

November 6, 2013

Dear KIPP Tulsa Families, Friends, and Supporters,

As always, KIPP Tulsa is committed to being transparent about its progress and its areas for growth. In that spirit, I want to give you some information and context about KIPP Tulsa's A-F Report Card grade this year.

Many of you may have already seen district letters discussing the new state A-F grading system and changes to schools' grades in the last month. This year, KIPP Tulsa will receive an "F" under the new system, down from a "B" under the old system last year. We know from a report by the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University that the margin in the new grade system between an "A" and an "F" could have been as small as 3-6 correct test answers. Our grade was also influenced by a drop in achievement scores in our lower school.

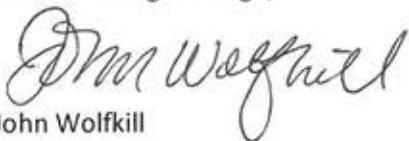
We are disappointed that many students did not show as much growth as we had hoped last year. We are working hard to address this, as well as to maintain our spirit of "continuous improvement" throughout our school. We have made a number of changes so far this year, including separating science and social studies into individual classes; implementing a pre-AP curriculum; offering high school-level math and science courses for credit in 8th grade; and expanding our reading intervention programs.

While we acknowledge that our scholar's achievement results were not where we wanted them to be, we also want to celebrate the great gains our KIPPsters made that are not reflected in our A-F score. Our 5th and 7th grade students showed average gains in math that amounted to over a year and a half of learning in just one year. Among our 8th graders, 14 percent more scored proficient or advanced in reading than last year, and 13 percent more scored proficient or advanced in math.

Beyond this data, we know that KIPP is about more than just a single year of test scores. Our alumni are proof that KIPP Tulsa is preparing students for choice-filled lives. We continue to make progress towards our larger mission of helping all students climb the mountain to and through college. Ninety-two percent of our alumni who graduated from high school last year are now pursuing opportunities in college, technical school, or military service.

We are proud of our accomplishments as a school, but we also know that there is much work still to do. Together, we will continue to strive towards equipping our students with the academic, character, and life skills they need to succeed in college and beyond.

To and through college,



John Wolfkill
Executive Director