



CHICKASHA

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

900 West Choctaw Avenue
Chickasha Oklahoma 73018
(405) 222-6500 (405) 222-6590 Fax
www.chickasha.k12.ok.us

January 26, 2016

Joy Hofmeister, State Superintendent
Oklahoma State Department of Education
2500 N. Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105-4599

Dear Superintendent Hofmeister,

Congratulations to you, your team, and the many teachers who have been involved in putting the new Oklahoma Math and English Language Arts Standards together. Thank you for including Oklahoma students, teachers, administrators, parents, and members of the business community in the process. The collaborative approach has opened communications among stakeholders and has encouraged a common vision.

I am pleased to write a letter of support for the new standards. The documents reflect much time, thought, and attention to detail. I love the vertical alignment being included in both English Language Arts and Math. Teachers can see what is covered not only in their grade level, but what happens in the previous grade level and the one following. The English Language Arts team have arranged the reading and writing skills side by side thus making the connection between the two much more user friendly for teachers. There are many other helps for teachers in both documents. The Math team has given a much greater emphasis on the process skills intertwining them within the content skills.

Both teams have mentioned plans being underway for assisting teachers in transitioning from the current standards to the new ones. Summits are being planned to discuss the changes and some of the research behind the changes. I was also excited to hear about involving teachers across the state by asking for activities to be submitted by teachers to be shared online with colleagues in their grade level/department.

It is evident the standards were developed with the end in mind, the goal of our students being college and career ready. Employability skills were considered and highlighted. I believe the new standards are rigorous skills that are relevant to real world application. Thank you for your leadership in empowering many across our great state with this very important challenge.

Sincerely,

Cindy Schmidt
Assistant Superintendent

Home of the Fightin' Chicks

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