

Upcoming Events:

April	Financial Literacy Month
April 11	Proclamation Signing with Governor
April 15-17	FBLA State Leadership Conference
April 20-21	FFA State Convention
April 23-25	Missouri Workforce Development Conference

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April Is National Financial Literacy Month

Personal financial literacy is essential to ensuring individuals are prepared to manage money, credit, debt, and become responsible workers, heads of households, and investors. Many young people fail in the management of their first consumer credit experience, establish bad financial management habits, and stumble through their lives learning by trial and error.

National Financial Literacy Month has been sponsored for 10 years by the Jump\$tart Coalition, a Washington, DC-based non-profit organization that seeks to improve the personal financial literacy of students in kindergarten through college. The coalition's objective is to encourage curriculum enrichment to ensure that basic personal financial management skills are attained during the K-12 educational experience. In Missouri, a half-unit personal finance credit must be attained by students graduating in 2010 or beyond.

The Jump\$tart Coalition is mentioned prominently each year in Congressional resolutions proclaiming April "Financial Literacy for Youth" Month. It has grown to include more than 170 national partners and 44 affiliated state coalitions. One of its premier services is the Jump\$tart Personal Finance Clearinghouse, which lists more than 580 titles of financial literacy materials available for all. More information about Jump\$tart® can be found at www.jumpstartcoalition.org.

April 11	Governor Blunt to proclaim April as Personal Finance Literacy Month
April 21-24	National LifeSmarts Competition, Lake Buena Vista, Florida
April 24	Banking industry celebrates the 11th annual National Teach Children to Save Day

Five Missouri Schools Selected

Project Lead The Way® to Pilot Biomedical Sciences Course

Shortages of qualified science and health professionals are looming. By the year 2014, more than 3.6 million new healthcare jobs are expected to be created. Preparing for a career in this rapidly growing field requires a broad foundation in science, mathematics, language arts, and social studies. Specialized knowledge is increasingly essential.

Project Lead The Way® (PLTW) is launching a new Biomedical Sciences curriculum for high schools. Missouri is one of seven states (MO, OK, IN, OH, MD, SC, CT) participating this fall in the field test of biomedical sciences course. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and other participating states contributed to the funding needed to begin the program.

Since last summer, PLTW has worked with the seven states to develop curriculum, then identified schools within those states to begin the field test. All schools selected have had some experience with PLTW's pre-engineering and engineering technology program that is high rigor and high relevance material which emphasizes project- and problem-based learning and the development of critical-thinking, problem resolution, and group collaboration skills.

Missouri schools participating in the field test of the Principles of the Biomedical Sciences course are Hazelwood East, Hazelwood West, and Hazelwood Central high schools, Summit Technology Academy, and Carthage High School/Technical Center.

The pilot program will begin with only a freshman class. The first course will field test in the selected schools during the 2007-08 school year. Each subsequent year the next course in the sequence will be field tested. It is anticipated each course will be available nationally after the field test year.

For more information, contact Matt Haeffner at 573-522-5811, e-mail matt.haeffner@dese.mo.gov or visit PLTW on the Web at www.pltw.org.

DESE to Submit Transition Plan for First Year of Perkins IV

The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act (aka "Perkins IV") was passed and signed into federal law in August 2006. The reauthorization strengthens the Perkins program by helping states better utilize funds for secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs, increased accountability and emphasizes student achievement, and strengthens opportunities for coordination between secondary and postsecondary career and technical education.

Language in the legislation allows states to submit a one-year transition plan for the first year (2007-08 school year) of the law. As with most states, Missouri will be submitting a one-year transition plan. The draft transition plan is posted on the Division of Career Education's website for review and comment. To access the transition plan and provide comment go to: www.dese.mo.gov/divcareered/perkins_iv_feedback.htm. The final State Plan guide was released March 12 by the U.S. Department of Education.

Qualification and Consortiums

The criteria for a school district to qualify for funding under the new Perkins Act is the same as in current law; it must generate a minimum allocation of \$15,000 and have career education programs of sufficient size, scope, and quality. For the transition year of Perkins, school districts will be in the same consortium as in Perkins III. After September 1, 2007, the Division of Career Education will be corresponding with school districts about the qualifications for Perkins funding. School districts will decide to stay in the same consortium as Perkins III, change consortium, or stand alone if they qualify. The Division of Career Education will notify school districts after January 1, 2008, which consortium they will participate in or whether to stand alone.

Due Dates for Perkins III Data

There are two remaining items for Perkins III that must be completed. The Fiscal Year 2007 final expenditure report is due May 15. The Perkins III accountability data are to be reported between October 1 and November 1. If there are multiple schools in a consortium, accountability data are to be submitted from all schools for all core indicators.

Perkins Info on the Web

We have posted on the Division of Career Education website important information regarding Perkins IV:

Please continue to check this website for important updates and information. We are currently soliciting feedback as we finalize the transition plan in April.

http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/perkins_iv.htm

Tech Prep Students Honored

State education officials honored 13 students as Tech Prep Students of the Year in a March 2 ceremony at the Capitol in Jefferson City. The honorees and their schools are:

Skyler Amos, Platte County R-III High School
Kirsten Lynch, Warrensburg High School
Brian Dukote, Grandview High School, Hillsboro
Nathan Shepherd, Eldon High School
Michael Cannon, Clopton High School, Clarksville
Christina Brown, Maryville High School
Brett Soendker, Moberly High School
Cory Bolin, Fort Osage High School, Independence
Brittney Butters, Bolivar High School
Jody Boyster, Potosi High School
Lamont Jones, South County Technical High School,
Special School District of St. Louis County
Rachel Evans, North County Technical High School,
Special School District of St. Louis County
Todd Derrick, Joplin High School

Students were selected on the basis of their commitment to career and technical education, academic achievement, involvement in school or community activities, leadership abilities, and their involvement in student organizations related to career and technical education.

Tech Prep focuses on academic and career education to prepare young people for postsecondary training in a technical field. All Tech Prep students take part in so-called "2+2" programs, in which they take career-oriented classes during 11th and 12th grades, and then move directly into related studies at a community college, a technical school, or an apprenticeship program.

There are 15 regional Tech Prep consortiums in Missouri, coordinated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Each consortium involves local high schools, area career and technical centers, community colleges, and representatives of business, industry, and labor. The groups work to coordinate curriculum, academic standards and policies, and articulation agreements so that students are able to move smoothly from high school into postsecondary studies.

DESE to Present at National Career Clusters Institute

Dennis Harden, Coordinator, DESE Career Education Unit, learned he and colleagues will present at the National Career Cluster's Institute in Phoenix, Arizona, June 11-13. "A State's Journey to Course Alignment" will describe how Missouri is engaging industry and educators to review, validate, and align its programs of study with the 16 Career Clusters for Perkins IV.

The process began in November with a statewide survey of business and industry then an industry advisory council meeting to validate knowledge and skills, identify gaps, and emerging areas.

For more information contact Dennis Harden at 573-751-3500.

SAAL Report Released

Adult Literacy in Missouri

A new report, *Adult Literacy in Missouri: Results from the 2003 State Assessment of Adult Literacy (SAAL)*, was released in mid-March. Administered in 2003 and 2004, the Missouri SAAL comprehensive report was conducted in conjunction with the National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL), a national literacy assessment sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) of the U.S. Department of Education.

The NAAL report, issued in Fall 2006, describes the English literacy of America's adults 16 years of age and older. The American Institutes for Research (AIR) is responsible for the analysis of NAAL data and report writing.

Missouri was one of six states to obtain detailed information describing the prose, document, and quantitative literacy of its adult populations. The information collected as part of the Missouri SAAL will help policymakers and educators understand the literacy of Missouri's adults and suggest population groups that may be most in need of literacy interventions. Additional reports to be prepared by AIR include how Missouri compares to 1992 data and how it compares to other states. Literacy measures by county will also be published.

Figure 7. Average prose, document, and quantitative literacy of adults in Missouri and the nation, by age: 2003

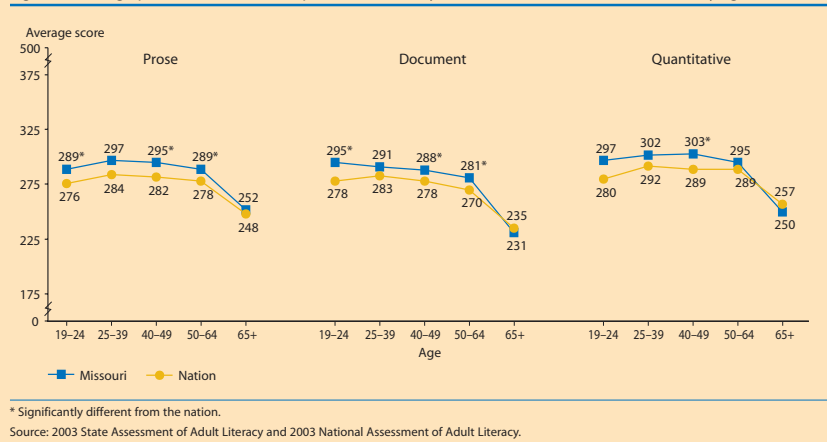


Figure 7 shows Missouri adult literacy levels compared to the nation by age in 2003.

"This is an important measure of Missouri's adult population," said Don Eisinger, Coordinator, DESE Adult Education and Employment Training Unit. "It is a positive report for Missouri in comparison to the nation with interesting data on work, training, postsecondary education, family literacy, health literacy, and more."

To view the report, go to www.air.org/naal.

Workshops in April and May Community Education Center Established

The Departments' Community Education Section has established a new Community Education Training Center for our state. The Training Center is offering five workshops across the state during the months of April and May entitled, "Learning about Community Education." The workshops will show how Community Education can help serve all populations living in one's community while combining resources and saving dollars in the process.

Dr. Larry Decker will present the workshops, delivering two models of Community Education programming. Attendees are encouraged to participate as teams, including community leaders, school superintendents, principals, community education directors, social services agencies, or civic organizations.

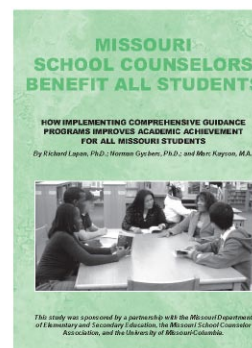
For more information, contact Jay Acock, Director, DESE Community Education, at 573-522-2627 or e-mail jay.acock@dese.mo.gov.



New Publications Available

Missouri Counselor Study Published

A new report describes how implementing comprehensive guidance programs improves academic achievement for all Missouri students. The study was sponsored by a partnership with DESE, the Missouri School Counselor Association, and the University of Missouri-Columbia. For a copy, contact Dr. Bragg Stanley at 573-751-0857 or e-mail bragg.stanley@dese.mo.gov.



MCE Fact Sheet Updated

The updated Fact Sheet provides background information about Missouri Career Education and includes data as of the 2005-06 school year. The Fact Sheet will be included as a conference handout for upcoming meetings of career education teachers and administrators. The document can be viewed in PDF format on the Web at http://dese.mo.gov/divcareer/News/MCE_FactSheet_2005-06.pdf. To request copies, contact Kelli Dickey at 573-751-2660 or e-mail kelli.dickey@dese.mo.gov.

Maysville High School “Three-peats” as LifeSmarts Champs

A team of students from Maysville High School won the 2007 Missouri LifeSmarts state competition held February 28 in Jefferson City.

LifeSmarts is a consumer education program of the National Consumers League. The “quiz bowl” competition tests teens in grades 9-12 about personal finance, health and safety, the environment, technology and consumer rights and responsibilities.

The Maysville team, dubbed the “Savvy Consumers,” narrowly won the championship round over Bismarck High School’s “Brains from B Town.” The team from Sherwood High School, “The Marksmen,” captured third place in their first year of LifeSmarts competition.

“My team and I were very excited and honored to win,” said Allison Miller, team captain from Maysville. “We had studied hard and thought the competition was stiff, but we were able to come out ahead.”

With the assistance of the Missouri LifeSmarts financial sponsor, American Century Investments of Kansas City, the Maysville team will take part in the national LifeSmarts competition at Lake Buena Vista, Florida, April 21-24, during Financial Literacy Month.



Maysville High School team members (from left) in opening round of the 2007 Missouri LifeSmarts Competition are Nicole Bird, Allison Miller, Nick Erickson, and Ethan Osborn.

This is the third year in a row a team fielded from Maysville High School has captured the title. Kathy Kaygay, family and consumer sciences teacher at Maysville, serves as the team’s coach.

“I am very proud of my team,” Kaygay said. “It is so exciting to see students excel in an area that gives full credit and acknowledgement to the family and consumer sciences curriculum. I would encourage any teacher to become involved in LifeSmarts – it is a rewarding experience.”

More than 100 high school teams across Missouri first competed online to qualify for the state finals. The nine highest-scoring teams were invited to participate in the statewide competition. The nine state finalists were:

- Maysville High School (first place)
- Bismarck High School (second place)
- Sherwood High School, Creighton (third place)
- Couch High School (two teams)
- Ft. Zumwalt South High School, St. Peters
- Montrose High School
- Southern Reynolds County High School, Ellington
- South Holt County High School, Oregon

Missouri LifeSmarts is sponsored by the Missouri career and student organization, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). American Century Investments of Kansas City is the financial sponsor assisting with Missouri’s competition at the state and national levels.

Herndon Team Wins Missouri ProStart Culinary Contest

Top honors in the 2007 Missouri ProStart Culinary Contest were awarded to the team from Herndon Career Center in Raytown.

Eighteen teams participated in the competition March 9 at Ozarks Technical Community College in Springfield. Second place honors went to South Central Career Center in West Plains, and taking third place was Waynesville Technical Academy.

During the competition, each four-person team was rated on culinary skills and sanitation practices used during the competition, and individual members of each team also were rated on knife skills. Judges evaluated the menus and presentation of food prepared by each team, along with taste and degree of difficulty of food prepared.

The Herndon Career Center team will now advance to participate in the 2007 National ProStart Student Invitational to be held April 20-22 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Thirty-five states will be represented at the national competition.

The ProStart program is a national effort presented by the National Restaurant Association Education Foundation. The program encourages high school students to consider careers in the restaurant and foodservice industry. Currently there are ProStart programs in 60 Missouri high schools and technical schools. For more information about the ProStart program, contact Jerry Vincent, Missouri Restaurant Association, at 913-557-9791 or jvmra@hughes.net.

For more information, contact:

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