

January 10, 2014

The Honorable Rick Stream  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building, Room 306  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Representative Stream:

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Fiscal Year 2015 budget request proposes an increase in funding for the state assessment system. This request, as submitted in October, was not supported by state education organizations for two primary reasons: increased time in testing and cost. Representatives of the department and state education organizations have since come together to reach consensus on a revised assessment plan.

Advantages of the new assessment system include:

- Reduces the amount of time spent on state assessment—by 19.1 percent vs. the current system and by 46.6 percent vs. the original FY 2015 budget request—allowing for more instructional time
- Provides unlimited local access to resources (formative assessments, interim assessments, and digital library) for use in grades 3-8 English language arts (ELA) and math to personalize instruction
- Funds one administration of the ACT® or other existing assessment of college and career readiness (to be bid) for each Missouri student prior to graduation, allowing for a college and career readiness indicator for all Missouri students and state-to-state comparability
- Maintains end-of-course (EOC) assessments in Algebra I, Algebra II (for students taking Algebra I at middle level), English II, Biology, Government, and Personal Finance prior to graduation, establishing rigorous expectations and clear targets for all MO high school students
- Produces valid, reliable, and quick MAP results back to districts within 10 business days of the close of district testing
- Maintains the ability of the state to monitor the academic growth of Missouri schools
- Maintains federal compliance, protecting approximately \$560 million federal funding
- Reduces overall budget request by \$3.5 million, or 11.5 percent, from the original request

Representative Stream

Page 2

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Together, we support the attached revised budget request.

Sincerely,



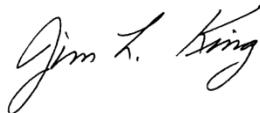
Bob Quinn, Executive Director  
AFT-Missouri



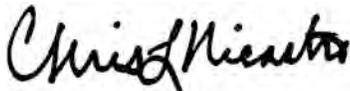
Michael L. Schooley, Executive Director  
Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals



Roger Kurtz, Executive Director  
Missouri Association of School Administrators



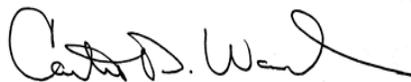
Jim King, Executive Director  
Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals



Chris L. Nicastro, Commissioner of Education  
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education



Ben Simmons, Executive Director  
Missouri National Education Association



Carter Ward, Executive Director  
Missouri School Boards' Association



Bruce Moe, Executive Director  
Missouri State Teachers Association

Attachment

January 10, 2014

The Honorable Kurt Schaefer  
Missouri State Senate  
State Capitol Building, Room 221  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Senator Schaefer:

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Fiscal Year 2015 budget request proposes an increase in funding for the state assessment system. This request, as submitted in October, was not supported by state education organizations for two primary reasons: increased time in testing and cost. Representatives of the department and state education organizations have since come together to reach consensus on a revised assessment plan.

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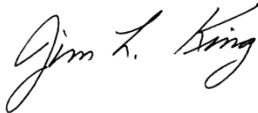
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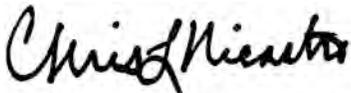
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January 10, 2014

The Honorable Mike Lair  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building, Room 400  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Representative Lair:

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Fiscal Year 2015 budget request proposes an increase in funding for the state assessment system. This request, as submitted in October, was not supported by state education organizations for two primary reasons: increased time in testing and cost. Representatives of the department and state education organizations have since come together to reach consensus on a revised assessment plan.

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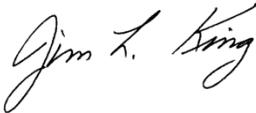
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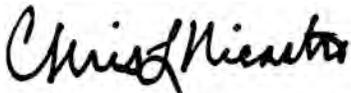
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Missouri State Teachers Association

Attachment

January 10, 2014

The Honorable Tom Dempsey  
Missouri State Senate  
State Capitol Building, Room 326  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Senator Dempsey:

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Fiscal Year 2015 budget request proposes an increase in funding for the state assessment system. This request, as submitted in October, was not supported by state education organizations for two primary reasons: increased time in testing and cost. Representatives of the department and state education organizations have since come together to reach consensus on a revised assessment plan.

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Senator Dempsey

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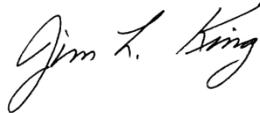
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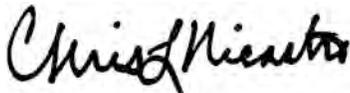
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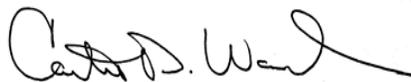
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Attachment

January 10, 2014

The Honorable Tim Jones  
Speaker of the House  
State Capitol Building, Room 308A  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Speaker Jones:

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Fiscal Year 2015 budget request proposes an increase in funding for the state assessment system. This request, as submitted in October, was not supported by state education organizations for two primary reasons: increased time in testing and cost. Representatives of the department and state education organizations have since come together to reach consensus on a revised assessment plan.

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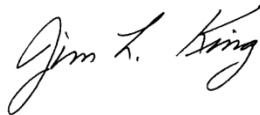
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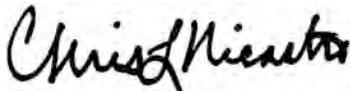
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