



SANDY GARRETT
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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**Oklahoma improves to among Top 10 in national rankings
of standards/accountability and teacher quality**

OKLAHOMA CITY - State Superintendent Sandy Garrett said today Oklahoma is being recognized for its school accountability system, academic standards and teaching profession in the much-anticipated 14th annual "Quality Counts" state education study by Education Week magazine.

Oklahoma has improved to 23rd in the nation, according to the 2010 study released today. In 2009, the magazine graded Oklahoma 25th and ranked it 28th in 2008.

"Quality Counts 2010" Category	Oklahoma's National Ranking	Oklahoma Grade	U.S. Average Grade
Standards, Assessments & Accountability (2010)	9th	A	B
Teaching Profession (2010)	9th	B-	C
Transitions & Alignment (2009)	15th	C+	C
K-12 Achievement Index (2008)	36th	D	D+
* School Finance (2010)	41st	D+	C
"Chance for Success" Index of Socioeconomic Indicators (2010)	43rd	C-	C+
AVERAGE	23rd	C	C

SOURCE: "Quality Counts 2010," Education Week, January 14, 2010.
The complete "Quality Counts" report can be found online: www.edweek.org.

*Ranking includes factors such as funding as a percent of the state's budget and cost of living adjustment.

The study calculates an overall ranking for each state by averaging scores in six categories, with only four updated from the 2009 report: Standards, Assessments and Accountability; Teaching Profession; School Finance and Chance for Success (based on an index of socio-economic indicators). The two categories not updated for the 2010 report are Transitions & Alignment and K-12 Achievement Index (based largely on 2007 National Assessment of Educational Progress scores and other indicators from 2003-2006).

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In several categories, Oklahoma had among the nation's highest scores: Standards, Assessments & Accountability" (9th, up from 13th in 2009), Teaching Profession (9th, up from 10th in 2009) and Transitions & Alignment (15th, unchanged).

In three Quality Counts' subcategories, Oklahoma scored 100% - state academic standards, school accountability rating system (i.e. Academic Performance Index), and for having work-ready, college-ready standards and a Career Tech system with industry-recognized certification. Oklahoma's lowest marks, as in 2009, were for School Finance (adjusted for cost of living and based in part on percentage of taxable resources spent on education) and Chance for Success.

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FIRST IN THE TWENTY-FIRST



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"Oklahoma continues to move forward by strengthening the building blocks of a competitive, reform-minded school system: academic standards, teachers, and holding schools accountable," Garrett said. "We have built the foundation necessary to produce results and continue school reform efforts. So, we must weather this difficult economic storm and commit to providing schools with the resources they need to assure a globally competitive education for all students."

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