

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE/LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

Section 161.092, RSMo

Consent
Item

Action
Item

Report
Item

DEPARTMENT GOAL NOS. 1 AND 4:

All Missouri students will graduate college and career ready.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will improve departmental efficiency and operational effectiveness.

SUMMARY:

The following material contains the Department's recommended legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

PRESENTER:

Constance Rush, Director of Legislative Outreach, will participate in the presentation and discussion of this agenda item.



2016 Legislative Priorities

Missouri School Improvement Program: Support and Intervention: The focus of the Missouri School Improvement Program (“the Plan”) is to provide every student access to high-quality education in their local communities. In addition to the support available to all school districts, the Plan is a tiered approach to providing increased levels of support based on school district performance. The Plan has multiple options for supporting and intervening in districts based on specific local needs and challenges. Focused early support and intervention in underperforming schools and school districts is vital and necessary to the ultimate goal of providing ALL children a high-quality education with the skills necessary for college and career success.

In 2014, The Department hosted public hearings where educators, school districts, parents, and community members throughout the state provided recommendations for the Plan.

Recommendation: The State Board of Education supports adequate funding for full implementation of the Missouri School Improvement Program’s Support and Intervention Plan.

Flexibility Waivers: School leaders, around the state, are seeking to tailor the education experience to meet the unique and diverse needs of their student population, staff, and community. Whether its proficiency-based learning or extended-learning time, we need to consider alternate ways of educating ALL of our students.

Recommendation: The State Board of Education supports statutory authority that allows the State Board of Education to provide targeted flexibility to local school districts to meet specific needs of the school districts, while holding the school districts accountable for the same performance standards and indicators.