



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

— Making a positive difference through education and service —

TO: Superintendents and Principals

FROM: Jane VanDeZande, Director of Assessment
Office of College and Career Readiness

DATE: October 5, 2010

RE: 2010-2011 Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) – Suspension of
Performance Events and Writing Prompts Assessments

Due to unprecedented budget constraints, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is reluctantly suspending the administration and scoring of the Grade-Level and End-of-Course Performance Events and Writing Prompt assessments for the 2010-2011 and the 2011-2012 administration years. Omitting this costly component of the state assessment program will allow the Department to proceed with state assessment within the available budget.

The Department and Missouri educators have always supported the inclusion of performance events in assessment and have noted their positive influence on classroom instruction. Because performance assessment is valued, it will be a part of the new assessment system being developed by the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium, of which Missouri is a governing member.

These new assessments, scheduled to be piloted in 2012-2013, and fully implemented in 2013-2014, will include performance events and writing prompts. Districts should continue to maintain their focus on performance as a vital part of classroom instruction and assessment.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Department's Assessment Section at 573-751-3545.