

October 21, 2015



2015 APR Release Commissioner's Statement

Good afternoon. Thank you for joining us to learn about Missouri's school accountability system known as the Missouri School Improvement Program (or MSIP) – for which we are now in our fifth version (MSIP 5). MSIP works to promote continuous school improvement in every public school statewide. It's the system the state uses to review and to inform accreditation recommendations for the 519 public school districts in Missouri.

This is the third year of reports issued under MSIP 5. The State Board of Education uses these Annual Performance Reports (or APRs) to help them determine accreditation classifications. And this is the third year that parents and the public can access reports for – not only districts – but also each school in the state.

We are proud to report that 98.5 percent of school districts scored in the fully accredited range this year. In the first year of reports in 2013, 30 districts scored below full accreditation and that number has now been reduced to 8 districts.

State statute does not permit MSIP accreditation for charter schools, but we do issue the same annual performance reports for them. 27 percent of charter schools earned more than 90 percent of the points possible and that's up from just 15 percent in 2013.

MSIP 5 supports Goal One of the Department's Top 10 by 20 plan – That ALL MO students will graduate college and career ready. I want to applaud the educators – administrators and teachers – who are helping more of our students graduate high school prepared for postsecondary success. They are meeting state standards while expectations for what students should know and be able to do continue to increase. We've asked teachers to do more than ever before with students, and teachers and our children are rising to the challenge.

We've come a long way in three years, but we still have work to do. The most recent Missouri Assessment Program – or MAP – results show the continuation of the achievement gap in our state. It will take more on our part to help our struggling students succeed. We need to come together in our communities to help students arrive at school ready to learn in supportive and engaging environments.

While today's press conference will not focus extensively on individual school districts or charter LEAs, I would like to note that we're encouraged by the student progress and growth we're seeing across the state – including some of our provisional and unaccredited school districts. We must

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continue to work together with our communities to provide the quality educational opportunities for our kids across the state.

It's important to note that the Department has stated repeatedly that we will not classify, nor re-classify, a district based on one year of performance under MSIP 5. We want to ensure we're seeing sustainable trends of performance. That's why the APR uses multiple measures and multiple years of data to provide an accurate and meaningful look at districts and charter schools. One APR does not constitute a sustainable trend of either improvement or decline. The State Board of Education will review classification recommendations in December.

Now we will begin taking questions.