



STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Internal Communique ■ Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled

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Missouri Schools for the
Severely Disabled
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Archie Derboven,
Superintendent

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Building, Civil Rights Compliance
(Title VI/Title IX/504/ADA/
Age Act), 205 Jefferson Street,
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480;
telephone number 573-526-4757
or Relay Missouri 800-735-2966.*

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Results of the Recent Professional Development Needs Assessment

By Merv Blunt, Central Office

A few weeks ago, a needs assessment for professional development was distributed among all schools. Each building administrator was to meet with teachers, and the teachers were to reach a consensus of what the responses should be to the questions and statements about professional development. The needs assessment was also sent to area directors, supervisors for instruction and home school coordinators.

The results are in, and the 87 percent rate of return was the best it has been in the past few years. (Area I returned 82 percent, Area II returned 89 percent and Area III returned 90 percent.) This indicates how important professional development training sessions are to MSSD schools and staff.

The first section of the needs assessment consisted of a series of five statements. This table shows the percentages of *strongly agree* and *agree* responses.

| Statement | Area I | Area II | Area III | Statewide |
|--|--------|---------|----------|-----------|
| 1) I am provided professional development on a regular basis. | 93% | 81% | 100% | 91% |
| 2) I usually receive the professional development or training needed. | 78% | 70% | 56% | 68% |
| 3) I receive professional development or training based on the needs of the students. | 85% | 76% | 66% | 76% |
| 4) Professional development or training that I receive is timely and relevant. | 86% | 88% | 67% | 80% |
| 5) I am given the opportunity to attend professional development or training of my choice. | 78% | 42% | 50% | 57% |

Overall, Areas I, II and III had somewhat dissimilar responses to four out of the five statements. This is to be expected – each area has its own specific needs. The statement the areas agreed about the most was the first statement. The least agreement was with the fifth statement. (Attempting to meet the needs of various staff is one reason why a variety of professional development training sessions are provided.)

The next section of the needs assessment asked teachers to identify their top three topics in six different categories. The responses listed below were the top three answers given in each category.

Instruction

1. Assistive technology
2. Sensory integration
3. Transition implementation

(Continued on the next page)

Results of the Recent Needs Assessment

(Continued from page 2)

Compliance

1. Transition plans
2. Effective IEP meetings
3. Present levels

Communication

1. Developing social skills
2. Visual schedules
3. Enhancing expressive language

Data/Assessment

1. Functional behavior assessment
2. Types and uses of data charts
3. Using data to make decisions

Technology

1. Basic computer skills
2. Internet/intranet
3. Word processing/e-mail (tie)

Parents

1. Talking about transition
2. How to deal with an angry parent
3. Strategies for talking to parents

The third section of the needs assessment consisted of two questions and a table asking for identification of barriers and possible solutions.

The following are examples of typical responses.

1) What do you see as your school's major professional development need?

- Improved staff morale
- Behavior support
- Resources (lesson plans, organization, authentic activities, strategies)
- Sensory integration
- Scheduling a classroom

2) What do you see as MSSD's major professional development need?

- Behavior

- Staff morale
- FBAs
- Organization strategies (grouping, lesson plans, scheduling, authentic instruction, room setup)

The last section of the needs assessment covered problems and solutions related to the accessibility of professional development. The most frequent response was that the location of training sessions could be a deterrent in attending. The second was lack of time to attend trainings, and the third was lack of substitutes. Solutions suggested were training sessions in each area, increased use of DVDs and webinars, and repeated sessions so more people can attend.

All of these valuable ideas will be considered when staff development for next year is discussed. ♦

Diabetes Alert Day 2011 Scheduled for March 22

By Claudia Rampley, Central Office

Are you among the more than 6 million people in the U.S. who have type 2 diabetes and do not know it? A good time to find out is March 22, the date of this year's Diabetes Alert Day. Sponsored by the American Diabetes Association, the day's purpose is to educate people who might be completely in the dark that they are living with diabetes.

Type 2 diabetes is a metabolic disorder resulting from the body's inability to produce or properly use insulin. The body is unable to move blood sugar into its cells. Type 2 is the most common type of diabetes, and currently there is no cure.

As type 2 diabetes can cause serious health complications, it is important to know how to detect symptoms. Some people might not exhibit any symptoms. Symptoms could also be mild, almost unnoticeable and easy to confuse with signs of aging.

Symptoms of type 2 diabetes

- Increased thirst and increased hunger (especially after eating)

- Dry mouth
- Frequent urination (especially at night)
- Extreme weakness and fatigue
- Blurred vision
- Nausea and vomiting
- Headaches
- Irritability and mood changes
- Slow-healing sores or cuts
- Dry, itchy skin
- Frequent yeast infections
- Numbness and tingling of the hands and feet

Potential complications if left untreated

- Increased risk of heart disease
- Increased risk of stroke
- Increased risk of kidney disease
- Increased risk of eye problems that could lead to blindness
- Nerve damage

The World Health Organization has stated that there is an apparent epidemic of type 2 diabetes closely related to lifestyle and economic change. The number of diabetics is projected to increase to more than 200 million over the next 10 years.

Alarming facts about type 2 diabetes in the U.S.

- About 2,000 new cases of type 2 diabetes are diagnosed every day, leading to a threefold increase over the past 40 years.
- A growing number of children and adolescents are being diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, which typically had been seen only in adults.

Risk factors for type 2 diabetes

- Having a close family member with diabetes
- Being overweight or physically inactive
- Belonging to certain ethnic groups (African-American, Hispanic, Asian-American, Pacific Islander or Native American)
- Being a woman who has delivered a baby larger than nine pounds
- Being 45 years or older (the pancreas produces insulin less efficiently)

Contact your health-care provider if you show any symptoms of type 2 diabetes. Even if you are not exhibiting symptoms, discuss your risks with your doctor. ♦

Contact Information Regarding Benefits Provided to MSSD Employees

Health

Missouri Consolidated
Health Care Plan
P.O. Box 104355
Jefferson City, MO 65110-4355
Phone: 800-487-0771
Fax: 573-526-4771
TDD: 573-526-3033
Online: www.mchcp.org

Missouri Cafeteria Plan

ASIFlex
P.O. Box 858
Columbia, MO 65205-0858
Phone: 800-659-3035
TTY: 866-908-6043
Information line: 800-366-4827
E-mail: asi@asiflex.com
Claims e-mail: claims@asiflex.com
Claims fax: 877-879-9038
Online: www.mocafe.com

Employee Assistance Program (EAP) (through Magellan Health Services)

Phone: 800-808-2261
Online: magellanhealth.com

Miscellaneous

The Work Number
(employment verification)
Phone: 800-9-WORKNO
or 800-367-2884
Online: theworknumber.com

Missouri Voluntary Life Insurance Commission

1100 Main St., Suite 1850
Kansas City, MO 64105
Phone (to enroll): 866-891-4149
Policy issues: 866-668-5421
Fax: 816-531-7503
Online: www.mevlic.org

Retirement

Missouri State Employees' Retirement System (MOSERS)

P.O. Box 209
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: 573-632-6100 or
800-827-1063
Relay Missouri: 711 800-735-2966
Fax number: 573-632-6101
E-mail: mosers@mosers.org
Online: www.mosers.org

Public School Retirement System

P.O. Box 268
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0268
Phone: 573-634-5290 or 800-392-6848
Fax: 573-634-7934
E-mail: psrspeers@psrspeers.org
Online: www.ntrsmo.org

MO Deferred Compensation

Phone: 800-392-0925
Online: [mo.ingplans.com/csportal/
welcome.do](http://mo.ingplans.com/csportal/welcome.do)

The Work Number

The Work Number is an automated employment-verification service that allows you to have your employment and salary verified within minutes. This secure service is used for reference checks, loan applications, apartment leases, credit applications and other situations that require proof of employment. No one can access your salary information without your permission. If you want your salary information to be released, you must provide your verifier with the state of Missouri company code (10106), your Social Security number and a six-digit authorization code. You can get a brochure outlining all the details (including how to obtain an authorization code) from Human Resources in Central Office. Or, you can visit The Work Number's website at theworknumber.com. If you have questions, please contact the customer-service team at 800-367-2884 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. ♦

Online Autism Training Module Available for Free

Understanding Autism in Young Children

A free, online training module called Understanding Autism in Young Children is now available. This module is an overview of the characteristics of autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) and the criteria used to diagnose children. The training is hosted on the University of Missouri Extension website; anyone who wants to view the training will need to register for an Extension Passport and select the Understanding Autism course to view. Go to thompsoncenter.missouri.edu/training/index.php and click on the link under *Featured Trainings: Understanding Autism*. There is no charge for the passport or to view this online training module.

The Understanding Autism training was developed by the Mid-Missouri Rapid Response Initiative, which is funded by the Missouri Department of Mental Health's Division of Developmental Disabilities. An online module was created from the training through a partnership with the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders, University of Missouri Extension, and the Division of Developmental Disabilities' Office of Autism Services. ♦

Praxis Tests: Information and Schedule for 2010-2011

Educators holding a valid professional Missouri teaching certificate in a subject area other than special education can obtain a special education teaching certificate by passing the following tests:

Certification
Early Childhood
Special Education

Praxis Tests
Test 0690 –
Special Education:
Preschool/Early
Childhood

Mild Moderate
Cross Categorical

Test 0543 –
Special Education:
Core Knowledge
and Mild to
Moderate
Applications

Note: Beginning Sept. 1, 2010, Test 0543 replaces Test 0353 – Education of Exceptional Students: Core Content Knowledge and Test 0542 – Education of Exceptional Students: Mild Moderate Disabilities. These tests can be taken during the 2010-11 period by candidates who took both tests prior to Sept. 1, 2010, and did not meet passing requirements on one of the tests.

How to learn more

Information on the Praxis tests can be obtained from ETS at 609-771-7395 or by visiting the organization's website at www.ets.org/praxis. The website lists test dates by school year. About six tests are offered each year beginning in September. Results are released after about four weeks and are automatically sent to the Department's Educator Certification section.

Any teacher who obtains a passing grade should write to Educator Certification, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102, to request that a new certificate be issued.

Please include your name, address and Social Security number in the

request, along with a copy of the Praxis results.

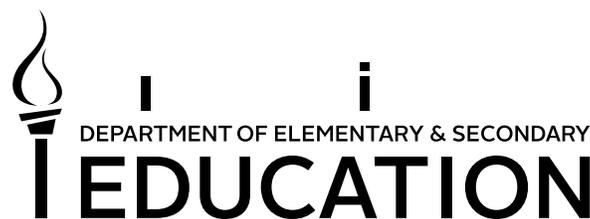
Please note

- Educators currently holding temporary authorization certificates are required to take Praxis tests as part of their program of study. Passing the tests will not lead to full certification until all required coursework is completed.
- Passing Praxis Test 0545 – Special Education: Core Knowledge and Severe to Profound Applications will not result in certification in SDD unless taken as part of a full SDD-certification program.

Test dates

For this school year, the test dates offered by ETS are listed below. ♦

| Test date | Registration received by | Late registration received by | Results available (M.C./Con. Resp.) |
|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| April 30 | March 31 | April 7 | May 24/31 |
| June 11 | May 12 | May 19 | July 5/12 |
| July 23 | June 23 | June 30 | Aug. 16/23 |



MISSOURI SCHOOLS FOR THE SEVERELY DISABLED

dese.mo.gov/divspeced/stateschools

NOTE: If you have items of interest for Staff Highlights, please call 573-751-0706, 800-735-2966 (Missouri Relay) or forward them to Debbie Stover, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480; or send an e-mail to debbie.stover@dese.mo.gov.