



Oklahoma State Department of Education

# READY TOGETHER OKLAHOMA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An Action Plan for Supporting Students  
Through the Pandemic & Beyond

April 2021



OKLAHOMA  
Education



## A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT

After more than a year of a global pandemic, education stakeholders – and that includes all of us – must be “Ready Together” to help our students rebound stronger than ever.

Oklahoma has secured federal relief dollars to support students through fall 2024. With these historic funds come exciting opportunities to re-imagine public education while heeding research and evidence to ensure the best return on our investments and the highest outcomes for students.

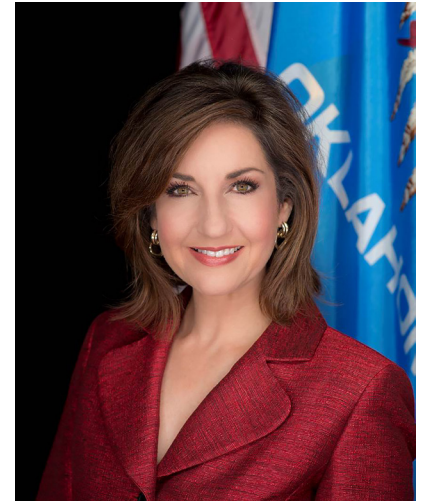
How can we re-envision summer to jump-start next school year, offering enrichment opportunities in reading, math and other core subjects? How can we provide social and emotional supports after more than a year of turmoil? How will we engage our families and community organizations to help ensure every student receives a well-rounded education?

Our comprehensive plan will help answer these questions. *Ready Together Oklahoma: An Action Plan for Supporting Students Through the Pandemic and Beyond* will provide a growing portfolio of resources, tools and initiatives reflecting all phases of public education and its stakeholders. We know local districts and communities best understand their own needs; our plan will support them with guidance and initiatives to fill in the gaps.

The most effective planning adjusts as new information becomes available. *Ready Together Oklahoma* will be updated on an ongoing basis to stay abreast of new information and as needed in response to the identified needs of students and families. Working together, we can create a shining example of the Oklahoma Standard – ready schools and ready students in a ready state.

Sincerely,

Joy Hofmeister, State Superintendent of Public Education







## INTRODUCTION

As we plan for instruction beyond the pandemic, collaboration is more critical than ever. [\*Ready Together Oklahoma: An Action Plan for Supporting Students Through the Pandemic and Beyond\*](#) represents an ongoing community-wide commitment to the importance of strategic investment in a high-quality, equitable public education in support of the whole child.

Suggestions and feedback are welcome via email at [ReadyTogetherOK@sde.ok.gov](mailto:ReadyTogetherOK@sde.ok.gov). Let's get started!

## SUMMER AND BEYOND

Any discussion of pandemic-related concerns must begin with swiftly addressing unfinished learning and determining ways to jump-start the 2021-22 school year. This work is underway in many districts, with local investments in summer school and other extended and accelerated learning opportunities.

Summer 2021 will be unlike any other. Oklahoma families are strongly encouraged to contact their local districts and trusted community organizations like Boys and Girls Clubs, the YMCA, tribal nations, faith-based organizations and other community partners to learn more about their summer offerings. Programming will vary around the state, from targeted academic enrichment to camps focused on fine arts, STEM, physical activity and more.

But we must also look beyond the summer. Sustained collaboration will help ensure that state and local investments of federal coronavirus relief dollars position Oklahoma schools and students for lasting success.

**"One thing about championship teams is they're resilient. No matter what is thrown at them, no matter how deep the hole, they find a way to bounce back and overcome adversity."**

– Nick Saban



## THE PLAN

*Ready Together Oklahoma* is built on a commitment to doing what's best for all Oklahoma schoolchildren in the short and long term. All resources will be organized within five sections: Student Learning and Success, Prioritizing Health and Well-Being, Ensuring Equity for All, Supporting Teachers and Leaders and Embracing Families and Communities.

The plan's web page serves as a hub for two categories of resources designed to support schools and communities as they determine the most effective uses of federal relief funds. First is evidence-based, curated guidance documents with links to established research for educators to consider as they implement programs that meet the needs of their communities, determine the most effective uses of local relief funds and engage families and other stakeholders in supporting student learning and well-being.

**"Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will."**

– Gandhi

Guidance documents will be published in three phases:

- Now through end of the school year – Focusing on summer programming to recover unfinished learning in core subjects like math and reading, provide social-emotional supports and jump-start the 2021-22 school year
- June and July 2021 – Focusing on academic and social-emotional supports for a successful start to next school year
- Aug. 2021 and continuing as needs are identified – Focusing on academic and social-emotional supports during the 2021-22 school year and beyond



The following guidance documents are available now:

- [How can social and emotional learning and mental health supports be incorporated into summer learning?](#)
- [How can schools plan for effective summer learning experiences?](#)
- [How can schools and communities partner to provide summer learning experiences?](#)
- [How can accelerated learning models support students with unfinished learning?](#)
- [How can school and community partnerships support the mental health needs of students?](#)
- [How can summer enrichment experiences support student learning, well-being and success?](#)

A number of guidance documents will be published in the coming weeks. Among these are:

- How can schools support students with unfinished learning in mathematics?
- How can schools support students with gaps in foundational reading skills?
- How can student learning be supported at home during the summer?
- How can schools support English learners?
- How can a positive school climate and culture support the mental health needs of students?



The second component of *Ready Together Oklahoma* is a portfolio of initiatives funded by the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE), using dollars from the federal American Rescue Plan, to ensure students have academic and social-emotional supports to provide foundations for student success.

The first of these initiatives is expected before the end of the school year. Additional initiatives will be released in the coming months.

Oklahomans remain steadfast in their commitment to every student's right to a strong, well-rounded public education. The *Ready Together Oklahoma* plan provides a roadmap for how to leverage pandemic relief resources in ways that benefit students and their futures.

Now more than ever, we are stronger together.



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