

Missouri NEA Missouri State Board of Education Report

*Notes from June 9, 2020 meeting of the Missouri State Board of Education
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

Districts begin receiving Education Stabilization Funds

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act created a number of funding streams to assist public education. Specific grants are being used to address three major priorities: reducing the digital divide, equipping educators for distance learning, and meeting the social-emotional needs of students. Education Stabilization Funds are administered by DESE. These funds can be used for expenses incurred after March 19 and related to Covid-19 disruptions. Counties received CARES Act funds that schools may be able to access.

Three hundred eleven local education agencies applied for grants and ninety-one have been completed with \$20 million disbursed so far. DESE is also required to provide services through the ESF to non-public schools. The U.S. Department of Education issued guidance that may not comply with the law. Currently seventeen states are following the law, which specifies Title 1 formulas (number of low-income students) are used to calculate funds for private schools. Six states and the Virgin Islands are following the DeVos guidance, which uses Title II formulas (total enrollment) to calculate funds for private schools. DESE withheld 25% of school district ESF funds while districts gather information from private schools in their district boundaries and DESE continues to seek clarification.

Board receives report on state education funding

Deputy Commissioner Roger Dorson briefed the board on changes to the state budget. Governor Parson withheld \$131 million from the K-12 budget in June and Dr. Dorson anticipates similar withholdings in July. There is rising concern among school administrators about calculating funding based on student attendance vs. student enrollment during school closures. Commissioner Vandeven expressed her concern that schools will see significant increases in student absences as families are quarantined. Dr. Dorson reminded the board that districts are able to transfer monies from Fund 4, capital projects, to Fund 1, teacher salaries, if the money is not obligated and their fund balances fall below 20%. He suggested the 20% threshold could be waived if needed. Dr. Dorson stated that from June to January, districts can use short-term borrowing against local taxes that they receive in January.

Board issues notice of material noncompliance to University of Missouri-Columbia

The University of Missouri-Columbia sponsors seven charter schools, including some of the lowest performing schools in Missouri. Evaluation by DESE staff found remediation is needed in two of the six standards for charter sponsors - Standard 4: Ongoing Oversight and Evaluation, and Standard 6: Renewal, Replication, Expansion, Revocation, and Closure Decision-Making. The University will create a corrective action plan. After a period of remediation DESE staff will re-evaluate the sponsorship program. If improvement is insufficient, the commissioner will hold a public hearing and the state board will decide whether to issue sanctions.

Board hears update on Missouri early childhood learning work

DESE staff leads work involving six DESE programs and eight programs in other state departments. Funded by a federal Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five, the work identifies and shares best practices in early learning programs. The group hopes to identify opportunities to increase efficiencies and be able to provide services to more families with the same funding levels. Board members and Commissioner Vandeven expressed their commitment for continued investment in early childhood education. Department

staff are concerned that domestic violence reports are increasing, and child abuse reports are decreasing since school buildings closed.

Board hears annual report of Career and Technical Education Advisory Council

The council works to improve the image of CTE with the new slogan, “Show Me learning that works.” Priorities for the council are developing comprehensive professional development and resources for CTE teachers, increasing the percent of CTE students who earn the Missouri CTE Certificate, and developing and implementing a process that improves student scores on Technical Skills Assessments and Industry Recognized Credentials. Missouri receives \$22.5 million in federal funds to support CTE and the state provides \$50 million.

Board approves revised Missouri Standards for the Preparation of Educators

Both traditional and alternative educator preparation programs in Missouri are approved and accredited by MoSPE standards. MoSPE describes the program framework for institutions and organizations offering programs leading to recommendation for Missouri educator certification. This document was collaboratively developed by educator preparation programs and DESE and informed by research. MoSPE covers four areas:

- Standard 1: Candidate Professional Knowledge and Skills, and Their Application
- Standard 2: Candidate Clinical Experiences and Program Partnerships
- Standard 3: Candidate Recruitment, Progress, and Retention
- Standard 4: Program Commitment to Quality and Diversity

In other business, the board:

- Approved publishing for public comment proposed rule changes for the Virtual Instruction Program. The changes clarify how school district virtual courses can be included in the Missouri Course Access Program catalog and establish an appeal procedure for student enrollment requests.
- Added water quality and wastewater treatment management and recycling technology/technician as new career education secondary certification areas.
- Approved changes to 5 CSR 30-261.045, Pupil Transportation in Vehicles Other Than School Buses to remove the requirement for restroom facilities in common carriers used to transport students to and from field trips or other special trips for educational purposes.
- Approved Washington University as a charter school sponsor in good standing.
- Granted a five-year charter school renewal to the Hawthorn Leadership School for Girls in St. Louis.
- Suspended the teaching certificate of two teachers who broke their contract with a district.
- Rescinded rules setting requirements for scholarship granting organizations, scholarship requirements, and scholarship eligibility requirements permitted in Section 161.825, RSMo. This statute had a sunset of Dec. 2019. No entities applied to be scholarship granting organizations. Students with IEPs for specified disabilities would be eligible for scholarships to private schools through a scholarship granting organization.
- Postponed the report from the Task Force for Learning Acceleration and the report on COVID-19 Response until the August board meeting.

The next meeting of the Missouri State Board of Education will be August 18, 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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