COVID-19 forced the unexpected closure of Missouri schools in March, which resulted in a sudden shift from face-to-face instruction in classrooms to some type of distance learning model. These efforts by well-meaning teachers and administrators led to varying levels of success across the state. In an effort to share more about what those successful strategies looked like, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is working with 41 Missouri State Teachers of the Year, Missouri State Teacher of the Year finalists, Regional Teachers of the Year and other accomplished teachers from every region in the state to develop an online professional development video series called “Distance Learning Strategies: By Missouri Teachers, For Missouri Teachers.”

The distinguished teachers involved in developing and presenting these strategies represent small, rural schools (with less than 100 students) as well as large suburban and urban schools (with over 2,000 students). These teachers provide instruction in all areas of content and collectively have over 700 years of teaching experience.

These modules will include:

- Community Building
- Establishing Strong Family-School Connections
- Distance Learning with Technology
- Distance Learning without Technology
- Elementary Tips and Suggestions
- Middle School Tips and Suggestions
- High School Tips and Suggestions
- Fine Arts, Practical Arts, Industrial Arts and Modern Language Tips and Suggestions
- Meeting the Diverse Needs of Learners
- Integration of Social-Emotional Learning in Academics

Module development is to be completed in early July. Videos will begin to be posted to DESE’s Virtual Learning Platform (VLP) by mid-July, with all 10 modules available by August 1.