

August 23, 2013



2013 APR Releases Commissioner's Statement

Good afternoon and thank you for joining us. We appreciate all of you taking time to understand and report on Missouri's system of accountability for our school districts.

This is the first year of reports under the Missouri School Improvement Program 5, also known as MSIP 5. MSIP works to prepare every child for success in school and in life. MSIP is the state's accountability system for reviewing and accrediting public school districts in Missouri. Over the past four years, Missouri has engaged in and solicited meaningful input from students, parents, teachers, administrators and business leaders on MSIP5. Overwhelmingly, Missourians requested that the system's focus remain on continuous and sustained school improvement.

This year the Missouri Assessment Program, or MAP tests, showed mixed results in student achievement with Communication Arts holding steady and math dipping slightly. We were pleased to see biology scores improving dramatically, and we commend our schools and science teachers for their hard work. We are disappointed in the results showing the widening achievement gap for minorities especially for African Americans in the state. We must work together in local communities and across the state to help all of our children succeed. This gap is absolutely unacceptable.

The Annual Performance Reports for school districts shows that our districts have responded well to the new system. We are certainly proud of our many high-performing districts where students are achieving at high levels and growing in their learning. For the first time, MSIP 5 makes available school-level reports so that communities can see how individual schools are meeting the performance standards.

It's important to note that the Department has stated repeatedly that we will not classify, nor re-classify, a district based on this first year Annual Performance Report under MSIP 5. It has always been our stated intent – at the request of school districts and in compliance with the law – to use multiple APRs for determining accreditation.

The reason we have emphasized the importance of using three years of data for classification purposes is that we want to ensure the system takes increases or decreases in performance in the context of sustainable trends. One APR does not constitute a sustainable trend of either improvement or decline.

Please note that charter schools also receive Annual Performance Reports so that communities can review their performance, but that we do not accredit charter schools.

Now we will begin taking questions.