



11/13/2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

District administration will present district test results from the 2016-2017 school year at tomorrow night's board meeting. While individual student scores will not be available until the end of November, I want to prepare you for test scores that will look dramatically different from what you have seen in the past.

Last year, Oklahoma schools implemented new math and English/language arts academic standards. The Stillwater School District fully supports these new rigorous standards as they are designed to help students become analytical thinkers and problem solvers in order to be career and college ready.

The change in standards also required a change in testing. The new tests are designed to more accurately measure a student's academic progress and his/her career and college readiness. Oklahoma's test scores will align with national assessments like the SAT, ACT, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). These new tests require students to score significantly higher in order to be reported as "proficient" and "advanced." As a result, Stillwater and other districts in the state have seen a decrease in the number of students reported as "proficient" and "advanced." This does not indicate our students are not learning at high levels or that our teachers are not doing their jobs, it simply means these performance level expectations have been recalibrated to align with national assessments.

Due to the new tests and significant changes made to the performance levels, comparing last year's test results with previous year's test results is difficult. This is a "RESET" year for all schools. The scores we have received are baseline scores. This baseline is the new beginning for measuring academic growth of our students. Please keep in mind that one test does not tell us everything about a student's academic progress. The Stillwater School District uses multiple assessments during the year to measure academic growth.

The Stillwater School District has always been a leader in the state for academic excellence, and we will continue that tradition as we work with the new standards and assessment expectations.

Respectfully,

Marc Moore, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Stillwater Schools

STILLWATER PUBLIC SCHOOLS