

Ponca City Public Schools

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October 20, 2004

Dr. Bill Blokker
Professional Development Institute, Inc.
3109 150th Place Southeast
Mill Creek, Washington 98012

RE: Literacy First Process

Dear Dr. Blokker,

I would like to share with you the impact that Literacy First has had for the students in the Ponca City schools. The Literacy First Process has been key in moving us closer to our goal.

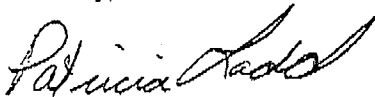
We have seven of our eight elementary schools, both of our middle schools, and a group of core teachers at our high school who have been trained in the Literacy First process. Teachers at these sites have received district and/or state support of consultation and coaching on implementation of the process. This is one of the few reform models that has provided the necessary support for successful implementation.

The tools that we have received in Literacy First training have become standard assessments across the district for identifying student needs and providing targeted instruction to close learning gaps. The data from the Literacy First assessments are key to our ability to write and achieve SMART goals at grade levels, school sites, and at the district level.

Over the course of the five years of implementation of the Literacy First process, we have seen steady results. Our goal is to have 90% of ALL students reading at or above grade level by 2007. When we began the process, we had fewer than 60% of our students at grade level as measured on national norm referenced tests. Last year, we had 80% of our students reading at grade level. I am confident that we will achieve our goal. The Literacy First process has been a key reason for our success.

I fully recommend this process to any educator who is serious about getting results for students in reading.

Sincerely,



Patricia Ladd, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction