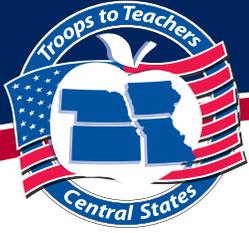


# TROOPS TO TEACHERS



✦ JEFFERSON CITY OFFICE

877.530.2765

✦ ST. LOUIS OFFICE

314.729.2444

✦ KANSAS CITY OFFICE

816.241.1705

## SURVEY SHOWS TEACHERS USING LESSONS ALIGNED TO CCSS

The majority of Missouri's school districts are implementing the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), a recent survey conducted by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shows.

The survey, which was completed by approximately 6,000 teachers and administrators from across the state, reveals 70 percent of respondents have or are currently in the process of implementing the CCSS.

<http://www.missourilearningstandards.com/files/Common-Core-in-Action-300x225.jpg>

Most Missouri teachers are using lessons aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

It is evident from the survey teachers are using lessons aligned to the CCSS. More than 83 percent of English teachers surveyed are guiding students toward focusing on deeper reading comprehension. More than 61 percent of math teachers surveyed are developing lessons that focus on the rigor that the CCSS prioritizes.

Several teachers had positive comments regarding implementation of the CCSS:

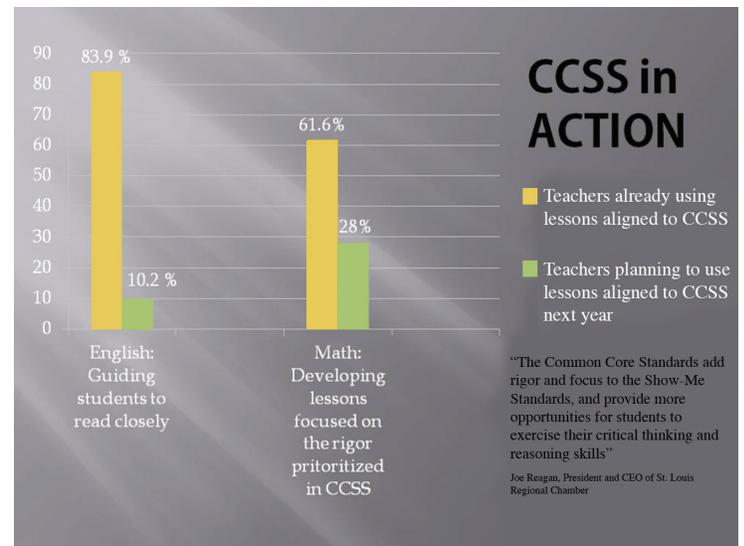
- "My district is 100 percent committed and is investing tremendously in the shift to the CCSS."
- "We started implementing parts of the CCSS into our curriculum last year. This year, we are implementing the CCSS in full force. We have a lot of support from our curriculum coordinator. Our curriculum and assessments are aligned with the CCSS."
- "My district has gone through a lot of training to make sure the CCSS is being followed and implemented the way it was intended."

The CCSS are updated English language arts and math expectations that provide clarity and depth to Missouri's grade-level expectations and course-level expectations.

The standards are common sense first steps toward ensuring students obtain the best possible education no matter where they live. With clear academic expectations for each grade level, teachers, parents and students can work together toward shared goals.

For more information on the CCSS, check out our list of frequently asked questions. To view the standards, click here or go to:

<http://www.missourilearningstandards.com/missouri-schools-implementing-common-core-state-standards/>



TROOPS TO TEACHERS



SCAN CODE AND BE THE FIRST ONE TO LEAVE A MESSAGE. MENTION THAT YOU USED THIS CODE AND RECEIVE A FREE GIFT.

TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR GI BILL EDUCATION AND TRAINING BENEFITS, CALL 888.442.4551

# CURRICULUM VERSUS STANDARDS: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

January 2, 2014



A lot of the controversy over the Common Core State Standards revolves around local district control of curriculum and the learning expectations of Common Core. But curriculum and standards are two different things. Let's clear up some of the confusion.

The Missouri Learning Standards include the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English language arts and math. The standards simply state what students are expected to know at each grade level. For instance, at the end of 7th grade, students should know how to draw, construct and describe geometrical figures, describe the relationships between them and solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area and volume. Standards make expectations for students as clear as possible to parents, teachers and the general public. They are similar to setting goals for learning except that schools often go above and beyond the standards for those students who are ready to learn more.

On the other hand, curriculum is largely the day to day, week to week scaffolding of skills teachers use to help students reach the standards. Curriculum is what students do in the classroom, the homework they have, and the myriad of ways teachers carefully select the activities to increase each student's learning. Curriculum is strictly a local decision made by teachers, administrators and school boards. As Missouri has implemented the CCSS statewide, local educators have made their own curriculum decisions based on local needs, just as teachers adjust their classroom instruction to meet the learning needs of individual students. The CCSS do provide illustrations and examples of the content described by the standards, but they don't mandate how or what to teach.

While curriculum may be altered year to year, classroom to classroom, and student to student, standards remain constant. Standards cannot be pilot tested—they are simply expectations for learning, a goal to be reached. Say you want to run a marathon; that's your goal. You can't pilot test the goal, you can only determine how you'll reach it. You begin with daily training, running shorter distances and slowly adding on until you're able to build your endurance for 26 miles. That's your curriculum. If at first you can't run those shorter distances, you might try walking until you can run, tweaking the "curriculum" as you go.

As local districts continue to develop and adjust curriculum to make sure students are reaching the Missouri Learning Standards, including the CCSS, they need the support of parents, students and the general public. The ultimate goal of standards and curriculum is helping kids graduate from high school fully prepared for college, postsecondary training and career.

## STATE TEACHER JOB VACANCY SITES

**Looking for a new job?** These are some links that may prove useful for finding certified and substitute teaching jobs. For a more complete listing go to our website:

**TROOPSTOTEACHERS.MO.GOV**

IA: <http://www.iowaeducationjobs.com/>

KS: <http://www.kansasteachingjobs.com/>

MO: <http://www.moteachingjobs.com/>

NE: <http://www.nebraskaeducationjobs.com/>

## MISSOURI/KANSAS/ NEBRASKA/IOWA

Chad Schatz, Director

John Hose, Assistant Director

**Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**

Veterans Education and Training Section

P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480

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e-mail: [chad.schatz@dese.mo.gov](mailto:chad.schatz@dese.mo.gov)

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION CONTACT INFORMATION

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### NEBRASKA

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e-mail: [nde.tcertweb@nebraska.gov](mailto:nde.tcertweb@nebraska.gov)

website: <http://www.education.ne.gov/tcert>



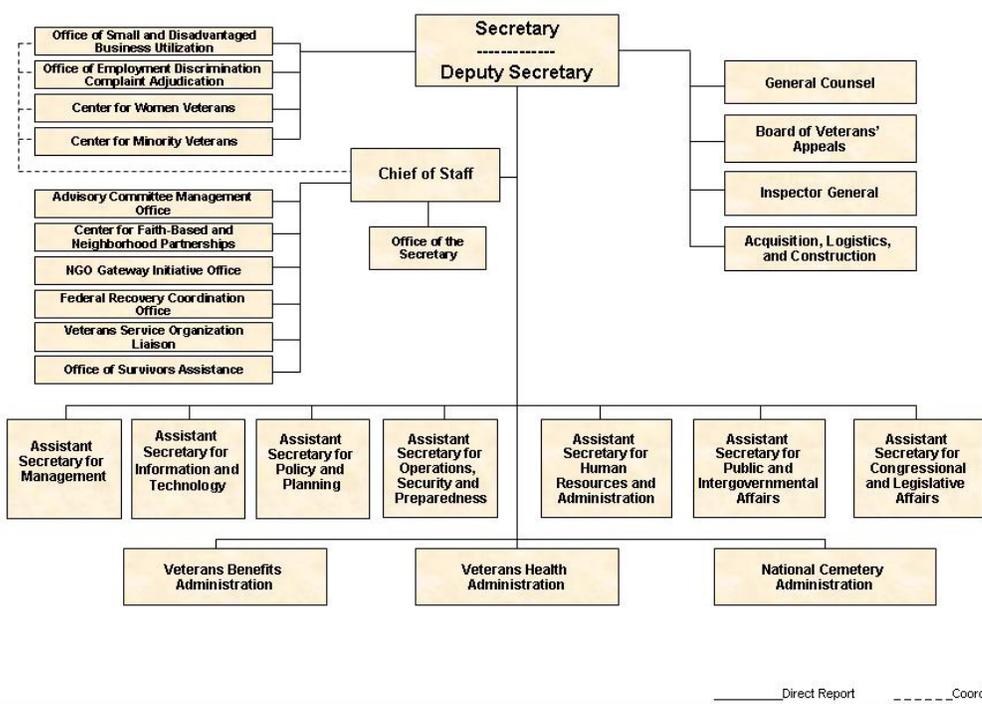
# VETERAN'S EDUCATION & TRAINING SECTION

## MISSOURI STATE APPROVING AGENCY



### VA ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

#### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



\_\_\_\_\_ Direct Report      - - - - - Coordination

June 2009

### STAFF

- JEFFERSON CITY**  
**Chad Schatz:** Director  
**John Hose:** Assistant Director  
**Ron Marsch:** Supervisor  
**Debbie Butcher:** Teacher Certification Supervisor  
**Loretta Fennewald:** Administrative Assistant
- ST. LOUIS**  
**John Parker:** Supervisor  
**Mike Bitzenburg:** Supervisor  
**Robert Hummel:** Approval Developer  
**Suzanne Adam:** Secretary
- KANSAS CITY**  
**Turner Shipman:** Supervisor  
**Leo Blakley:** Approval Developer  
**Sharon Sawyer:** Secretary

**Veterans Education & Training Section Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**  
 P.O. Box 480  
 Jefferson City, MO 65109

**Veterans Education & Training Section c/o Penn Valley Community College Pioneer Campus**  
 Room 256  
 2700 East 18th St.  
 Kansas City, MO 64127

**Veterans Education & Training Section C/O Truman Middle School**  
 Room 22  
 12225 Eddie and Park Rd.  
 St. Louis, MO 63127

### SWEET DREAMS PILLOW

The Sweet Dream Picture Pillows are available to the children of any family whose father or mother is on active duty and will be absent from their family for at least three months. Visit our website at: <http://www.pillowprojectusa.com>

## NOTE TO THE SCHOOL CERTIFYING OFFICIALS

Just because the State Approving Agency (SAA) has approved your school, it doesn't necessarily mean the VA will have it reflected in the WEAMS system. It takes the VA a bit of time to process the approval. Check with your ELR if there are any questions.

# GI BILL APPLICATION

After the VA receives your application, they will review it and determine your eligibility for the Post 9/11 GI Bill. The VA will then mail you a Certificate of Eligibility detailing your eligibility (usually within 6-8 weeks), which you will need to submit to the School Certifying Official (SCO) your school.



A great resource for answers to your GI BILL questions is the VA's "ASK A QUESTION" page. You may sign up for an account and ask your questions at:

[https://gibill.custhelp.com/app/utils/login\\_form/redirect/ask](https://gibill.custhelp.com/app/utils/login_form/redirect/ask)



## THE MISSOURI STATE APPROVING AGENCY DIRECTORY

Features all schools and colleges approved for the GI Bill. Request a copy by calling **877.530.2765**

## The Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to Department programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities may be directed to:

**Jefferson State Office Building,  
Civil Rights Compliance  
(Title VI/Title IX/504/ADA/Age Act)  
205 Jefferson Street  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480  
p: 573.526.4757  
or Relay Missouri p: 800.735.2966.**

A dedicated toll-free hotline is now available **FOR SCHOOL CERTIFYING OFFICIALS (SCOS) ONLY.**

**Toll-free hotline number 1 (855) 225.1159**

The hotline is available from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm, Central Time. SCOs must provide the school's facility code and be listed as a designated VA school certifying official to receive assistance through the dedicated hotline.

TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR VETERANS EDUCATION AND TRAINING BENEFITS, OR TO SEE HOW MUCH YOUR ENTITLEMENT IS, CALL 888.442.4551.



**SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER** This newsletter is being e-mailed to one Certifying Official at each school. Please share this newsletter with all other Certifying Officials, the Bursar's or Comptroller's Office, Financial Aid Office and other interested individuals at your school/business. It is extremely important that the information in this newsletter receives the widest dissemination in order that veterans receive the GI Bill and other educational benefits to which they are entitled.

# KANSAS



## TEACHER LICENSURE AND ACCREDITATION

The Teacher Licensure and Accreditation (TLA) team is responsible for issuing educator licenses, facilitating the review of educator training programs at all Kansas institutions of higher education and coordinating a process for those institutions that leads to accreditation by the Kansas State Board of Education. The Teacher Licensure and Accreditation team also oversees the accreditation process of Kansas schools through the current Quality Performance Accreditation (QPA) system.

### LICENSURE

- License Applications
- License Requirements
- License Look-up
- Order Fingerprint Cards
- Online Emergency Substitute License
- Substitute License
- Highly Qualified
- Regulations and Standards
- Teaching Jobs
- Accreditation Waiver Requests
- Licensed Personnel
- Status Definitions

### Educator Evaluation

- Kansas Educator Evaluation Project (KEEP)

### PK-12

#### Accreditation

- QPA Advisory Council
- QPA Resources
- How to Open or Start a School in Kansas
- Accreditation Waiver
- QPA Manual (includes regulations)
- Accreditation Feedback

#### Graduation & Schools of Choice

- Graduation and Dropouts
- Kansas DropIns
- Charter Schools
- Virtual Schools
- Non-Accredited Private School Information

### PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

- Professional Learning Information

### POSTSECONDARY

#### Educator Preparation

- Approved Programs
- Professional Development Schools
- List of Postsecondary Institutions & Contacts
- Restricted Teaching License Alternative Pathway
- Testing Information

#### Higher Ed Faculty Resources

- Program Review Submission
- Program Review Training
- Higher Education Information & Procedures
- Program Templates

### KS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION

- [www.kanserve.org](http://www.kanserve.org)

For more information click here or go to:

<http://www.ksde.org/Agency/DivisionofLearningServices/TeacherLicensureandAccreditation.aspx>

More information about educator preparation in Kansas can found at [www.ksde.org](http://www.ksde.org)



# NEBRASKA



## WISE, SIELER ELECTED TO LEAD STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The State Board of Education recently elected Rachel Wise of Oakland and John Sieler of Omaha president and vice president, respectively, for the coming year.

Wise said it was an honor to serve as president of the State Board of Education in 2014. "My colleagues on the State Board of Education are outstanding elected officials who, like me, are passionate about the education of all children in Nebraska. In partnership with our stakeholders and policy partners, our priorities will include the development of a framework for accountability, college and career ready standards for language arts and mathematics as well as the continued expansion of early childhood education programs." Wise was first elected to the State Board of Education last year. She is a former teacher and has served as an administrator for Educational Service Unit #7 in Columbus, Omaha Public Schools and the non-profit organization, Building Bright Futures.

Sieler said: "I am both honored and humbled that my fellow board members elected me to serve as vice president for this year. I will continue to work with my fellow board members to provide servant leadership for our students, parents, teachers and taxpayers. Working together we can provide opportunity for each Nebraska child, whether in public school, private school or home school. We also can encourage each student to get the best education available so they are college and career ready when they graduate." Sieler was elected to the State Board of Education in 2010. He is the owner of John Sieler and Associates, a consulting and marketing firm specializing in logo items, promotional items and printing.

[http://www.education.ne.gov/ndepress/2014/Nominations\\_Open\\_for\\_2014\\_American\\_History\\_Teacher\\_of\\_the\\_Year.pdf](http://www.education.ne.gov/ndepress/2014/Nominations_Open_for_2014_American_History_Teacher_of_the_Year.pdf)

More information about educator preparation in Nebraska can found at [www.education.ne.gov/tcert](http://www.education.ne.gov/tcert)

# MISSOURI



## STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES SCHOOLS

State education officials honored fifteen Missouri schools last week as Professional Learning Communities Exemplary Schools for their outstanding performance in implementing the professional learning community process. These schools promote cultures focused on learning with collaborative teams and effectively using data to increase student achievement.

### The 2013-14 Exemplary Schools Award recipients are:

- Jackson Senior High School, Jackson R-II School District
- Jackson South Elementary School, Jackson R-II School District
- Southern Boone High, Southern Boone County R-I School District
- Virginia E. George Elementary, Albany R-III School District
- Union Star Elementary, Union Star R-II School District
- Trenton Senior High, Trenton R-IX School District
- Lonedell Elementary, Lonedell R-XIV School District
- Thayer Elementary, Waynesville R-VI School District
- Freedom Elementary, Waynesville R-VI School District
- Wood Elementary, Waynesville R-VI School District
- Steelville Elementary, Steelville R-III School District
- Logan-Rogersville Primary, Logan Rogersville R-VIII School District
- Lebanon Senior High, Lebanon R-III School District
- Cold Water Elementary, Hazelwood School District
- Reed Elementary, Ladue School District

Recipients were honored by the Department at the 2014 Powerful Learning Conference, held Jan. 27-28. More than 1,250 educators from across the state attended the conference. Mary Ann Burns, Director of School Improvement Initiatives, presented the awards.

"The Exemplary Schools Award is unique in that it not only honors the school, but also the educators for their commitment to creating a collaborative environment focused on improved outcomes for all students," said Margie Vandeven, Deputy Commissioner of Learning Services. "This committed focus will help drive Missouri into the Top 10 by 20."

The Top 10 by 20 calls for Missouri to rank in the top 10 performing states in education by the year 2020.

The Missouri Professional Learning Communities Project began during the 2003-04 school year. More information can be found at: [dese.mo.gov/divteachqual/sii/prolearning/](http://dese.mo.gov/divteachqual/sii/prolearning/).

More information about educator preparation in Missouri can found at [dese.mo.gov/eq/ep/](http://dese.mo.gov/eq/ep/).

# IOWA

## REGENTS ALTERNATIVE PATHWAY TO IOWA LICENSURE (RAPIL)



### Answering the Call to Teach - A Regents Collaborative for Secondary Teacher Preparation

- Do you have a talent and passion for helping today's teens reach their potential?
- Do you have a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution?
- Do you have a minimum of 5 years post-baccalaureate work experience?

The Regents Alternative Pathway to Iowa Licensure (RAPIL) is designed to help talented professionals answer the call to teach by attaining a secondary (grades 7-12) teaching license, usually in a high-needs content area. RAPIL allows the participant to be a salaried probationary teacher in an accredited secondary Iowa school, on a temporary license (Teacher Intern License), for one year from date of issuance.

Earning a teaching license requires successful completion of two components: 1) the professional licensure courses and 2) the content area endorsement courses. The professional licensure courses are taught in RAPIL. The endorsement courses must be completed prior to the internship year and outside the RAPIL. Endorsements are approved by the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE).

For more information, visit the Regents Alternative Pathway to Iowa Licensure Website:

<http://www.iowateacherintern.org/how-does-regents-alternative-pathway-iowa-licensure-program-compare-traditional-and-ma-programs>

More information about educator preparation in Iowa can found at <http://educateiowa.gov/>