

Putnam City Schools
5401 NW 40th
Oklahoma City, OK 73122
405.495.5200, ext. 1236

Dr. Cindy Koss
Deputy Superintendent of Academic Affairs
Oklahoma State Department of Education
2500 North Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Dr. Koss,

Putnam City Public Schools whole-heartedly supports the work of you and your team for your efforts in creating math and English standards. The leadership at the Oklahoma State Department and the involvement of stakeholders and community members is commendable. We are thankful the process has been diligently vetted. Oklahoma students will benefit and teachers will be better equipped to prepare students for college and career.

My team and I have recently had the opportunity to look at the standards and agree that they have many attractive qualities that will be effective. Among them are clarity and continuity from one grade to the next. The intentional foundation skills and vertical alignment are evident and these are essential to fill gaps in learning. We were also pleased to see that the redundant skills per grade level have been removed so teachers can own what they teach and better support each other. In the end, it honors student learning.

It is with much gratitude that we support the standards, and we appreciate the Oklahoma State Department making this initiative a priority. In doing so, you put Oklahoma's children first.

Sincerely,

Patricia Balenseifen
Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Putnam City Schools