

I have been receiving calls and emails about the plans for the 2018 Tournament of Champions. The TOC is currently scheduled for April 6 and 7 at Redlands Community College in El Reno. The questions I am receiving concern the impact of the April 2 teacher walkout and whether or not we plan to change the date of the TOC.

The short answer to this is no, we do not plan to reschedule.

The tournament will be held on April 6 and 7. We will welcome and provide additional assistance to parents and non-school personnel bringing students to the TOC

The TOC cannot occur without a venue and staff. Redlands is only available on April 6 and 7. My staff has been hired and is available on the 6 and 7. An alternative date is not a viable option. I did check about other available dates. The next open date for our venue would be mid-May. Even if we had other options, changing the date creates additional scheduling, staffing, venue and time issues at both the tournament organization level and the district level. In addition, because of the unfortunate incident last year, we have had experience with a last minute cancellation and the subsequent scramble to reschedule. The events surrounding the 2017 TOC created a situation that was chaotic, expensive and time consuming for everyone involved.

The uncertainty in trying to predict the legislative outcome and variety of district responses leaves everything very unstable. The amount of preparation and scheduling required to conduct the TOC does not lend itself to waiting until April 1 to make the final decision about the tournament.

- Some districts will not be participating in any school related business or activities, curricular or extracurricular, during the walkout.
- Some districts will be continuing the extra-curricular activities, regardless of the walkout.
- Some districts will not be participating in the walkout at all.

Once the walkout is over, state testing schedules will have to be adjusted and implemented. In addition to testing, a plethora of activities and meetings will have to be rescheduled. All of the rescheduling is on the district level. Multiply everything you will be working rescheduling by 75-100 school districts that usually attend the TOC and things get messy/busy/bogged down fast.

I am 100% in support of Oklahoma teachers. I've been involved with education, as both a teacher and in support of teachers since 1976. I have been through reduction in force procedures that ripped school districts apart. I have stood where you are standing now as you make the difficult decisions you are faced with making. While

what I do now is not in the classroom, everything I do revolves around what you do and exists to support your efforts.

Here is to a speedy and successful resolution to our legislative quagmire.

gail

PLEASE NOTE: We will provide additional support for non-school personnel bringing students to the TOC. If someone other than you will be bringing the students to the competition, I will have a detailed check in procedure for you to share with those individuals.

Enrollment is open and ready for entry now.

<http://oaac.org/TOC%20Enrollment.html>

March 30 is the entry deadline. I can accept entries as late as April 2 but that late limits us when making changes and preparing for the event. We will also have a sign up time sheet for scholars. Your scholars may not be able to get the time slot they want for their test if it is later.

<http://oaac.org/TOC.html>

If you are canceling extracurricular activities, will your district allow parents to bring their own children? If so, I will have detailed information links for the parents available from our main web page.

Those same documents will be sent to the schools for dispersal on your end.