

OKLAHOMA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

BECKY FELTS
President

January 13, 2010

LINDA S. HAMPTON
Vice President

LELA ODOM
Executive Director

Letter of Support:

The Oklahoma Education Association is proud to support Oklahoma's Race to the Top initiative. We believe strongly that student achievement and graduation rates will be increased with the full implementation of the four key areas outlined in our grant application. Those areas are:

- Adopting standards and assessments that prepare students to succeed in college and the workplace and to compete in the global economy;
- Building data systems that measure student growth and success, and inform teachers and principals about how they can improve instruction;
- Recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals, especially where they are needed most; and
- Turning around our lowest-achieving schools.

We appreciate being included on the Race to the Top Steering Committee and for the leadership our state continues to take in moving our schools forward. Throughout our 120 year history we have been proud to support education innovations in Oklahoma. From innovations like universal pre - kindergarten to legislation requiring improved data systems, we have been at the forefront. We see this as one more great opportunity.

We realize that our work to implement the transformation in our schools and communities is just beginning and, when Oklahoma is awarded this grant, we look forward to being a partner for implementation. Please be assured that we are willing to commit the time and energy it will take to meet our goals.

For the Association,



Becky Felts
President

Great public schools for every child.

OKC-AFT

OKLAHOMA CITY AFT

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January 13, 2010

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Stakeholder Support Statement

Recognizing that strong public schools are essential for building strong communities, Oklahoma City AFT, Local 2309 endorses the efforts of the Oklahoma Race to the Top Team to revitalize public education through the *Race to the Top* initiative.

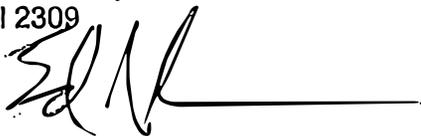
Race to the Top is the U.S. Department of Education's innovative and voluntary grant competition designed to foster education innovation and reform that will lead to dramatic gains in student achievement through four key areas:

- Adopting standards and assessments that prepare students to succeed in college and the workplace and to compete in the global economy;
- Building data systems that measure student growth and success, and inform teachers and principals about how they can improve instruction;
- Recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals, especially where they are needed most; and
- Turning around our lowest-achieving schools.

Oklahoma's *Race to the Top* is about so much more than securing Oklahoma's share of grant funds. It is about transforming our schools and communities to give every child in our state the best education possible. We see this as a transformative opportunity to dramatically improve Oklahoma's student achievement and graduation rates among all students in our public schools that will shape the future of our economy and quality of life.

Oklahomans are known for working collaboratively to meet daunting challenges. We acknowledge that transforming the state's public schools will require the time, energy and commitment of all of the state's key stakeholders and we are up for the challenge.

Oklahoma City AFT
Local 2309



Ed Allen, President

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