



SANDY GARRETT
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

June 12, 2009

Dear Superintendent:

On March 10, 2009, President Barack Obama identified education as one of three critical elements essential to long-term economic recovery for America. He believes that one of the most urgent challenges we face as a nation is the need to truly prepare children to compete in the global economy. The President is investing \$100 billion in education. These unprecedented resources can support unprecedented reform and one of the key reforms he has addressed is raising academic standards.

The Oklahoma State Department of Education is moving toward the education reform goals as outlined by the President. One of these reform goals focuses on the need to improve standards and assessments in all states. Oklahoma has worked hard to be a forerunner in these areas, and the State Department of Education is taking immediate steps in an effort to continue to have the best standards, assessments, and accountability system.

On May 28, 2009, the Oklahoma State Board of Education approved a plan to review standards on all Math and Reading assessments for Grades 3-8. This standards review will be taking place during the third week of June 2009. The reviews will affect the 2008-2009 test results, and because of this, final reports will be slightly delayed. Preliminary data will not include cut scores or performance levels since these will not be available until after the June Standards Review.

The Oklahoma State Board of Education, on June 25, will review the recommended performance standards and consider a "hold harmless" approach for schools in terms of Academic Performance Index and Adequate Yearly Progress results in the 2008-2009 school year. Further information will be provided to you as Oklahoma moves forward in this process of improvement.

We appreciate your support and patience as we work together to serve the students and families of the state of Oklahoma. If you have any questions about the timeline for implementing revised performance benchmarks, please contact the Accountability and Assessments office at (405) 521-3341.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Stegman".

Jennifer Stegman
Assistant Superintendent
Accountability and Assessment

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