

Administrative Memo

Date: Tuesday, December 23, 2014
To: School Administrators
From: Paul Katnik Assistant Commissioner, Office of Educator Quality
Subject: EQ-14-009 – Missouri Equity Plan

In a July 2014 letter from Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, the U.S. Department of Education asked each state education agency to submit a plan that describes the steps it will take to ensure that “poor and minority children are not taught at higher rates than other children by inexperienced, unqualified, or out-of-field teachers” as required by section 1111 (b)(8)(C) of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* of 1965 (ESEA). The plans are due from all state departments of education in June 2015.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education was one of a few agencies chosen to meet with the U.S. Department of Education in October. The other agencies chosen were New York, New Jersey, Tennessee, the Ohio Appalachian Collaborative and the Dallas, Texas, Independent School District. These agencies agreed to send an update of their progress on Friday, December 19, which would then be used as a model for other states as they continue their work. You can view this draft update through the following link:

<http://dese.mo.gov/missouri-equity-plan>

As part of this process, the Department has begun to convene groups of key stakeholders to discuss root causes and strategies that might be included in this equity plan. For the purpose of identifying possible root causes and strategies, the Department is reviewing data regarding the quality of teaching and learning in three different sets of schools: those with the highest percentage of free and reduced priced lunch, those with the lowest percentage of free and reduced priced lunch, and those classified as remote-rural. As work continues on the plan over the next six months, there will be multiple opportunities to provide input and regular updates on our progress. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Educator Quality at 573-751-2931 or EducatorQuality@dese.mo.gov.