



## WEBBERS FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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To: Parent(s) or Guardian(s)

From: Dr. Swearingen, Superintendent

RE: October 2017– Superintendent’s Message

### Oklahoma Edge – Giving Oklahoma Students a Competitive Edge

Oklahoma has new academic standards, new assessments, and new performance levels.

Oklahoma educators and leaders have strengthened academic standards so students can be prepared for college and career immediately after high school. Meeting these goals will enable students to:

1. Enter college without needing to pay for remedial courses that don’t earn credit. Currently, Oklahoma Families pay \$22 million a year out of pocket for remedial coursework after high school graduation.
2. Be well-prepared for high-skill jobs and innovative careers of the future.
3. Become great problem-solvers, strategic thinkers and innovators of tomorrow.

#### What Families Need to Know

1. In 2016, Oklahoma began teaching more comprehensive academic standards, which required new, more complex Oklahoma School Testing Program (OSTP) assessments to measure them. The new assessments were given to students in spring 2017, and test results will be released in late fall 2017.
2. Oklahoma assessment scores now track for **college and career readiness** and are aligned with national tests like the SAT, ACT and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).
3. New assessments require new performance levels for English language arts and math in grades 3-8 and 10 and for science in grades 5, 8 and 10. Performance levels, or “cut scores,” are presented in categories: *Advanced, Proficient, Limited Knowledge (Basic) and Unsatisfactory (Below Basic)*.
4. In year 1 – **this year** – we will see a significant drop in the number of students reported as Proficient or Advanced. That decrease does **not** mean students are less skilled than last year or that a school is less effective. It means Oklahoma’s scores have been recalibrated to align with the knowledge and skills students need to be ready for college and career.
5. This school year represents a new beginning and **A TOTAL RESET**; no comparison is possible with student or school performance in past years. It will become the baseline for student and school performance as we continue efforts to position **every** Oklahoma student on the leading edge for success.

(This information is provided by the Oklahoma State Department of Education.)