

## Administrative Memo

**Date:** August 18, 2014  
**To:** School Administrators  
**From:** Paul Katnik, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Educator Quality  
**Subject:** EQ-14-006 – Student Learning Objectives (SLO) Training

Beginning in September, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will be offering a new series of training opportunities for educators in partnership with regional service providers throughout Missouri. The trainings will center on a timely and critically important issue in educator evaluations: the use of student growth data.

Measures of growth in student learning are required to be a significant, contributing factor in educator evaluations for all school districts in Missouri beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. The significance of that contribution to the evaluation is up to the local district. Preparing for this change now will help ensure successful implementation of growth measures when it counts.

A focal point of the new trainings will be Student Learning Objectives (SLOs). SLOs provide a framework for gathering and analyzing student growth data in all subject areas and at all grade levels. Using the SLO process promotes good teaching practice by setting goals, measuring progress along the way, and reflecting on growth. Resources are now available through the *Educator Growth Toolbox* to orient educators to the SLO process and can be accessed at <http://dese.mo.gov/educator-growth-toolbox/student-growth-data>.

There are two important parts to the trainings that will be offered this year that include both how to create quality SLOs and the approval process. A flyer with complete information (<http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/SLO-Training-Flyer.pdf>) is available from the *Educator Growth Toolbox*. It is recommended that districts send a team of district and building administrators as well as teachers (both core and non-core) to attend this training offered by regional service providers across the state.

Information about the trainings:

- The Department is covering part of the cost, allowing service providers to offer these trainings at a reduced cost to participants.
- The most current training dates are posted at <http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/2014-15-SLO-Training-Dates.pdf>

- Training locations, with links to provider websites where you can register for training, are listed at <http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/evaluatortraininglocations2014.pdf>.
- Questions, comments, and suggestions regarding the trainings should be directed to your regional service provider or to the Department at [EducatorQuality@dese.mo.gov](mailto:EducatorQuality@dese.mo.gov).