



Video Transcription
Commissioner of Education Chris Nicastro
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Hello. I'm Chris Nicastro, commissioner of education for the state of Missouri. Thanks for watching this month's Top 10 by 20 UPDATE.

The Department and the State Board continue to review feedback and ideas for the support and if necessary, intervention in unaccredited school districts. We want to ensure that every child in Missouri has access to quality schools. The Board will hear a draft plan from CEE-Trust at the January Board meeting and will discuss their preliminary recommendations along with those received from other groups. Please watch for the schedule of meetings and other outreach efforts to gather public feedback on all the proposals. We hope to have some recommendations for State Board consideration by the February board meeting.

High quality public education delivered in our neighborhoods remains the foundation of strong communities. It's our responsibility to find a way to ensure that all Missouri children have the schools they deserve to help them find success.

Ensuring access to quality schools is the most important task we face as a state. Finding the right solution is a moral and economic imperative. These are all our kids. Please join in the conversation about their future.

The start of the New Year ushered in a new high school equivalency test in Missouri. The new test, called HiSET®, replaces the GED® test effective January 2nd. The HiSET® features five sections in reading, writing, math, science and social studies. The new test will continue to measure high school equivalency, but will now also measure college and career readiness. For more information on the new features, please visit our website at www.dese.mo.gov.

It is my pleasure to extend congratulations to Oakville High School senior Dan Carter, and Platte County High School senior Gabriel Unruh (GAY-bree-uhl UN-roo) who were selected as Missouri's delegates for the United States Senate Youth Program. The program is an opportunity for students around the country to gather in Washington D.C. to learn about the functions of the federal government and meet with policy makers.

Both Dan and Gabriel will receive a \$5,000 college scholarship and will be encouraged to pursue coursework in history and political science. The two were selected out of nearly 80 nominees from

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around the state. We are proud of the work Dan and Gabriel have done, and we know they will represent Missouri well.

I hope you are enjoying a very happy new year! Thank you for everything you do to help Missouri students reach the Top 10 by 20.