

# Challenges to Change: Shaping Tomorrow's Classrooms

2026

THE  
OKLAHOMA  
ACADEMY

Town Hall

## PURPOSE OF THE TOWN HALL

Oklahoma's education system faces serious challenges. Only 26% of students meet grade-level expectations in reading and math, graduation rates remain below state goals, and Oklahoma ranks near the bottom nationally in PreK–12 outcomes. While there are pockets of progress, too many students are still falling behind — making clear that incremental change is not enough. This reality raises a critical question: *How can Oklahoma reimagine the structure, content, and supports of education to better prepare students for the future?*

The 2026 Town Hall will bring together diverse voices from across the state to identify practical, solutions-focused strategies that strengthen learning, support educators, and improve student success in a rapidly changing world.

## DISCUSSION AREAS

- 1. Structure of the School Day**
  - Innovative models that better support learning and well-being
- 2. Aligning Curriculum With Opportunities**
  - Making learning meaningful, applicable, and future-ready
- 3. Supporting Educators & School Communities**
  - Creating environments where educators and students can thrive
- 4. Student Success and Whole-Child Outcomes**
  - Supporting academic growth while meeting diverse student needs

## WHY THIS MATTERS

Education is the foundation of Oklahoma's workforce, economy, and civic life. When students succeed, communities thrive — and when systems fall short, the impacts extend far beyond the classroom.

This Town Hall is not about blame or politics, but about building a path forward. Grounded in data, research, and lived experience, it will focus on practical, actionable solutions that strengthen learning and expand opportunity.

By centering students and supporting educators, the Town Hall will help move Oklahoma from challenge to change — and ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed.

## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

The Oklahoma Academy is seeking participants for the 2026 Town Hall, Oct. 18–21 at the WinStar World Casino and Resort in Thackerville. Interested individuals should complete the Town Hall Nomination Application. Invitations will be issued later this year.

Let's build classrooms that prepare students not just for tests — but for life.

[www.okacademy.org](http://www.okacademy.org)