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State Board of Education
P.O. Box 480
Jefferson City, MO 65102

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 initiative. 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 the Department, the State Board of Education and educators across Missouri have done over the past two decades to steadily improve education in our state. 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 the high-paying, high-skill jobs of the future. Reaching the Top 10 will lead to the prosperity and success that Missouri expects.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Flanagan
Major General USMC (Ret)
President
Missouri Military Academy

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