

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations

2015-2016 Performance Report

Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics

AGENCY MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics is twofold: (1) to foster the educational development of Oklahoma high school students who are academically talented in science and mathematics and who show promise of exceptional development through participation in a residential educational setting emphasizing instruction in the field of science and mathematics; and (2) to assist in the improvement of science and mathematics education for the state by developing, evaluating, and disseminating instructional programs and resources to all schools and students of the State.

LEAD ADMINISTRATOR:

Dr. Frank Wang, President
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GOVERNANCE:

The Board consists of 25 members. Six members are ex officio members: the Chair of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the Chancellor for Higher Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences of Oklahoma State University, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Oklahoma, and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Tulsa. Seven members are appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate: one member of the Senate, one superintendent of a public school district, and five members - two of whom are either a scientist or a mathematician and three of whom hold a graduate degree and practice a profession for which a graduate degree is required. Seven members are appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives: one member of the House of Representatives, one principal of a public secondary school, and five members who are either scientists or mathematicians or hold a graduate degree and are currently employed in an occupation related to mathematics or one of the sciences. Five members are appointed by the Governor: four members are business or industrial leaders, and one principal of a private secondary school in Oklahoma. The term of office of members appointed by the President Pro Tempore and the Speaker coincide with the term of the appointing authority. The term of office of members appointed by the Governor is six years .

Name and Title	Appointing Authority	Exp Date
Dan Little	Chair Governor	June 30, 2015
Jack Coffman	President Pro Tempore	
Dr. David Drennan	Vice Chair Speaker of the House	
Donna Windel	President Pro Tempore	
Carl E. Johnson	Speaker of the House	
Ron Mashore	Speaker of the House	
Senator Jim Halligan	President Pro Tempore	
Dr. Mary Ann Bauman	Governor	June 30, 2014
Mason Cole	President Pro Tempore	
Geoffrey Simpson	Speaker of the House	
Kent Buchanan	Governor	June 30, 2016
Athaliah DeNegri	Governor	June 30, 2018
Dr. Kelly Dowd	President Pro Tempore	
Dr. Lara Mashek	Speaker of the House	
Steven Rhines	Governor	June 30, 2018

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GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY:

Please see minutes submitted as separate documents.

MODERNIZATION EFFORTS:

OSSM has taken several steps to modernize operations. The nature of the services that are at the core of services OSSM provides is the face-to-face classroom instruction, whether it be students, teachers, or counselors. In an attempt for efficiency as well as the saving of time and resources (ie paper and other materials), when practical, classroom notes, lectures, research papers, etc, are web based. Smartboards are used extensively in the classroom and computer assisted/simulated experiments and mathematics processes/models are utilized to complement classroom instruction.

To enhance and expand the reach of the Regional Outreach program, OSSM has implemented a Virtual Regional Center in which academically advanced students from throughout the state are able to obtain advanced science and mathematics instruction through the use of video conference. This program will allow a greater number of students to be reached by a single OSSM instructor, resulting in much larger instructor-to-student ratios than a typical classroom setting.

Other aspects of operations, such as the application process have been converted to on-line processes, including the actual student application. OSSM is dedicated to converting as much of its processes to “paperless” as is practical.

Financial operations have included the use of PeopleSoft modules (for HR, Financial, etc), including the employee self maintenance module, on-line employee benefits enrollment system, and other PeopleSoft modules as provided by the State. The payment of claims process has been converted to scanning and electronic submittal to OMES. The Agency also is in the process of converting vendor payments to wire payments versus paper warrant payments. Other vendor payments, including utilities, are being converted to “p-card” activity where appropriate and available.

These modernization efforts have increased efficiency and provided time and resource savings.

The largest cost of any educational based service is the cost of personnel. While several steps have been taken to cut costs, the only step that affords the greatest dollar savings is the reduction of personnel. In addition to the reduction of staff, the use of part-time instructors have been implemented in an attempt to maintain the mandated level of service, while not compromising the level of services provide.

OSSM has cut and/or eliminated all budget areas. All contract services (security, janitorial, etc) have been reviewed and the level of services has been reduced as additional means of saving money. Many of the steps that have been taken do not increase or decrease efficiency, rather they have been implemented out of necessity to maintain the level of services mandated by OSSM’s mission statement.

OSSM is participating in the 20x2020 Energy Cap program to reduce utility usage among state agencies

CORE MISSION:

All services provided fall within the core mission of “fostering the educational development of Oklahoma high school students who are academically talented in science and mathematics and who show promise of exceptional development through participation in a residential educational setting emphasizing instruction in the field of science and mathematics and assisting in the improvement of science and mathematics education for the state by developing, evaluating, and disseminating instructional programs and resources to all schools and students of the State.

The nature and level of services provided are not duplicated or replicated by another agency. OSSM does not provide services that are outside its core mission.

PRIVATE ALTERNATIVES:

OSSM is not aware of any Oklahoma entity, private or public, that provides the comprehensive, extensive academic opportunity in science and mathematics that it provides. Several states have governmentally funded

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schools that are similar. OSSM has not been approached by any foundation, for-profit or not-for-profit with efforts to privatize some of its functions.