



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

September 15, 2009

Dear Mr. Heffner:

The Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics (OCTM) is an organization of 3,500 mathematics educators from pre-school through college. 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.

We understand that the Assessment Work Group of the Ohio College and Career Readiness Policy Institute has asked the mathematics team at the Ohio Department of Education to provide recommendations for two end-of-course mathematics exams for high school students. OCTM places a high value on teaching for student understanding at all levels, and standards, assessments, and instruction must be carefully and thoughtfully aligned in order for this to occur. Because the mathematics standards are currently being revised, and because the revisions will not be adopted by the State Board of Education until July 2010, *we encourage the Work Group to take additional time in submitting proposals regarding Ohio assessments in high school mathematics until the standards are finalized next year.*

Thank you very much for your careful consideration of this important issue and for your leadership in providing world-class mathematics education to all Ohio students. OCTM looks forward to future discussions and collaboration with all Ohio leaders in mathematics education. We invite you to contact OCTM through our president, Kim Yoak, at kjyoak@gmail.com or at 330-689-5200, ext. 6255.

Respectfully,

The Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics Board of Directors