

Missouri NEA State Board Report

*Notes from October 25, 2016 meeting of the State Board of Education
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

2016 Missouri Annual Performance Report preliminary results announced

Five hundred eight of the 519 school districts scored over 70% of points possible on their 2016 Annual Performance Report. District accreditation is based on multiple years of data. The state board will make district accreditation decisions at their December meeting. District results will be made public on November 7, 2016.

Missouri law prevents the state from downgrading the accreditation of a district on data from the first two years of a new test. As a consequence, DESE believes they should not upgrade district accreditation based on data from new tests. Since math and English language arts tests were new in 2016, accreditation decisions will not include those test results. Missouri state statute states that if an unaccredited district moves to accredited and then becomes unaccredited again, the district immediately dissolves. This is one reason the state board is very cautious about upgrading district accreditation.

Districts report Missouri educator evaluation system working

This year marks the final year for school districts and charters to align their local educator evaluation process to Missouri's seven principles for evaluation. Over three-fourths of Missouri schools use either the state model, an adapted version of the state model or the University of Missouri model, Network of Educator Effectiveness. These models are based on the Missouri Model Teaching Standards, and thus common language to discuss practice across districts.

Meramec Valley uses the Missouri Model, and Park Hill uses the NEE. Representatives from both districts explained how the new evaluation systems provide better opportunities for feedback to teachers, better conversations and more professional growth. Meramec Valley put together a cycle of professional development for teachers. Professional development for first year teachers' is focused on Standard 5, classroom management. The goal of the Missouri Model Educator Evaluation System is to help all educators improve every year.

Beginning Teacher Assistance Program draft approved

The board approved publication for public comment new minimum requirements for beginning teacher assistance programs. Missouri statute requires teachers with an initial Missouri license to teach to complete a BTAP in order to upgrade their license to a career continuous license. Missouri NEA's I Can Do It workshop fulfills this requirement. The new requirements begin in 2017-2018. MNEA has adjusted our program to meet the new draft requirements this year.

Over 1,000 attend DESE Regional Meetings on Education

Nine regional meetings were held throughout the state between September 6 and October 4 to receive feedback from stakeholders. Participants discussed four questions in small group table discussions. Feedback given during the table discussions on the success of public education did not at anytime mention test scores as a measure of success. Feedback will be used to inform MSIP changes and the ESSA state plan.

AP qualifying scores increase 260% over two years at Waynesville High School

A military family moves approximately eight times before their child graduates high school. Quality education for military dependents improves personnel retention for the U.S. Department of Defense. The DOD also expects to have 150,000 STEM jobs to fill in the next 10 years. For these reasons, the DOD provided a three-year matching grant to Waynesville R-6 schools, which includes Fort Leonard Wood, to join the National Math + Science Initiative.

The National Math + Science Initiative goal is to increase the number of students who are prepared to take rigorous college courses in the critical subjects of science, technology, engineering and math. Advanced Placement courses are rigorous and credits can be used nationwide. NMSI assists schools to help more students succeed in AP courses. NMSI provides training and curricular resources for teachers, equipment, study sessions and exam fees for students, and performance analysis and program experts for districts. All of this creates a culture of inclusion and rigor.

Now in the third year, Waynesville student enrollment in AP courses has grown over 400%. The second year results included a 260% increase in the number of qualifying AP scores in math, science and English. NMSI also works with teachers in middle and elementary schools to increase rigor so more students are prepared for advanced coursework in high school.

The DOD is funding the full cost of NMSI participation for the Knob Noster school district, which includes Whitman Air Force Base. Knob Noster offers seven AP courses in this first year of the grant, last year it did not offer any AP courses. Military families have responded positively to the higher standards and increased rigor in both districts.

NMSI begins this year in three St. Louis Public School high schools, funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. NMSI nationwide results show the largest increases in qualifying scores to be among minority students. Nine states have state-wide implementation of NMSI. The state board expressed interest, and NMSI representatives discussed how some states and communities fund this work through partnerships with business and community groups.

In other business the board:

- Honored 2017 Missouri Teacher of the Year Darbie Valenti, fifth-grade math/science teacher, Savannah R-III.
- Announced no school districts or charter schools in Missouri are financially stressed.
- Set the qualifying score for journalism certification content assessment.
- Set the qualifying score for new counselor and librarian performance assessments as recommended by MACCE. Holders of a Missouri teaching certificate can add the librarian certificate by taking only the librarian content assessment. They do not have to take the performance assessment.
- Approved publication for public comment revised minimum requirements for new school buses.

The next meeting of the State Board of Education will be December 1-2, 2016. 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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