



## Staking A Claim in Our Students' Future

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#### **Statement from Superintendent, Dr. Mike Simpson on the release of school district report cards by the Oklahoma State Department of Education.**

"We are continuing to review the data contained in the recently released School Report Cards for areas of celebration. We are also reviewing areas of concern to determine if adequate resources and methods are available for our students to grow. This is one of many measures that we use to guide us on how we are doing as a district. Some bright spots exist in this report. We continue to focus on growing our students and that is evident as our academic growth at GUES and the Junior High School are well above the state average. This is a clear sign that we are taking each student and growing them academically at a rate greater than other school districts. The characteristics of each community will naturally affect the scores. Some of the characteristics of our district which always affect our overall achievement include a greater percentage of students receiving services in special education than the state average as well as a greater percentage of students receiving free or reduced meals. This is the federal determinant of students living in poverty.

Since this data is from the 2017-18 school year and prior to our neighborhood school transition, the results for sites which serve students below fourth grade are of little use. We look forward to future years where that data may be as beneficial as the data provided for the Upper Elementary, Junior High and High School. Areas where we look for growth in the future include a continued focus on chronic absenteeism and our graduation rate. We as a community must improve our attendance and reduce the chronic absenteeism as this is a great barrier to achievement of at risk students. Those habits typically lead to high school dropouts. Those items go hand in hand for at risk students succeeding."

The report cards are available at the following link: <https://oklaschools.com/>

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