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April 7, 2011

State Board of Education  
P.O. Box 480  
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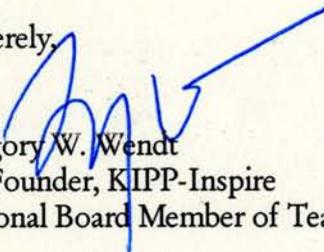
Dear State Education Leaders,

I am writing to express my support for an important effort being undertaken by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education- the Top 10 by 20 initiatives. I also believe revising the Missouri School Improvement Program standards to be more rigorous is a key piece to this effort. Making Missouri's public education system one of the Top 10 in the country is crucial to the future of our state.

I applaud the work that Commissioner Nicaastro and the State Board of Education and educators across Missouri have done to improve education in Missouri. As we look ahead, we know we must redouble our efforts to make sure that our graduates can compete nationally and internationally.

A well trained highly qualified workforce is crucial to making Missouri a destination for high-paying, high-skill jobs of the future. Reaching the Top 10 will lead to the prosperity and success that Missouri expects.

Sincerely,



Gregory W. Wendt  
Co-Founder, KIPP-Inspire  
National Board Member of Teach For America