



## Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

— *Missouri public schools: the best choice. . .the best results!* —

July 15, 2010

Neal Kingston, PhD  
Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation  
Joseph R. Pearson Hall  
1122 W. Campus Rd., Room 735  
Lawrence, KS 66045

Dear Dr. Kingston,

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is excited to participate as a member of the Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment System consortium in application for the IDEA General Supervision Enhancement Grant - Alternate Academic Achievement Standards (CFDA 84.373.X). Members of our departments responsible for Special Education, Curriculum and Assessment services have been actively involved in the preparation and review of this proposal. We strongly support the funding of this application.

The Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment System, based on current research and practices, represents an update to Missouri's Alternate Assessment, providing an assessment system with greater focus on student performance—authentic assessment aligned to the Common Core State Standards. The incorporation of learning progressions, or maps, will guide educators in providing targeted instruction based on specific diagnostic information about a student's concept mastery and skill level.

The collaboration among members of the consortium provides a larger research pool, taking full advantage of the economy of scale. Finally, the Dynamic Learning Map Based Alternate Assessment System incorporates heavy emphasis on teacher professional development through the most current forms of communication and delivery systems. This will ensure that our most significantly cognitively challenged students have optimum opportunities to access appropriate content..

Additionally, we are excited to partner with the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation (CETE) at the University of Kansas on this project. CETE offers strong management, superb professionalism, excellent technical abilities, and thorough understanding of the needs of educators and learners. CETE's proven ability to initiate and complete projects of this magnitude gives us complete confidence that the project's goals will be met.

Neal Kingston, PhD  
Page 2  
July 15, 2010

Further, we commit to actively participating in the governance of this grant in order to ensure the results meet our needs for a high-quality alternate assessment system tied to the common core standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Muenks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Michael J. Muenks  
Assistant Commissioner  
Office of College and Career Readiness  
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

c: Sharon Hoge  
Gail Tiemann