn't necessarily negative though. This is when I often hear teachers say, "I thought he/she was doing fine. I might have not noticed the struggle until it was too late if we hadn't looked at this information." It's not a slap on the wrist, it's a quiet reminder to check on every child before the end of the year gets here, and it's too late to help them.

Teaching is exhausting work that never ends; it is so much more than readin', writin', and 'rithmetic. Here at Apple Creek though, we think our duckling brood is going to lead the flock one day soon, and this is just one way we are going to get them ready.

Pamela Huston  
Principal  
Apple Creek Elementary  
Moore Public Schools