MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM:  December 2020

CONSIDERATION OF ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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<th>STATUTORY AUTHORITY:</th>
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<td>Section 161.092, RSMo</td>
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| □ Consent Item | ☒ Action Item | □ Report Item |

PRIORITY AREA

Success-Ready Students & Workforce Development

SUMMARY

The COVID-19 pandemic caused an unparalleled period of disruption for schools beginning in spring 2020. The State Board of Education and the Department have taken a number of actions to support public health and ensure continued instruction since it began, including the following.

- Suspending the use of attendance on the Annual Performance Report (APR)
- Canceling spring 2020 state assessments
- Seeking and receiving waivers of state and federal statute and regulation
- Suspending production of the 2020 APR

In addition to the lack of 2020 assessment data, a number of third-party vendors also were limited in the number of assessments that could be administered (e.g. ACT®) or eliminated their spring testing entirely (e.g. Project Lead the Way®) in spring 2020. These changes have had significant effects on the data normally used for accountability at the state and federal level.

As we move forward through school-year 2020-21, serious consideration must be given to the administration and appropriate use of standardized state assessments. Accountability systems are built around standard metrics. This school year has been anything but standard with learning taking place in a variety of settings and with a variety of resources. However, these assessments are used for more than school district accountability. This presentation will outline the state’s current plan, existing challenges and rationale for assessment in the spring of 2021 and will culminate with a request to suspend the use of the 2021 state assessment results in state and federal accountability systems.

PRESENTERS

Chris Neale, Assistant Commissioner; Jocelyn Strand, Coordinator of School Improvement; Office of Quality Schools and Blaine Henningsen, Assistant Commissioner; Lisa Sireno, Standards and Assessment Administrator; Office of College and Career Readiness, will assist in the presentation and discussion of this agenda item.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends that the State Board of Education suspend the use of the results of the 2021 school year state assessments from state and federal accountability systems.
Assessment and Accountability Update

Chris Neale, Assistant Commissioner
Blaine Henningsen, Assistant Commissioner
Jocelyn Strand, Coordinator
Lisa Sireno, Standards and Assessment Administrator
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall 2020</th>
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<tr>
<td>• December Report Card</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Attendance*</td>
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<td>▪ ACT®</td>
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<td>▪ Graduation</td>
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<td>▪ Follow-up</td>
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<td>• Assessments** – <em>no data available</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>• 2020 data should not be compared to prior years</td>
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<td>• 2020 Annual Performance Report suspended</td>
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*Proportional attendance based on the period school buildings were open
**Assessments waived for spring 2020; attendance waived for accountability purposes
• School buildings were closed and students shifted to distanced during spring 2020.
• Most schools have had some degree of onsite instruction.
• Ten districts and twenty-six charters have not yet had students (82,489) onsite.

Data as of December 4, 2020
*Slide updated 12/4/2020 to reflect most current data and for clarity*
Why test?

• Ensure educational equity
  □ Every Student Succeeds Act
• Improve educational systems
  □ Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP)
• Provide public reporting/feedback
  □ Students, parents, schools, community, taxpayers
• Evaluate programs at local and state level
  □ Curriculum reform, virtual learning, etc
• Provide comparisons and benchmarks
  □ A+ eligibility
  □ Triangulate other measures of student performance
  □ Changes in achievement gaps

• Research
  □ Impact of COVID-19
    □ Unfinished learning
    □ Patterns of Instruction
    □ Digital Divide
  □ Identify successes
• Develop specific supports for students, teachers, and LEAs
Assessment Plan

- Administer assessments onsite
- Maximize test window
- Consider ways to reduce time on testing
- Report participation rates
- Explore reporting options
Standard Metrics

• Accountability systems are built around standard metrics.
• The 2020-2021 school year is anything but standard.
• Research recommendations:
  • “Separate assessment from accountability”*
  • “In this case, we urge a shift from high-stakes Accountability to a focus on accountability with a little ‘a’ where the information is transparent at all levels of the system.”**
  • “Educational equity likely will be a major concern as the pandemic progresses – and student growth analyses will play an important role in identifying the overall and differential educational impact of COVID-19 disruptions, . . .”***

*“THIS IS NOT A TEST, THIS IS AN EMERGENCY”, The Aspen Institute, October 2020
** “Rethinking Accountability for the 2020-21 School Year”, Center for Assessment, July 2020
***“Restart and Recovery: COVID-19 implications for measuring Student Academic Growth” CCSSO, 2020
Issues to be Addressed

- Establish a path forward for provisional districts
- Identify Performance Districts
- Acquire waiver for federal accountability
- Renew charter schools
- Maximize onsite testing
- Report data
  - Percent tested
  - Patterns of Instruction
  - Digital and other resources
- Provide opportunity for A+ eligibility
- Reduce educators’ stress regarding accountability
- Communicate appropriate use of the testing data

*Slide updated 12/4/2020 for clarity*
The Department recommends that the State Board of Education suspend the use of the results of the 2021 school year state assessments from state and federal accountability systems.
Questions?
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Accountability:  
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