

Missouri NEA State Board Report

*Notes from December 18, 2019 meeting of the Missouri State Board of Education
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, MO*

The Missouri State Board of Education conference call meeting to discuss legislative priorities lasted just short of two hours.

Board members worked with DESE staff to refine wording on four priorities before voting to approve them. The board requested the revised document be sent to legislature and state executive officers. What follows are the main points with the main changes. Words in italics are not part of the DESE report.

- Early Childhood Education
- Teacher Recruitment and Retention *(They DID NOT include a request to raise the pay for all teachers.)*
- Workforce Development
- Funding

Early Childhood

The State Board of Education supports access to voluntary high-quality early learning opportunities for all Missouri children. We support phasing in a plan to allow Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to count 100 percent of 4-5 year olds in early learning programs in their calculation of Average Daily Attendance (ADA) in the foundation formula. *(Estimated cost: \$50 to \$60 million annually if 100% of eligible students and districts participate. It would be voluntary for both districts and parents/children.)*

Teacher Recruitment and Retention

The board had three legislative requests- # 2 has a problematic addition.

1. The State Board of Education supports raising the minimum teacher salary from its current \$25,000 per year to \$32,000 per year. *(cost: \$ 4.4 M every year- there was no explicit request for additional state funding for this)*
2. The State Board of Education suggests both the House and Senate create a Joint Interim Committee to study teacher compensation and strategies to move Missouri to the median of all states in average teacher compensation. In addition, we suggest this committee work closely with education organizations and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) **to study alternatives to the traditional salary schedule, incentive pay, tenure and differential pay based on subject area and geography.**
3. The State Board of Education recommends the House and Senate create a Joint Interim Committee to study the growing violence in schools and violence directed against teachers.

Workforce Development

- The State Board of Education suggests that students in Missouri high schools be required to focus on an area of concentration related to a career field or achieving success in higher education.

- The State Board of Education supports requiring the use of an integrated advising system that connects career advising with academic support consistently across secondary and postsecondary institutions, and is informed by employers' current and anticipated needs. *(DESE provides this in the Individual Career and Academic Plan. Use of iCAP is currently optional- they want to require it.)*

Funding

1. The State Board of Education supports continued full funding of the foundation formula.
2. The State Board of Education supports phasing in full funding of the school transportation funding formula over the next three fiscal years.
 - Transportation Requirement: State law (167.231, RSMo) requires school districts to transport all students living more than three and one-half miles from school and that the state (163.161 RSMo) provide transportation aid to school districts in an amount not to exceed 75 percent of all allowable costs for transporting students.
 - Current Funding: In FY 2020, state transportation aid to school districts was underfunded by approximately \$193.5 million. Phasing in this funding will take \$65 million per year for three years.
3. The State Board also suggests legislation to incent school districts to share education costs.
 - Resource Sharing: This may include incentives to share superintendents and other key personnel.
 - Regional Approach: Regional centers, new and/or existing, may assist with support services, such as procurement, information technology, risk management, health insurance, accounting, facility maintenance, and transportation.

Missouri NEA needs your voice as we work to prevent bad legislation and get legislation, state policy and national policy that helps provide a great public school for every child. Please watch your email for Action Alerts and surveys. Take a few minutes to respond. Your voice makes a difference. MNEA members, please be sure we have a current home email address so you can receive Action Alerts.

The next meeting of the Missouri State Board of Education will be on January 9, 2020. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Rebeka McIntosh 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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