

Missouri NEA Missouri State Board of Education Report
Notes from December 8, 2020 meeting of the Missouri State Board of Education
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

2021 state tests will be administered but will not be used for state and federal accountability reporting.

Spring 2021 state testing will be conducted, but the results will not be reported in state and federal accountability systems. DESE will issue guidance on how to conduct testing safely onsite, extend the testing window, and will consider ways to shorten the tests. Emphasis will be placed on maximizing student participation and exploring reporting options available to capture data for students participating in a variety of instructional models this year. DESE staff stated that “while state assessments are designed to be standardized, the 2020-2021 school year has not been a standard year, but it is imperative that student learning be measured.” Board members were united in their concern that testing and test scores should not be used in a punitive manner or in public comparison to prior years’ scores. DESE will bring additional recommendations regarding how 2021 testing will impact accreditation and charter renewals, A+ eligibility, federal requirements, and other testing related issues. View the complete presentation [here](#).

School districts advised to work with local health departments following modifications to quarantine requirements by Governor Parson and CDC.

As part of the regular report on DESE Covid-19 responses, staff reiterated that districts should follow local health officials’ recommendations regarding quarantine guidelines and testing protocols. Educators are among the ‘essential workforce’ to receive priority vaccinations as early as February/March 2021. A new [dashboard](#) illustrates the changes in school instruction models. Since August, 60% of school districts have changed their instructional models. In October more than 100,000 students moved from a distance model to blended instruction and in November more than 200,000 students moved from onsite/blended formats to distance models. Following the Thanksgiving holiday, more districts shifted to onsite instruction. Over \$127 million in CARES Act funding has been approved to distribute to districts, but many grants were not accessed due to requirements for matching funds from counties or districts. The complete report is available [here](#).

Board members strongly support social-emotional assistance for students and educators.

DESE is partnering with Alive and Well Communities to provide guidance, training, and strategies regarding social-emotional learning to support students experiencing trauma during the pandemic. Board members engaged in a wide-ranging discussion in support of SEL resources and opportunities for teachers and staff. DESE’s REACH initiative trainings and resources can be accessed [here](#).

Board recommends several rule changes:

- Approved changes in certification requirements for school counselors. New rule replaces the K-8 and 7-12 counselor certificates with a K-12 certificate and updates the requirements for the culminating clinical experience. The change is adopted. This change does not affect any counselors who currently hold a K-8 or 7-12 certification.
- Transfer of charter school sponsorship – proposed rule would allow charter schools to

change sponsoring institutions (school board, college/university, charter school commission, etc.) prior to the expiration of their charter contract. The change will be posted for public comment.

- Virtual instruction program (MOCAP) – proposed rule would make improvements to the progress reporting for MOCAP including: DESE intervention when a provider is deficient, specifying provider obligations to communicate with students and districts, and clarification of responsibilities for providers and districts around IDEA. The change will be posted for public comment. Many of these changes were suggested by Missouri NEA staff.

In other business, the board:

- Heard an update on the plan to include micro-credentials as options for the K-12 School Leader certificate. If approved, micro-credentials that are part of the Missouri Leadership Development System can be used instead of graduate courses to advance beyond the initial school leader certificate. The details of the MLDS [micro-credentials](#) were given and will be presented for approval to publish for comment in January 2021.
- Heard the governmental affairs update. The upcoming 2021 legislative session will begin January 6, 2021. Currently, 600+ pieces of legislation have been filed; 90 are education related.

The next meeting of the Missouri State Board of Education will be on February 9, 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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