



The Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics
BECOME OCTM
Building an Energetic Community of Ohio Mathematics Educators

November 17, 2010

Dear Governor-elect Kasich:

The Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics (OCTM) is an organization of 3,500 mathematics educators from pre-school through college and has served Ohio for 59 years. We serve mathematics educators at all levels by providing and supporting engaging, ongoing, collaborative professional growth opportunities. We believe that every student should have *full access* to mathematics education that develops the understandings and skills necessary for *mathematical literacy* and *full participation in a global society*. OCTM strongly advocates for policies and practices that value and emphasize *critical thinking, informed decision-making, and analytical problem solving* on the part of every teacher and student.

The OCTM has been involved in mathematics education in Ohio through close collaborations with the Ohio Resource Center (ORC) and Ohio Department of Education (ODE). Ohio has recently received national recognition for its leadership in mathematics education, including its focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; as well as the standards and assessments developed by our state. The OCTM has contributed to the strong status of mathematics education in Ohio over the past years by assisting with the writing of the Ohio Academic Content Standards for School Mathematics. Further, we advocate for teacher and school support in implementing new standards in Ohio. To that end, this past October OCTM held a standards rollout day for teachers and administrators from Ohio schools to begin developing strategies to implement the new Common Core State Standards and the Ohio Model Curriculum in their schools. We plan to work closely with the ODE to develop the content of similar workshops that will be held in regions throughout the state over the coming years.

We believe that the development of common standards that address critical thinking and provide high expectations for students in mathematics are essential in maximizing student learning. As Ohio works towards implementation of the new standards within the Model Curriculum, the alignment of standards, instruction, and assessment must be carefully considered. Further, the implementation of new standards will require the development and implementation of school-based and fully funded teacher professional development.

Thank you very much for your careful consideration of the future of mathematics education in Ohio and for your leadership in providing world-class mathematics education to all students in Ohio. Please consider the goals and positions of OCTM as you work on education reform in Ohio. OCTM looks forward to future discussions and collaboration with you and your team. We invite you to contact OCTM through our President, Mark Jaffee, at markjaffee@oberlin.net, or 440-774-1462; or Advocacy Coordinator, Katie Hendrickson, at kh232602@ohio.edu or at 740-274-0147.

Respectfully,

The Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics Board of Directors