



JOY HOFMEISTER

STATE SUPERINTENDENT *of* PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

February 24, 2016

Dear Educator,

The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) is partnering with the Oklahoma Department of Education to help schools learn standards-aligned classroom-tested strategies to advance students' grade-level mastery of literacy across all content areas and significantly improve student math achievement.

Of the 80 percent of Oklahoma students who took the ACT exam last year, 34 percent met the college-ready benchmark in mathematics. For students to graduate college and career ready, teachers will need to adjust their instructional practices to engage students regularly with rich problems that deepen their mathematical understanding and reasoning skills.

Please pass this information on to school principals and math teachers:

The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) is partnering with Oklahoma to help teachers and school leaders learn standards-aligned classroom-tested strategies to significantly improve student math achievement. The comprehensive professional development will ensure our middle grades and high school students engage in the deep learning necessary to meet state standards and succeed after high school in college and careers.

Professional development is offered at no cost over the next three years to teachers and leaders at 180 schools, beginning with 60 middle grades and high schools during the 2016 and 2017 school year. Supplemental funding offsets a portion of the cost for substitute teachers, travel and meal costs. In addition, SREB will help schools in years 2 and 3 spread and expand knowledge of the instructional strategies to all teachers through ongoing coaching, in-school visits and professional learning communities.

I encourage you and teacher leaders in math to attend a free webinar to learn more about standards-aligned classroom-tested strategies in math instruction. This webinar will provide information about the goals, design and expected outcomes, in addition to insight from educators who are seeing results.

[Click here](#) to register for the one-hour informational webinar to be held on **Monday, February 29, from 2-3 p.m.** More detailed information will be provided to school and district teams at three regional meetings to be held on **March 8, 9 and 10.**

| Tulsa | Oklahoma City | Weatherford |
|---|---|---|
| Tuesday, March 8, 2016 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. <u>Tulsa Tech – Owasso Campus</u> (Maple Room 1755) 10800 North 140 th East Ave. Owasso, OK 74055 | Wednesday, March 9, 2016 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. <u>Frances Tuttle Technology Center</u> (Reno Campus, Room A1020A) 7301 W. Reno Ave. Oklahoma City, OK 73127 | Thursday, March 10, 2016 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. <u>Weatherford – Western Technology Center</u> (Safety Building) 2605 East Main Weatherford, Oklahoma 73096 |

Pre-register to attend one of the three regional meetings by clicking [here](#).

Here are a few examples of what principals and teachers say about SREB professional development:

“I believe in and embrace the math formative assessment lessons. They are student-centered and the students are able to make a deeper sense of concepts as they discuss and share solutions with one another. It is the way we should be teaching if we are truly concerned about students’ knowing, understanding and using math.” — Ellen Tolbert, math teacher, Alabama

“SREB’s training has given me the tools to make my students passionate about math. They see a need for math.” — Randy Revels, math teacher, West Virginia

“The math strategies have been a great success at Sheridan High School. Our classrooms have moved from traditional math instruction to a collaborative environment where students are completely engaged in learning. The professional development is the best we have ever experienced. Our teachers love it!” — Rodney Williams, principal, Arkansas

Don’t miss this opportunity to learn more about this important free professional development. Give your schools a jumpstart — prepare your leaders and teachers to advance your students’ readiness for college and career. [Click here](#) to download brochures about mathematics instructional strategies that engage students in rich lessons that deepen their mathematical reasoning.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Jeanene Barnett, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Jeanene.Barnett@sde.ok.gov or (405) 522-3521, Dr. Gene Bottoms, senior vice president, SREB at Gene.Bottoms@sreb.org, or Daniel Rock, SREB literacy lead, at Daniel.Rock@sreb.org.

Warmest regards,



Joy Hofmeister
Superintendent of Public Instruction