



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

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you, share some of the goals for education in Missouri, and ask you to work with and support the Department as we strive to achieve those goals.

I began my career in education nearly 25 years ago as a communication arts teacher in O'Fallon. Working at the Department of education for the past nine years, has provided me the unique opportunity to observe teaching and learning in classrooms all around our great state in urban, suburban and rural districts. My experiences in those classrooms reinforce my commitment to our responsibility to provide access to high-quality education for all students in Missouri.

Since the Department unveiled the Top 10 by 20 initiative in 2009, Missouri has made progress because of the hard work from students, parents, educators, and local communities. We can't stop now. Providing our children the best possible education is vital to Missouri's continued prosperity.

We know that children have a greater chance for success when they come to school ready to learn. The Department will continue to focus on providing ALL children in Missouri access to high-quality early childhood programs and services in their communities, and we support parents of infants and toddlers as they are their child's first teacher.

Our students should graduate ready for postsecondary success – We want ALL students to graduate ready and capable to pursue their passion - whether that be in work or college. Virtually every career that provides a secure, living wage requires some sort of postsecondary training. Our students should have the academic background to succeed in whatever paths they choose and to allow for options along the way.

We also know and value the critical importance of effective school leaders and competent faculty. The Department will continue to provide local districts with tools they can use to develop, support and evaluate teachers and school leaders to ensure an effective educator heads each classroom.

I am excited and ready for the rewards and challenges that come with serving all of Missouri's children. As I continue to transition into my new position, I look forward to working with school districts, the legislature and communities around the state to give our students the education they deserve.