



A look into the future . . .

The year is 2020. Student performance in the state—in every district and in every school—is among the top 10 states in the nation.

Fully three quarters of our children are proficient on state standards for what we agreed they should know and be able to do.

The number of high school graduates is approaching 100%, and the number of these going on to post-secondary education has doubled in the past decade.

Businesses throughout the country and world are seeking out locations in Missouri because of our reputation for a world-class work force.

Missouri is proud—of its children and of its schools.

Everyone agrees that Missouri public schools are the best choice, and that they produce the best results!

Make a Plan, Work a Plan

The Missouri Education Reform Plan has an overarching goal of making Missouri one of the top 10 states in the country in terms of the educational performance of its students by the year 2020.

Missouri will only be successful if we unite around a common purpose and vision for improving each of our schools. The mission to guarantee the superior preparation and performance of every child in school and in life will take all of us, working together.

Progress will be tested against measurable goals. Specifically, superior preparation and performance will require:

- higher, clearer and fewer standards;
- a rigorous, internationally-benchmarked assessment system;
- a longitudinal data system that improves instruction;
- expanded opportunities for quality early childhood education;
- a comprehensive system for the recruitment, preparation, selection, support and evaluation of effective educators.

Goals: The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has four Strategic Goals:

1. Missouri public education will rank in the top ten on national and international measures of performance.
2. Missouri will provide voluntary access to high quality early educational opportunities to all young children and their families.
3. Missouri will recruit, prepare, retain, and support effective teachers and leaders.
4. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will improve departmental efficiency, operational effectiveness, and relations with internal and external customers.

For more information, visit www.dese.mo.gov.

FAQ

1. What is the primary goal of the Missouri Education Reform Plan?

The Missouri Education Reform Plan establishes a goal for Missouri public education to rank in the top 10 on national and international measures of performance.

2. Why is this goal important?

The educational requirements for occupations are increasing, particularly for new and emerging occupations, high-technical, high-skilled, and high-wage jobs. In addition, changes to the economy, job requirements and society now demand that every high school student graduate prepared to continue to postsecondary education and the workforce.

3. What are the characteristics of top-performing states?

A recent report by Dr. Douglas B. Reeves of The Leadership and Learning Center identified the key characteristics of the top 10 performing states. They are an emphasis on nonfiction or informational writing, quality early childhood education programs, quality standards and assessments, an appointed (not elected) chief state school officer, and effective use of scarce resources.

4. How does Missouri compare to the top 10 states on key educational performance measures?

Missouri ranks in the middle of the 50 states in terms of educational performance. For instance, in 2010, Missouri ranked 27th nationally in composite ACT test scores and ranked 26th to 33rd in five ACT college-ready benchmarks; In 2009, only one in 14 Missouri graduates scored a 3 or higher on an AP exam to earn college credit while in high school, compared to about one in five in a top 10 state; On the 2009 NAEP assessment, Missouri fourth and eighth grade students ranked 14th and 16th in reading, respectively; math scores were 22nd and 30th.

5. Why the emphasis on early childhood education?

The research is clear that children who enter school ready to meet its academic, social and emotional demands are more likely to achieve success in academics and in life.