

(Continued)

Coppedge said. "That isn't true. Sixty-five percent of Oklahoma seniors take the ACT and average 20.3. In Wisconsin, 64 percent take it and average 22.0. Seventy-five percent of Nebraska students take it and average 21.4, and in Kansas the average score is 21.2 with 72 percent taking the test."

Coppedge said the "4 by 4" curriculum would raise ACT scores, increase college enrollment, reduce the need for costly remedial classes for poorly prepared college freshmen, and better prepare graduates who do not plan to attend college for the workplace.

Current Oklahoma high school graduation requirements call for four years of English but only two each of math, science, and history. The Board has been considering increasing the math requirement to three years to match new college entrance requirements.

"I will challenge the State Board of Education to raise the bar for all of Oklahoma's children," he said. "I would expect a very favorable response, since our accreditation standards already require that all high schools offer four years each in the core subjects."

Coppedge said El Reno Public Schools have already implemented what they call a "four core" program.

"Superintendent Sandy Wisely says it is very successful," he said. El Reno has allowed exceptions for students enrolled in vocational technical classes and special education, which Coppedge said would be necessary for a statewide plan as well.

"The goal is a very basic one," he said. "As the Governor has said, if we ask more of our young people they will respond to the challenge and be better prepared to become Oklahoma's leaders of the future. I hope the Board will agree."

GOVERNOR KEATING, PHILLIPS CEO TO ATTEND EDUCATION SUMMIT

From The Governor's Office

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating will be joined by Phillips Petroleum CEO Wayne Allen at the 1996 National Education Summit this week in Palisades, NY. The summit will bring together the nation's governors and designated business leaders from each state to discuss the need for establishing and implementing higher academic standards in public schools and the role technology can play in that effort.

"I am honored to join this distinguished group of governors and CEOs to discuss how to revitalize efforts to establish and implement high academic standards, assessments and accountability. Nothing is as important as the education and training of our youth. Phillips Petroleum has a long history of support for education and economic development. Working together can make Oklahoma even better for those who follow," Allen said.

"I am pleased to see the agenda for this summit is increasing standards at the state and local level. This is not about setting national standards, it is about reforming our education system with locally established standards. We also plan to discuss how technology plays a role in improving teaching and learning. In Oklahoma, we are ahead of the curve in that area with the implementation of the OneNet statewide computer system to bring a whole new learning experience to Oklahoma classrooms," the Governor said.