



RYAN WALTERS
STATE SUPERINTENDENT *of* PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

Memorandum

TO: Oklahoma Superintendents

CC: Governor Kevin Stitt, Pro Tempore Greg Treat, Speaker Charles McCall, Representative Kevin Hern, Representative Josh Brecheen, Representative Frank Lucas, Representative Tom Cole, Representative Stephanie Bice, Senator Markwayne Mullin, Senator James Lankford

FROM: Ryan Walters, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATE: June 27, 2024

SUBJECT: Immediate Implementation of Foundational Texts in Curriculum

Effective immediately, all Oklahoma schools are required to incorporate the Bible, which includes the Ten Commandments, as an instructional support into the curriculum across specified grade levels, e.g., grades 5 through 12. This directive is in alignment with the educational standards approved on or about May 2019, with which all districts must comply.

The Bible is one of the most historically significant books and a cornerstone of Western civilization, along with the Ten Commandments. They will be referenced as an appropriate study of history, civilization, ethics, comparative religion, or the like, as well as for their substantial influence on our nation's founders and the foundational principles of our Constitution. This is not merely an educational directive but a crucial step in ensuring our students grasp the core values and historical context of our country.

Additionally, the State Department of Education may supply teaching materials for the Bible, as permissible, to ensure uniformity in delivery.

Adherence to this mandate is compulsory. Further instructions for monitoring and reporting on this implementation for the 2024/25 school year will be forthcoming.

Immediate and strict compliance is expected.