

**JUSTICE PUBLIC SCHOOL
HOME OF THE WARRIORS**



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CHRIS BRYAN,
SUPERINTENDENT/PRINCIPAL

CHRIS JONES,
DEAN OF STUDENTS

November 6, 2015

Dear Justice Parents and Community Members,

On October 22nd, 2015, the Oklahoma State Department of Education released the results of the fourth annual A-F School Grading system report card. The A-F School Grading system was designed to show how students within a school are meeting or advancing toward grade-level academic standards in a traditional A-F format that anyone can understand. However, in order to understand changes in the grading system from last year in order to accurately interpret the grade, it is important to have a clear idea of what it is — and isn't — intended to measure.

The A-F Report Card is:

- An indicator of the percentage of students, regardless of background, within a school who are currently meeting or exceeding grade-level academic standards.
- An indicator of the percentage of students (particularly the lower performing students) who are at least making significant progress toward meeting grade-level academic standards.
- An indicator of whether schools are exceeding expectations in terms of school attendance, high school graduation, etc. (via the awarding of bonus points).
- A measure of how students at a particular school are doing, but not necessarily why.

The A-F Report Card is NOT:

- A measure of the “school” or “teacher” effect on student learning.
- A statement about a school’s overall quality of services provided.

“Justice Public School: Where Children Think, Dream, Believe and Achieve.”

According to the SDE Media blog at <http://www.ok.gov/sde/newsblog/2015-10-22/osde-releases-f-report-cards-schools>, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Joy Hofmeister has no confidence in the validity or reliability of the report cards in their current framework. The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) determines the grades using a formula that had been mandated by a 2013 state law. The OSDE supports strong accountability for education, but problems with the A-F Report Cards have seriously undermined the system's credibility. Even the U.S. Department of Education has criticized the report cards and required modifications as a condition for receiving the No Child Left Behind waiver.

House Bill 1823, which took effect in June, requires the State Board of Education to submit a report on the transparency, statistical trustworthiness and credibility of the current A-F system to the governor and legislative leaders by Dec. 31. Research scientists at Oklahoma's two leading research universities are among those currently conducting that review and will have recommendations by December.

"I am committed to a system of accountability that is accurate, reliable and meaningful," Hofmeister said. "In its current form, the A-F Report Cards are too flawed to be useful. I am optimistic that we can have a better system."

As YOUR School Superintendent, I can assure that we prepare and work diligently to provide an "A" quality level of education to OUR children. Do I agree with the 2015 grade of "F" our school received? NO, I most definitely do not! Do I believe that the score on any single test defines who OUR students are and what they stand for? NO, I most adamantly do not! Will we use the results of student testing data, as well as other collected assessment data to determine strengths and weaknesses for every child in order to go to whatever level necessary to help every one of OUR children grow and develop? YES, we always have and we always will! Our school has not wavered in our dedication to the investment of OUR greatest resource, the education of OUR children.

We welcome and encourage all constructive and positive conversation between educators and parents. In order to help OUR students achieve their full potential, we need and appreciate YOUR continued parental and community support. If there are any comments, questions or concerns, let me know. More information regarding the A-F Report Cards can be found on the following websites: www.justice.k12.ok.us and www.ok.gov/sde.

Sincerely,



Chris Bryan

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