

September 2015



Expectations Matter

I hope everyone's 2015-16 school year is off to a wonderful start. It is an exciting time of year with more than 900,000 Missouri children back in class. These students and our educators are working hard day in and day out to reach and exceed high academic goals.

During my time as Commissioner, I have been able to visit classrooms across Missouri. I have seen firsthand how Missouri schools are using innovative and creative techniques to help students achieve academic success. Students are working directly with business leaders to develop real-world entrepreneurial skills. Some Missouri students are graduating from high school while simultaneously earning an associate's degree.

These opportunities are possible when educators strive to create conditions where students "want" to learn. If we are to keep growing, we must provide access to these opportunities for ALL students, not just some.



Each and every one of Missouri's children deserves the chance to learn at a high level. Our children don't want to be bored. They want to be inspired so they can discover their passions and reach their goals. It is our responsibility to establish these expectations for EVERY Missouri child. Anything less is a disservice to our children and Missouri.

ALL of our children have goals and dreams. As educators, we must continue to raise the bar in order for students to exceed their goals and reach their dreams. Our children and state are counting on it.

Commissioner Vandeven visits with students in the Kansas City Public Schools.