

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

SENATE
RESOLUTION 23

By: Adelson, Garrison, Paddack,
Wyrick and Bass

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution voicing pride in the outstanding educational progress of Oklahoma students; thanking educators, teachers, librarians, counselors, and other educational support personnel throughout the State for making this improvement possible; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the Manhattan Institute is a think tank whose mission is to develop and disseminate new ideas that foster greater economic choice and individual responsibility; and

WHEREAS, one of the Manhattan Institute's most recent publications is "Public High School Graduation and College Readiness Rates: 1991 - 2002", by Jay P. Greene and Marcus A. Winters. Their study calculates high school graduation rates and the percentage of all students who left high school eligible to apply for college from 1991 to 2002; and

WHEREAS, according to Table 8, "Total High School Graduation Rates by State: 1991 - 2002", Oklahoma can claim a public high school graduation rate of 79%, ranking our state among the top ten highest rated states in the nation. The national high school graduation rate is 71%, while some states have graduation rates in the 50-percent range; and

WHEREAS, according to Table 6 of the study, "College Readiness Rates by Region and State in 2002", Oklahoma has a 37% college readiness rate, tying it with Utah as the highest in the Western region, which has an average of 32%, and far surpassing the national average of 34%. Some states have college readiness rates in the 20-percent range; and

WHEREAS, according to Table 12, "Total College Readiness Rates by Region and State: 1991 - 2002", Oklahoma started with a readiness rate of 28% in 1991 and progressed throughout the decade at a rate much faster than the national average to reach 37% in 2002, testifying to the successful educational policy envisioned by the Oklahoma State Legislature and implemented by educators, teachers, librarians, counselors, and other educational support personnel in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the findings of this study confirm other positive outcomes for Oklahoma public schools including: that Oklahoma's prekindergarten programs ranked No. 1 in the percentage of four-year-olds attending public preschool programs according to the National Institute for Early Education Research; that Oklahoma has the 9th highest number of National Board Certified Teachers in the United States; that by the 8th grade, 82% of Oklahoma students score at the satisfactory level or above in reading; and that with 72% of Oklahoma students taking the ACT, Oklahoma scored among the highest in the region, above Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Texas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 50TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate voices its pride in the outstanding educational progress of Oklahoma high school students as reported by the Manhattan Institute.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate thanks its educators, teachers, librarians, counselors, and other educational support personnel throughout the State of Oklahoma for making this improvement possible and achieving these impressive results.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.