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## Coming Together as One

As Commissioner of Education, I have the opportunity to meet with parents, teachers and students from around the state. It brings me great joy when I watch our children achieve academic success in the classroom, or see effective educators who are working hard to ensure their students graduate college and career ready.

Being successful in the classroom, however, isn't an individual accomplishment. Students need effective educators; effective educators need a strong school support system; and schools need active, engaged parents and community members.

Many of you are probably aware that the state legislature recently passed House Bill 42, also known as the student transfer bill. Governor Jay Nixon has until July 13 to take action on the bill. In the meantime, the Department will continue to monitor the transfer situation and keep you updated about what this means for your local schools.

Whether or not the bill is signed into law, one thing remains certain: All students have the right to a high-quality education. And just like our students and teachers who have found success through collaboration, we must work together in order to achieve this.



It will take parents, community members, lawmakers and educators acting as one to ensure every child in this state has the opportunity to learn at an optimum level.

The majority of Missouri's schools, teachers and students continue to achieve high levels of academic success. In fact, 97 percent of our school districts are fully accredited.

It will require a team effort for all Missouri children to be successful – an effort we owe to our children.

Margie Vandeven