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**Oklahoma's English, math standards receive high marks
in highly-anticipated national report**

OKLAHOMA CITY - The Thomas B. Fordham Institute has released the findings of its highly-anticipated report on the English and mathematics standards of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, as compared to one another and against the Common Core State Standards Initiative.*

The report, "The State of Standards and the Common Core, 2010," graded Oklahoma B+ on both its English and math standards, giving higher marks to only six states in English and eight states in math.

Fordham found Oklahoma's standards were of such high content, rigor and clarity that it was "too close to call" whether they were superior to the Common Core but indicated that they were without a doubt in the same league as the Common Core.

"We are very pleased with the findings of this report," said State Superintendent Sandy Garrett. "They affirm our belief that Oklahoma's implementation of the Common Core will have minimal disruption to the classroom and that, because of the few areas where the Common Core may be stronger, Oklahoma will benefit from being a Common Core state."

She added: "Curriculum staff at the State Department of Education and I have worked with educators and many stakeholders across the state to ensure Oklahoma's academic standards are clear, relevant and rigorous and competitive with other states. This report tells us our efforts have resulted in us accomplishing that goal and that only Oklahoma and a few other states are already prepared for the Common Core."

Another highlight in the report released today is that Oklahoma earned higher marks for English and math than it did in the organization's 2005 report, where Oklahoma received Cs for both English and math. On average, progress in both areas from 2005 to 2010 didn't occur among the states, Fordham notes in the report, because states collectively did not make significant progress in English.

The Fordham Institute is a Washington, D.C.-based think dedicated to advancing education reform and its sister organization is the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, which sponsors charter schools in Ohio. The Institute has been publishing reports on states' standards since 1997, and its 2010 report is the first report on English and math standards since 2005.

**The Common Core State Standards Initiative is the result of the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers and are standards for English/language arts and math only. Per legislative, gubernatorial and state Board of Education support and approval, Oklahoma formally adopted the Common Core with a multi-year implementation plan in June.*

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