

## **Missouri NEA State Board Report**

*Notes from March 14, 2017 meeting of the State Board of Education  
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

### **Board hears report on Normandy Schools Collaborative**

Dr. Charles Pearson, Normandy Schools Collaborative superintendent, reported expanded internships and partnerships to help students develop workforce readiness. The district implemented wraparound services for students. Grades 7-12 focus strongly on literacy, including reading, writing, speaking and reasoning. Normandy has instructional coaches in buildings to support effective professional learning. Normandy uses several tests to monitor student learning, including eValuate® in English language arts and math in grades K-8, STARR® in communication arts and math in grades 9-12, and science benchmarks in grades K-12.

### **Board sets calendar for state board operated schools to start before Labor Day**

DESE staff gave five reasons for beginning the 2017-2018 school year before Labor Day at the Missouri School for the Deaf, Missouri School for the Blind, and Schools for the Severely Disabled, as they have every year since 1998. Reasons given included:

- Better alignment with other schools in the geographic area;
- Better scheduling of co-curricular activities by aligning with schedules of other residential schools;
- Easing participation of students attending the school for the blind and the school for the deaf in classes offered by area public schools and community colleges;
- Allowing school staff to enroll in 8-week summer terms at universities; and
- Allowing 174 student attendance days with a total of 209 days for instruction, workshops, and school holidays and still end by June 1.

### **Board approves new teacher preparation programs at two institutions**

Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri, gained initial approval to offer six programs for teacher certification in these secondary areas: biology, business education, chemistry, English, social science, and speech & theatre. Missouri has teacher shortages in all six of these secondary education certification areas.

Kansas City Pathways to Leadership in Urban Schools (KC PLUS) in Kansas City, Missouri, gained initial approval to offer programs in elementary school administration and secondary school administration.

Initial approval allows candidates to be recommended for certification following their successful completion of the program and passing appropriate assessments as required by state board of education. Continuing approval for each of these programs is contingent on the findings of the APR-EPP.

## **Board approves first annual performance reports for educator preparation programs**

The APR-EPPs are based on five years of reporting by educator preparation programs at Missouri colleges and universities. The programs reported how many candidates passed the certification exam within two tries and the content area grade point average for teacher candidates. Each area of certification is considered a program and receives its own score. The APR-EPP data also includes survey results from first-year teachers, new principals and supervisors of both as to the preparation program's effectiveness.

The APR-EPP is divided into four performance levels:

Tier 1 – 90 to 100 percent of the possible points

Tier 2 – 70 to 89 percent of the possible points

Tier 3 – 50 to 69 percent of the possible points

Tier 4 – 49 percent or less of the possible points

Most educator preparation programs in Missouri scored in Tiers 1 or 2, a few scored in Tier 3, and none scored in Tier 4

## **Board designates 57 non-public schools as A+ High Schools**

Statutory changes to 160.545.1 RSMo, effective August 28, 2016, allow non-public high schools to be designated as A+ High Schools in the same manner as public high schools. In February 2017, 57 non-public high schools met the requirements for A+ designation. This designation grants students in these schools the opportunity to apply for A+ tuition assistance at community colleges if they fulfill all requirements.

### **In other actions, the Board:**

- Authorized new rules required by 2016 statute changes detailing expedited renewal process for charter schools with an APR of 70% or more in three of the last four years, and expedited replication and expansion for charter schools with APRs over 85% for the last four years.
- Authorized new rules required by 2016 statute changes to extend the deadline for sponsors to submit new charter school applications to the state board of education from December 1 to January 31.
- Heard a report on progress of the 2018 education budget.
- Heard a report on legislative action on education issues.

The next meeting of the state board of education will be April 18, 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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