



**Video Transcription**  
**Commissioner of Education Chris Nicastro**  
**April 2014**

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

The State Board of Education approved the Department's plan for the support and intervention in school districts at the March State Board meeting.

The plan includes five tiers of support and intervention with various options for the state to consider when applying them to local districts. The Department recognizes the need for multiple solutions when looking at diverse communities with varied challenges in different parts of the state. Our goal is to accurately evaluate district performance and assist with supports before a district becomes provisionally accredited or unaccredited. We want to make sure that every child in Missouri has access to high quality local schools.

The Department has been busy working on this issue for the last several months, and we appreciate all the help and feedback from parents, teachers, administrators and other concerned citizens. The information you provided was crucial to making sure all Missouri students receive the best education possible.

There is no doubt that high academic standards are critical to making sure more Missouri students graduate from high school ready for college and career.

A few of Missouri's top teachers sat down recently to discuss what higher standards mean to them and to their students. Please listen to what they had to say:

The new higher standards, in my opinion, is the most important reformation in contemporary education for a lot of reasons, but mostly because it will help our students to position themselves to compete regionally, nationally and ultimately globally.

I think a lot of the public and a lot of our policy makers just go on hearsay, they just go on what they've heard about these standards. If you actually sit down and read them, they are beautiful. There is no way you could object to them. You could do nothing but admire them.

I believe that every teacher works hard. I think every teacher does what they believe is best for their students. What the standards have opened up for me is the importance of allowing kids to see how thinking happens.

[Dese.mo.gov/comm/newsletter](http://Dese.mo.gov/comm/newsletter)

Please visit [missourilearningstandards.com](http://missourilearningstandards.com) to learn more about higher standards in Missouri. You can become a partner of the Missouri Learning Standards by clicking the "Join Us" link at the top of the page.

I hope your spring is off to a good start and you are finally able to enjoy some warmer weather. Thanks for everything you do to help Missouri's kids reach the Top 10 by 20.