

Missouri NEA State Board Report

*Notes from January 10, 2017 meeting of the State Board of Education
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

Board withdraws proposed change in Speech Language Pathologist certification

Currently, speech language pathologists who work in schools must maintain two certifications. The Missouri Board of Healing Arts SLP license must be renewed every two years, and DESE certification has a different timeline. The DESE certification is based solely on their board of healing arts license. When SLP do not renew their board of healing arts license to practice, DESE must then revoke their DESE certification. School districts must repay Medicaid for any SLP services performed after the board of healing arts license lapsed. SLP are not required to have DESE certification in order to work in schools. The proposed change would simplify certification by not certifying new SLPs. SLPs that currently hold a DESE certificate would keep their certification.

DESE received over 200 comments, mostly relating to participation in the Missouri Public School Retirement System. DESE staff recommended withdrawal of the change to allow DESE and education associations to address the issues. Missouri NEA took the lead by bringing together PSRS, DESE staff, MACCE, and leaders of the Missouri Speech Language Hearing Association to share accurate information and discuss the issue. SLPs and other interested MNEA members are invited to join Missouri NEA's online meeting to discuss this issue on Tuesday, February 21 at 7 p.m. Register to participate at www.mnea.org, Professional Resources, Online Training.

St. Louis Public Schools achieves full accreditation

The board voted to classify St. Louis Public School as accredited effective immediately. SLPS's Annual Performance Report over the last three years has been in the accredited range. SLPS has shown significant growth in academic achievement, advanced placement, post-secondary placement, attendance, governance structure and fiscal health. The district will continue to be governed by the appointed special administrative board. The state board committed to working with SLPS to develop a plan to transition governance to the locally elected school board. SLPS became an unaccredited school district in June of 2007. The district accreditation status was upgraded to provisionally accredited in 2012.

Board hears progress report on development of Missouri's ESSA plan

Missouri's Every Student Succeeds Act plan must address how the state will comply with requirements of the ESSA. DESE staff shared the general direction they are taking in several areas. As required, the draft state plan will be open for public comments before it is submitted to the U.S. Department of Education. DESE plans to submit the plan by April 3. The plan will likely open for comments in late February or early March. Please watch for action alerts from Missouri NEA when the draft plan is published.

Once the state plan is finalized, DESE staff plan to begin work on updating the Missouri School Improvement Program. Missouri NEA members want MSIP 6 to focus less on test scores, and Missouri NEA staff inserts this desire at every opportunity. ESSA opens this possibility, and your input will be important. Please watch for opportunities to provide input on MSIP 6.

HB 1490 Personal Finance Standards Public Hearing

John Lindquist, Vice-Chair of the Personal Finance Standards Committee created by HB 1490, gave the board a progress report. The committee held their first meeting December 12, 2016. Members of the committee discussed the charges, objective(s), the current standards and history of the standards. The committee will meet the first Wednesday of each month via skype. Missouri NEA member Lonzo Boles serves on this committee.

There was one public comment from the chair of the Organ Donor Advisory Committee. This committee assists the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services with the development and implementation of the Organ and Tissue Donor Program. Personal finance curriculum includes end of life decisions. The advisory committee requested information about the Organ Donor Program be included in the personal finance standards. The Organ Donor Program is supported by voluntary contributions at driver's license offices in Missouri.

Board approves charter school renewals and one new proposal

The board renewed the charter of three existing charter schools for terms of five years, beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2022. All three had satisfactory financial data, an APR of over 70% for three of the last four years, and met the statutory requirement of a higher APR than the local school district.

- Alta Vista Charter School is sponsored by University of Central Missouri. Alta Vista currently serves 898 students in grades K-3 and 6-12 in the Kansas City area.
- KIPP: Endeavor Academy is sponsored by the University of Missouri-Columbia (UMC) and serves the Kansas City area. Endeavor Academy currently serves 420 students in grades K-8.
- Crossroads Academy of Kansas City is sponsored by the University of Central Missouri. Crossroads Academy currently serves 562 students in grades K-8.

The state board authorized The Arch Community School to commence operations pursuant to the charter granted by the University of Missouri-St. Louis for five years, effective for the 2017-2018 school year. The school plans to open in the boundaries of the St. Louis Public School District and serve grades K-3, with a goal to become a K-5 LEA by the 2021-2022 school year.

Sponsorship ends for Preclarus Mastery Academy charter school in St. Louis

The University of Missouri St. Louis informed the State Board that they are terminating their sponsorship of Preclarus Mastery Academy at the end of this school year. UMSL cited Preclarus failed to meet student performance targets, with an APR of just 46.3%. The UMSL representative stated the poor performance was due to poor leadership in prior years. State law allows Preclarus Mastery to stay open if they secure another sponsor. However, increased accountability on sponsors passed into law largely due to the work of Missouri NEA makes that difficult.

UMSL reported improved student performance at St. Louis College Prep, so UMSL will continue sponsorship of this charter school. St. Louis College Prep has a 2016 APR of 64.3%. With the assistance of UMSL, the charter school has worked on improved curriculum alignment, strengthened student intervention programs, increased the number of social workers and special education teachers, and increased staff retention.

State Board receives report on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is designed to strengthen and improve our nation's public workforce system and help get Americans, including youth and those with significant barriers to employment, into high quality jobs. Signed into law in 2014, it is the first major overhaul of federal job training programs in fifteen years. New allowable activities include integrated education and training, workforce preparation, and integrated English language and civics. Improvements include: flexibility of funds, common performance indicators for all core programs, alignment of disability programs, advanced manufacturing workforce development strategies and provisions to support professional development workforce staff.

The next meeting of the State Board of Education will be February 21, 2017. Missouri NEA will be there! If you have any questions, contact Brent Fullington or Ann Jarrett at 800-392-0236. Details of state board agenda items can be found at <http://dese.mo.gov/state-board-education/agendas-minutes>.

Respectfully submitted,

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