

Missouri NEA State Board Report

*Notes from September 17, 2019 meeting of the State Board of Education
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, MO*

Board approves FY 2021 education budget request that tops six billion dollars.

The Missouri Department of Education budget request for fiscal year 2021 is \$6,384,463,045. Full school transportation funding for FY2021 is projected to require \$302 million. The current budget appropriation for transportation is \$108 million. DESE plans to request an additional \$65 million each year for 3 years so the full funding of 75% required by statute can be achieved.

New legislative requirements caused increased funding requests for statewide training for dyslexia, high school equivalency testing, and the School Turnaround Act. The Department of Education also requested increased funding for early childhood special education, Parents as Teachers, school safety, career education and Title IV programming for student support and academic enrichment. The final list of new requests and funding increases will be now be submitted to the Office of Administration.

Certification changes for principals and teachers reflect higher standards.

MNEA members submitted ninety-nine comments urging the state board to require at least five years of teaching experience for initial principal certification. DESE stayed with their recommendation to raise the years of teaching experience required from 2 years to 3 years. DESE cited concern about constricting the principal pipeline. Because DESE did not make changes in response to the large number of comments, one board member voted against adopting the new principal certification requirements.

The K-12 School Leader Certificate replaces the elementary principal, middle school principal, and secondary principal certificates. The new certificate is aligned with the Missouri Leadership Development System and increases the minimum teaching experience required from two to three years.

The Temporary Authorization Certificate is an alternative route to teacher certification for individuals who hold a bachelor's degree in a content area but have not completed an educator preparation program. The new requirements raise the GPA and align the required coursework and assessments with current teacher certification requirements. The state is seeing an increase in the requests for temporary certificates, particularly in special education.

Board approves performance levels for new MAP science tests.

The board held an extensive discussion about how performance level cut scores are set, what the levels mean, and how the level descriptors affect public perception of education in Missouri. The board approved performance level cut scores for the new science end-of-course tests and new science MAP tests for grades 5 and 8, all first administered in 2018-2019. This chart shows the percentage of students who scored in each level.

State science tests	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Below Basic
Grade 5	14%	29%	31%	26%
Grade 8	18%	26%	36%	20%
Biology	15%	25%	44%	17%
Physical Science (optional test)	10%	28%	43%	19%

How does Missouri's assessment program measure up to the *Nation's Report Card*?

The U.S. Department of Education's National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is often referred to as the *Nation's Report Card* and is the only nationally representative correlation of how America's students have performed on state tests. While the data allows educators to compare Missouri students with

students in other states and with peers across the world, the testing systems are vastly different, and it is difficult to compare rigor accurately.

Missouri's assessments are based on the Missouri Learning Standards and performance level descriptors. Below basic, basic, proficient, and advanced define performance expectations for Missouri students. NAEP is just one tool that is used when setting achievement levels. For years, Missouri's assessments were in the top two in the U.S. for rigor, as measured by how well the percentage of proficient students on state tests matched the percentage of proficient students on NAEP. Other states increased their rigor so assessments in nearly every state now match the rigor of NAEP.

Teacher Workforce Outreach Plan aims to address teacher shortages, retention, and salaries.

Six thousand educators answered surveys on challenges affecting teacher recruitment and retention. DESE held focus groups. Respondents listed concerns about training, support, and safety but consistently listed salary as the primary factor causing teachers to leave the profession. Missouri ranks 48th nationally in starting teacher salary and 40th in average salary. Missouri teachers earn 30% less than workers with similar qualifications.

Governor Parson set a goal for the state to move from 48th to 30th in the next three years, a move that would require \$283 million in additional funding. Options for funding include generating new revenue, repurposing current revenue, or exploring a reinstated career ladder model. The committee is continuing to gather data and will make recommendations to the board at the October meeting.

Trauma-Informed School Liaisons will support students, families, and schools statewide.

SB 638, passed in 2016, established the Trauma Informed Schools Initiative. The Initiative is charged with providing training and resources to support school district personnel as they move through a continuum of becoming trauma-aware, trauma-sensitive, and trauma-responsive to being fully trauma-informed. The DESE collaborated with the Departments of Mental Health and Social Services to develop information and training for all Missouri school districts. Thirty-three (33) trauma-informed school liaisons will be hired and deployed across the state to assist students, families, and schools with training and resources.

Missouri School Safety Task force recommends reinstating DESE Safety Officer.

Governor Parson created the Missouri School Safety Task Force to create a statewide school safety strategic plan. The task force conducted public meetings and web-based surveys to gather information on the current level of safety and preparedness in Missouri schools. As a result of this strategic plan, Missouri's Fiscal Year 2021 budget request includes the reinstatement of a safety officer at DESE, resources to support the Courage to Report tip line, and support for the Trauma Informed School Initiative. The report also recommends strengthening Missouri School Improvement Program requirements pertaining to school safety.

In other business, the board:

- Approved publishing for public comment a proposed rule allowing a school slogan and logo (not to exceed 64 square inches) to be placed on the side of school buses.
- Received a report on the evaluation process for charter school sponsors. Sponsors are required to participate in a review process that drives improvement and includes corrective action, as needed.
- Received a report on the current status of the Missouri Course Access and Virtual Program (MOCAP).

The next meeting of the Missouri State Board of Education will be on October 21-22, 2019. 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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