

Missouri NEA Missouri State Board of Education Report

*Notes from May 16, 2017 meeting of the State Board of Education
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

Quote of the day

"You can't love low taxes and complain about the quality of high school graduates."

-Missouri State Board of Education member Russ Still, Columbia

Current science test will not be administered in 2017-2018, no funding for ACT

The state legislature cut funding for assessments by \$4 million for the 2017-2018 school year. This will likely result in no state-wide administration of the ACT for high school juniors, though DESE staff are negotiating with ACT to lower the cost, so a final decision has not been made.

Math and English language arts MAP tests given in 2017-2018 will cover revised learning standards. While all content standards were revised based on HB 1490, the science standards saw the biggest shifts. Missouri was set to pilot science assessments over new learning standards in spring 2018 while also administering the old test over the old science standards. Testing over the old standards is a poor use of limited resources and hinders implementation of the revised science standards. Science test scores are a small part of MSIP. DESE staff proposed not giving the old science test in 2018, administering only the pilot test which is based on the new standards, and not using the test results for accountability. Board members agreed with this plan.

Board receives an update on the development of Missouri School Improvement Program

DESE staff began the process of developing the next version of MSIP. MSIP 5 is the current district accreditation system. Six development teams will review and provide recommendations for MSIP 6:

- Academic Achievement
- Climate and Culture
- Effective and Stable Leadership and Governance
- Effective Educators and Instructional Practices
- Success ready Graduates
- System and Processes

DESE staff set an aggressive time line: System development in spring and summer 2017, draft rule to state board in fall of 2017, and final adoption by state board in January 2018. Pilots of new processes and reporting options would begin after the new policy is adopted by the state board. State board members urged DESE staff to take more time if needed to develop the best policies.

Missouri NEA is concerned with the small number of teachers on the workgroups. No teachers serve on the Effective Educators workgroup. DESE staff say that the superintendents in that group will get feedback from teachers in their district. Ann Jarrett will reach out to local MNEA leaders in those districts to share information. Jarrett serves on the Systems and Processes work group. All members should watch their email this summer for opportunities to provide input.

Board holds public hearing on Personal Finance Standards

The goal of the workgroup is that the standards reflect high expectations and rigor for high school personal finance courses. MNEA member Lonzo Boles, North Kansas City, serves on this work group. The Personal Finance Workgroup identified five themes for personal finance education:

financial decision making, earned income, buying goods and services, savings, using credit, and financial investing. Board members expressed a need for financial education to be a part K-12 curriculum.

Three people gave public comments:

1. Personal finance courses have not increased financial literacy in Missouri. The personal finance curriculum should be rigorous and include compound interest, the cost of buying on credit, and retirement planning. Teachers need training.
2. Too much curriculum to cover in a one semester course, so should focus on core concepts.
3. Teachers of personal finance courses should be certified to teach business courses.
4. Financial issues are the number one reason for not going to college or dropping out of college.

Board recertifies Normandy Schools Collaborative Joint Executive Governing Board

The Missouri State Board of Education began direct oversight of the Normandy Schools Collaborative District on June 30, 2014, and appointed the Joint Executive Governing Board. DESE staff conducted a thorough review. Based on notable improvement and continued work that needs to be accomplished, DESE staff recommended continuation of the JEGB. One board member resigned, and the state board appointed Sara Foster as a new member of the JEGB.

DESE staff used on-site focus groups with faculty, central office staff, and members of the JEGB as part of the review. Summary of the findings:

Climate and Culture—Among all focus groups there was a general feeling that the buildings were safe, secure and appropriate for current programs. They indicated that they believed the current facilities are appropriate, resources will be necessary for the upkeep and upgrading of current facilities.

Comprehensive School Improvement Plan/Accountability Plan (CSIP Review)

The Department's review indicated:

- Use of data to inform decisions and instruction was evident in each building;
- District initiatives are aligned to building level improvement plans and the CSIP;
- MAP goals and individual student benchmarks are established;
- Professional development is based on staff needs;
- JEGB is updated on school and district progress on a regular basis.

Educator Effective Audit—One phase of the audit was a review of policy data, which includes policy documents, manuals, regulatory guidelines, and other documents that describe NSC's evaluation system. NSC's policy documents were reviewed to determine the extent to which the evaluation system aligned to each of the seven Essential Principles. NSC's evaluation process fully aligned to principles 1 and 2, and partially aligned with principles 3 through 7.

Normandy Financial Review—DESE staff expect fund balances will continue to decline while operating under the current transfer law requirements. The current cost estimate for the 2016-2017 school year is \$6,670,100. The number of transfer students increased over the last three years. One hundred seventy transfer students never attended Normandy Schools. The tuition cost for transfer students ranges from \$7,000-\$20,000.

Board member Vic Lenz attends most Normandy JEGB meetings. Lenz stated that if student achievement trends continue, Normandy could become provisionally accredited in 2018.

Board receives report on the education of gifted and talented children

The Gifted Advisory Council was established by the Missouri General Assembly in 2013 to provide advice regarding all rules and policies to be adopted by the State Board of Education relating to the education of gifted and talented children. The Council studies the status of gifted education in Missouri. The number of districts providing a program for gifted students continues to decline. Dedicated funding for gifted programs was removed from the school foundation formula in 2006. The Council had three recommendations for 2017.

1. DESE should use the passage of ESSA to:
 - a. Include scores of gifted students as a separate subgroup on the state and local report cards.
 - b. Encourage local districts to take advantage of the allowable Title I funds to help better identify and provide gifted services for the traditionally underrepresented populations.
 - c. Include explicit language requiring the use of Title II funds to provide professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators to better understand the nature and needs of gifted students and how to provide gifted students with appropriate curriculum and instruction.
 - d. Include grants that provide for the explicit use of Title IV funds to pay for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exam fees of low-income students.
2. DESE should change the administrative rule for gifted programs.
3. DESE should develop a document providing guidance to districts on best practice approaches for meeting the needs of gifted and talented students.

In other business, the board:

- Re-Elected Charlie Shields, president and Victor Lentz, vice president of the Missouri State Board of Education for two-year terms beginning July 1, 2017.
- Discussed the Fiscal Year 2018 budget. Discussion included what exactly is the trigger that allows districts to collect ADA on some pre-school students. The answer is unclear.
- Heard legislative report on bills passed in 2018. DESE staff are trying work with the office of management and budget to protect the trust funds, established as early as 1851, for the state school for the blind, the state school for the deaf, and the state schools for the severely disabled from the budget “sweep” used by Missouri lawmakers to fill a \$35 million deficit in the state budget as passed. The “sweep” intends to take the balance of any state fund accounts and move that money into general revenue, with no intent to replace those funds. The school foundation formula is exempt from the sweep.
- Approved a parental leave policy for DESE employees. Gov. Greitens issued an executive order requiring state agencies to adopt a parental leave policy allowing six weeks of paid leave.
- Approved publication for public comment changes to Rule 5 CSR 20-100.210, relating to persistently dangerous schools. The change substitutes a reference to the relevant statute for the current list of types of incidents to report.

The next meeting of the State Board of Education will be June 13, 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,
Brent Fullington, Vice President, MNEA
Ann Jarrett, Teaching and Learning Director, MNEA

Brent.Fullington@mnea.org
Ann.Jarrett@mnea.org