

**MISSOURI NEA's
STATE BOARD REPORT**

Notes from the April 19, 2007 meeting of the State Board of Education

**State Board of Education
April 19, 2007**

President Herschend called the State Board of Education (SBOE) to order on April 19, 2007 at the Jefferson Building in Jefferson City, Missouri. The board reviewed various meetings they had attended as representatives of the board including several recognition events organized by the Regional Professional Development Centers (RPDC's).

Fourth Cycle MSIP implementation process discussed

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) staff explained that cycle four will still be based primarily on the performance criteria outlined on the Annual Performance Report (APR). Therefore, districts that are performing well will be able to waive an on-site review. Even those who do receive an on-site review can expect the review to focus on areas in need of improvement. The department has developed regional school improvement teams to provide focused assistance to districts that have undergone a Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) review.

Hayti reclassified with new review

The Hayti School District was initially scheduled for a MSIP on-site review during the 2005-06 school year. However, as the district and DESE have been working collaboratively on improving student performance, it was determined that the district would benefit from an on-site review and an analysis of data under the fourth cycle performance standards. As a result, the on-site review was conducted in November of 2006. Based on this review, DESE staff recommended and the SBOE approved classifying Hayti as Provisionally Accredited.

Seven more high schools gain A+ designation

Established in the 1993 Outstanding Schools Act, the A+ Program is a school improvement initiative that allows the graduates of the program to receive free community college admission. A total of 224 public high schools have received A+ designation. Since 2001-02 schools that wish to seek designation are utilizing local funds only to accomplish the goals of the program. In 2006-07 the following high schools met the requirements of the program and were granted A+ designation by the SBOE:

Windsor HS – Windsor C-1 School District
Hazelwood East High School – Hazelwood School District
Hazelwood Central High School – Hazelwood School District
Bunker High School – Bunker R-III School District
Belton High School – Belton 124 School District
Plato High School – Plato R-V School District
Steeleville High School – Steeleville R-III School District

Report linking Student Achievement and the Comprehensive Guidance Plan

A fully-implemented comprehensive guidance plan is one in which the guidance curriculum and individual planning are designed for all students and the responsive services are utilized by students who need specific intervention for their academic development, career development, and personal/social development. Missouri's plan developed in 1995 served as the model for the program promoted by the American School Counselor Association and is in use in several countries.

The board received data from a 10-year study linking improved student achievement with the school's counseling program. Practitioners from Rockwood School District assisted with the presentation. Missouri's model program is unique because through partnerships it has resulted in 1) a statewide mentoring program for new counselors 2) results-based evaluation model for counselors 3) pre-service training modifications based on the evaluation model and 4) summer institute for counselors sponsored by DESE.

Lincoln University integrates eMINTS into teacher preparation program

The current certification requirements include "microcomputer applications in education" and specific competencies in instructional technology. The eMINTS program provides an excellent example of integrating technology into the classroom. Lincoln University was the first university in Missouri to use eMINTS as a tool to prepare teachers in the use of instructional technology. Several professors and students participated in the report to the board.

Board authorizes rule for Missouri IDEA Compliance Plan

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was reauthorized in 2004, but the US Department of Education (DOE) only released the federal regulations for implementation in October of 2006. In response to the federal regulations, DESE proposed changes to the state plan and regulations. During February 2007, the department conducted three public hearings on the proposed changes in KC, St. Louis, and Columbia. The changes are primarily in the areas of evaluation, transfer procedures, and eligibility, discipline, and hearing officer provisions. The board approved the recommended changes.

Board approves standards for the Virtual Instruction Program (VIP)

In January, the board approved and sent for public comment the standards for policies and administrative procedures for the VIP which will offer free on-line courses to any K-12 student residing in Missouri. On-line enrollment in the VIP will begin May 7, 2007.

The board also heard reports on the Parents as Teachers program and the board approved that the Marion C. Early R-V School District be reassigned to Ozarks Technical Community College.

The board will meet again in Jefferson City on May 17 and 18. Missouri NEA will be there.