

**Missouri NEA Missouri State Board of Education Report**  
*Notes from September 15, 2020 meeting of the Missouri State Board of Education*  
*Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

**Board approves the 2022 Fiscal Year budget requests**

Kari Monsees, Deputy Commissioner and Jennifer Jordan, Chief Budget Officer, Financial and Administrative Services outlined a “lean” budget for 2022. Budget items were largely limited to mandatory items: required federal increases, federal programs, state/federal match programs, foundation formula, and special education program increases required by statute. An additional \$8,525,909 was requested to fully fund the foundation formula (\$3,561,737,794). Several supplemental requests were made for increases to Early Childhood Special Education and the Missouri Healthy Schools program in order to maximize federal matching funds.

**Board approves changes to MOCAP enrollment procedures**

The Missouri Online Course Access Program is the successor program to the Missouri Virtual Instruction Program. DESE staff recommended several process changes to the program to better comply with state statute: lengthening the appeals window for enrollment decisions, correcting pricing and payment discrepancies, and defining procedures for parents to appeal enrollment denials to DESE. Public comments received by the department were shared including MNEA’s recommendation that student performance data be regularly reported to districts by providers of virtual instruction. This is important because state statute gives districts responsibility for monitoring progress of students enrolled in MOCAP programs. Though not included in this rule change, DESE staff publicly committed to swiftly bring the board improved data reporting language.

**DESE Leadership Team presents an overview of the department’s response to COVID-19.**

Commissioner of Education Marjorie Vandeven praised educators and DESE staff for their work during summer and back-to-school transitions. All Missouri school districts are now open and 88% are providing some form of on-site instruction. Five percent of districts have changed their instructional models since opening their schools. Health measures include updated reopening guidance and contact tracing protocol. DESE is consulting other state agencies to consider Missouri NEA’s request for positive case reporting to support district decision making. Health departments report the ages of positive cases, but they do not collect information on where children go to school.

DESE will begin developing guidance for the deployment of rapid antigen test kits for K-12 and higher education campuses. The department must determine allotment priorities, as the number of tests are finite. The department expects to receive these tests soon.

Several instructional supports have been launched by the department including the MO-LEAP virtual assessment platform and MOEdu-Sail distance learning modules for virtual classroom instruction and professional development. DESE is partnering with Alive & Well to provide social-emotional learning supports, guidance documents, online trainings, and student resources. The Beginning Teacher Assistance Program has increased available trainings through the Regional Profession Development Cadres to support first year teachers impacted by the spring school

shutdowns. Over \$100 million in CARES Act grant funding has been delivered to districts to reimburse COVID related expenses.

### **Report on Teacher Workforce: 30% decline in Missouri teacher candidates since 2012**

Paul Katnik, Office of Educator Quality, provided a review of Missouri's current teacher workforce data. Enrollment in educator preparation programs remains flat after steep declines in 2012 and 2014. 3,820 teacher certificates have been issued in 2020, down 17.5% from 2019. Approximately 60% of new teachers remain in the classroom more than three years, 35% remain more than five years. 30% of the current teacher workforce has less than five years' experience in the classroom.

Dr. Katnik stated over the last three years, ninety candidates for teacher certification have been blocked by the cumulative 2.75 GPA requirement. At the October board meeting, DESE will propose eliminating the cumulative 2.75 GPA requirement for teacher certification. The 3.0 GPA requirement for content area and professional knowledge will remain in place. Missouri NEA is concerned lowers the professional standing of teachers. Missouri NEA will propose the cumulative GPA return to 2.5, which it was until 2017. Comments on this rule will likely open in December or January. Please watch your email for your chance to comment on this proposed change.

### **In other business, the board:**

- Approved the charter school proposal from Atlas Public Schools to open a year-round K-5 school in St. Louis. Enrollment will begin in 2021.
- Reviewed the *Show Me Success* plan. Staff will continue to develop programming that supports the strategic goals, mission, and vision of the department.
- Received an update on the ENGAGE professional development and coaching program for department staff and supervisors.

The next meeting of the Missouri State Board of Education will be October 20, 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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