

Missouri NEA State Board Report

*Notes from June 14, 2016 meeting of the State Board of Education
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

Riverview Gardens School District remains unaccredited

DESE received a request from the Riverview Gardens School District on October 19, 2015, asking that the Missouri State Board of Education consider reclassifying the school district as provisionally accredited. The state board declined to take action on their request. With new assessments in 2016, state test results will not be available in time to make accreditation decisions before school starts in August. Because of this, the board approved at their January 2016 meeting a framework for off-cycle classification recommendations. Today, DESE staff explained while they found improvement in the Riverview Gardens School District in some system reviews and student outcomes, preliminary data did not provide sufficient evidence to support an off-cycle recommendation to change the district's classification. Riverview Gardens met 3 of the 5 performance system benchmarks. Improvement is notable and the district is on a path to gain accreditation in the near future. The state board did not take action to change the accreditation status of the Riverview Gardens School District.

Updates to Missouri Mentoring Standards Approved for Public Comment

The board approved publishing updates to the Missouri Mentoring Program Standards. Ann Jarrett represented Missouri NEA on the work group revising the standards, and Missouri NEA members serving on the Missouri Advisory Council of Certification for Educators also contributed to refining these standards. MACCE recommended these revised standards to the state board.

The changes provide greater clarification and alignment to current research around mentoring for new teachers. Changes include: explicitly stating mentors can be retired educators, stronger language, replacing "teacher" with "educator", linking educator growth to district evaluation system, requiring districts to identify specific performance indicators as a focus for new educators, establishing a minimum of four non-evaluative observations by mentor of mentee each year with pre- and post-observation conferences, requires mentor-mentee collaboration time, and four class periods per year release time for mentee to observe master teachers. The standards "Require mentor/mentee pairs to be collaboratively assigned by administrator(s) and local professional development committee member(s) with input from grade-level or department chair."

Read the proposed standards at <http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/MentoringRuleJune2016.pdf>. Additions are bold, deletions are in []. Comments are expected to open on July 15, 2016, for thirty days at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/moreg/moreg>. Please comment in support of these updates, and specifically in support of collaboratively assigning mentors to mentees, so that part is kept.

Joint meeting with Missouri Charter Public School Commission on issues of mutual interest

The MCPSC is the only single-purpose sponsor in the state, receiving its authority to sponsor charter schools from Missouri state statute. Commission members are volunteers, and they hired an executive director. Commission members view their job as protecting the autonomy of the charter school and maintaining full transparency to protect the public interest. Commission members believe the success of charter schools rest on the leadership of the schools and the capacity of the charter school board to move the charter school forward.

The state board members asked what questions should they ask before approving future charter applications. MCPSC explained the state board should question the charter school's financial plan. Ask how much money a charter has for instruction of the students. The state board explained to MCPSC that if

the state board ends a sponsorship of a charter school for poor performance, MCPSC will then become the sponsor by default. The state board and MCPSC agreed they have to be aligned with the reasons to close failing charters. Both agreed to further discuss standards of sponsorship, as state statute prevents the state board of education from directly addressing charter schools quality, their only option is revoking the right of the sponsor to sponsor charter schools.

Missouri Association of School Administrators recommends state assessment changes

The MASA task force presented the state board with two recommendations for state assessments. MASA wants to see MAP move from assessment of learning to assessment for learning. They recommended that the new MAP test for grades 3-8 become an end-of-course assessment. Students and teachers should have immediate, meaningful feedback that is useful for student goal-setting and for planning instruction. The MAP should also measure growth toward high school content readiness. The task force identified five interim assessments to study. They are: Acuity Readiness/Acuity Readiness-Adaptive, eValueate, iReady, NWEA-MAP and Star. Interim assessments would be given multiple times during the year to accurately reflect a student's academic growth and support the student in setting learning goals throughout the year. MASA recommends Missouri research combining interim assessment scores to form the summative score used in MSIP. MASA's second recommendation is to apply for the federal pilot to support innovative state assessments. The pilot would allow up to 10% of Missouri districts to be "waiver" districts in 2016-2017 and pilot new assessment approaches linked to student success standards.

In other business, the board:

- Approved convening a work group to review personal finance learning standards, including notification to the other nominating entities as specified in Sections 160.514 RSMo.
- Appointed educators to the Missouri Advisory Council of Certification for Educators, including Missouri NEA members Kathy Steinhoff, Holly Bennett, Allison O'Very and Linda Glasgow. Glasgow, 2016 Missouri Teacher of the Year, was appointed as an ex-officio member for one year.
- Approved maintaining all existing qualifying scores for the Missouri Content Assessments and approved the School Psychologist Assessment with a qualifying score of 147.
- Approved salary schedules for state schools and department of education employees. Discussion followed on how to begin working to get better salaries for state workers, as Missouri state workers are the lowest paid state workers in the United States.
- Discussed the partnership of Bass Pro Shops and Dogwood Canyon with Springfield Public Schools.
- Approved an order of rulemaking to amend Rule 5 CSR 20-120.120 relating to Advance Placement and International Baccalaureate Fee Payment Program. The changes update the language of the rule to be consistent with current practice.
- Approved an order of rulemaking to amend Rule 5 CSR 20-100.110 relating to Gifted Children. The rule establishes selection criteria and delivery of gifted services for state-assisted gifted programs. Changes updated terminology, but do not change current practice.
- Honored retiring deputy commissioner Ron Lankford and his wife, Carolyn.

The next meetings of the Missouri State Board of Education will be a joint meeting with the Coordinating Board for Higher Education on August 2 in Columbia, and a regular board meeting on August 9, 2016. Missouri NEA will be there! If you have any questions, contact Brent Fullington 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,

Brent Fullington, Vice President, MNEA
Ann Jarrett, Teaching and Learning Director, MNEA

Brent.Fullington@mnea.org
Ann.Jarrett@mnea.org