

**Missouri NEA Missouri State Board of Education Report**  
*Notes from August 17, 2021, meeting of the Missouri State Board of Education*  
*Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

**Board received report on Riverview Gardens School District**

The Riverview Gardens School District has been provisionally accredited since December 2016 and is working toward full accreditation. A Special Administrative Board consisting of three persons is the governing body of the district. Of the district's 5,641 students, 99.9% qualify for free and reduced lunch, and 15.1% receive special education services. At a future meeting, Commissioner Vandeven will bring a recommendation that will likely outline a timeline to expand the current state appointed board and the steps needed to gradually transition toward a locally elected school board over the next several years.

**Board received update on plans for DESE's ongoing COVID-19 response and plans for federal ESSER funds**

Commissioner Vandeven summarized the ongoing responses to pandemic-related impacts on student and educator health, learning, and funding. The department issued updated reopening and operating guidance for the 2021-22 school year and anticipates further updates from the CDC soon. There are no statewide mandates, and all mitigation policies and procedures are being established at the local district level. Current state funding initiatives include:

- \$50 million dollars to expand and improve student broadband access if U.S. Department of Education approves.
- \$50 million allocation for teacher recruitment and retention grants for districts to develop and fund Grow Your Own programs and incentivize teacher retention. Applications are open now.
- \$14 million to supporting reading and math instruction with language/math consultants in the Regional Professional Development centers.
- \$15 million designated for the redesign of the state assessment program to support alignment to the priority standards, support competency-based learning, add a literacy foundation assessment at second grade, and the exploration of an adaptive testing model.
- \$11.5 million to upgrade state data systems.

Planned future initiatives include:

- \$19.6 million in summer school expansion.
- \$19.6 million for extended learning programming.
- Social-emotional learning/school climate tools.
- \$3 million in support for homeless student populations.
- \$12 million in Career and Technical Education grants for high-demand Occupational Program Expansion, and credential reimbursement.

The department submitted and received feedback from the U.S. Department of Education regarding the Missouri plan for federal American Rescue Plan ESSER COVID-19 relief funds and half of Missouri school districts submitted their local plans. The most common activities requested by local districts included tutoring, afterschool programming, improvements to school facilities for COVID-19 mitigation/ventilation, technology tools, instructional resources and educator salaries. Assistant Commissioner Dr. Neale returned again and again to "we need an appropriation" before \$1,957,916,288 can flow to public school districts in Missouri, along with \$68,641,868 to non-public schools. This amount is in addition to the \$1,023 MILLION in federal funds already

approved for public schools and DESE programs, and \$67 million for non-public schools.

### **Board discussed priorities for Fiscal Year 2023 in the Missouri State Budget**

DESE staff outlined the budget instructions that will be submitted to the Office of Budget Development for inclusion in the upcoming development process. Mandatory items (federal programs, state/federal matching requirements, Foundation Formula, Special Education) are prioritized and supplemental items (state programming, department initiatives) are also included. The complete report and ledger can be found [here](#).

### **Board acted on various rules**

Board members approved publishing for public comment proposed rules to:

- Update the required coursework for a Business Education 9-12 certificate.
- Update a variety of rules regarding school food service and meal programs to incorporate federal materials by reference.
- Update privacy requirements for Department data systems.

Board members approved implementation of multiple rule changes to:

- Add language to allow 20 hours of online training as an additional route to obtain a substitute certificate. This rule change makes permanent the emergency rule that was in effect last year.
- Move rules about payments to school districts for educational services from the Office of Special Education to the Division of Financial and Administrative Services.
- Clarify the qualifications for early childhood leased facility cost reimbursements.
- Establish appeal procedures for school food authorities for review or denial of claims.
- Establish a process to determine a substitute measure for Performance Districts when APR is not available to calculate state adequacy targets. The exact wording is, “In any year in which the department does not generate an Annual Performance Report, the department will utilize the most recent data available for each performance standard in order to establish an equivalent percentage of points earned for determining Performance District designation.”

Board rescinded the rule establishing the MO Critical Teacher Shortage Forgivable Loan Program as the legislature did not authorize funding and repealed the statute authorizing it.

### **Missouri Early Literacy Initiative**

Missouri received a Path Forward for Teacher Preparation and Licensure in Early Literacy Initiative grant. Missouri is partnering with six states to align and improve teacher preparation programs around early literacy instruction.

The next meeting of the Missouri State Board of Education is on September 13-14, 2021. Missouri NEA will be in attendance. 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 [here](#).

Respectfully submitted,

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