



**North County Incorporated
Regional Development Association**

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July 22, 2011

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

Dear State Education Leaders:

We, the North County Incorporated Board of Directors are writing to express our support for an important effort being undertaken by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – the Top 10 by 20 initiative. We also believe revising the Missouri School Improvement Program standards to be more rigorous is a key piece to the effort. Making Missouri's public education system one of the Top 10 in the country is crucial to the future of 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.

North County Incorporated is a regional development organization that acts as a catalyst to define and advocate economic and community development for North St. Louis County.

Sincerely,

Patty Gould
2011 Board Chair
North County Incorporated

✓Cc: Chris Nicastro

Your North County Connection!

A not-for-profit regional development association serving North St. Louis County

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

Whereas, the foundation of an effective and thriving American democracy is a collection of well-educated and motivated citizens; and

Whereas, changes to the economy and society now require all students to graduate high school better prepared to enter postsecondary education or an increasingly competitive workforce; and

Whereas, without a well-trained workforce, Missouri faces a future of high unemployment, low-paying jobs and economic failure; and

Whereas, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has established an Education Reform Plan with an overarching goal of having the state's public education system rank in the top 10 on national and international measures of performance; and

Whereas, Missouri currently ranks in the middle of the 50 states in terms of educational performance; and the state needs to have higher expectations to ensure a bright future for its children; and

Whereas, there is a clear and well-documented relationship between the education provided to residents and the economic prosperity of the states and communities in which they live;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that this organization offers its support to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in the department's efforts to provide a solid, actionable plan for improving the education provided to all students in Missouri's public schools; and

Be It Further Resolved, that this organization agrees with the department that uniting around a common purpose and vision for improving public education will benefit both schools and businesses throughout Missouri.

ADOPTED BY NORTH COUNTY INCORPORATED
ON JULY 28, 2011



Patty Gould
Patty Gould, NCI 2011 Board Chair