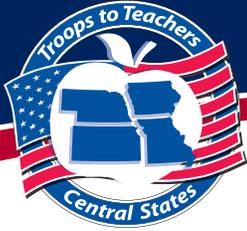


TROOPS TO TEACHERS



✦ JEFFERSON CITY OFFICE
877.530.2765

✦ ST. LOUIS OFFICE
314.467.5080

✦ KANSAS CITY OFFICE
816.241.1705



RECOGNIZING EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS, PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COLLABORATIVE TEACHING

Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education
<http://www2.ed.gov/documents/respect/blueprint-for-respect.pdf>

Every child in America deserves a high-quality education that prepares her or him for college, a career, and the responsibilities of citizenship. Teachers and school leaders work each day with our nation's children to provide them with the knowledge, skills, and habits to succeed professionally and personally, and to give them an array of tools for leading productive and satisfying lives.

Indeed, educators are the heart and soul of American education. Great teachers and principals are drawn to the profession because they want to nurture young people and watch them grow, not only academically, but also socially and emotionally. They teach because of their belief in the power of education to transform lives. Strong teachers can boost students' academic achievement, improve their attitudes about school and themselves, and increase their ability to learn. Highly effective teachers accelerate student learning, close achievement gaps that have persisted for decades, and build habits of mind that change the trajectories of students' lives, resulting in lower dropout rates, lower rates of teen pregnancy, and greater lifetime earnings and career satisfaction.

And strong school leaders enable effective teachers to grow and thrive. Yet, despite their hard work and commitment, educators know that their students

are confronting unprecedented challenges and heightened competition in an increasingly knowledge-based, global job market. At the same time, on international assessments of student achievement, U.S. performance has been mediocre.

According to the 2009 Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), an instrument comparing the performance of 15-year-olds in 34 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) member countries, American students rank 14th in reading, 17th in science, and 25th in math. Twenty years ago, the U.S. led the world in college completion, but in 2011, as many as 13 countries outpaced us.

Within our own borders, a significant number of students are still not getting the education they deserve. Only 78 percent of students complete high school in four years, and even fewer African-Americans (66 percent) and Latinos (71 percent) graduate on time.

Right now, more than 60 percent of U.S. jobs require some form of higher education; yet almost one out of every four young adults cannot even begin to compete for these jobs.

At a time when jobs requiring only a high school diploma are increasingly scarce and fail to offer a pathway into the middle class, too many students, especially those on the wrong side of our nation's persistent achievement gaps, are simply not getting what they need to succeed.

Though well aware of the challenges, many teachers and principals remain cautiously optimistic. For them, the current situation provides a unique opportunity to rethink the existing systems that have not been meeting our nation's educational goals. "It is time for sweeping changes to education," a teacher in North Carolina told us. The American education system is situated at a historic crossroads where we have the ability to continue on our current trajectory or to chart a new course. "This is our Moon Landing moment," a principal in Virginia said, urging her colleagues to take advantage of the opportunity to do something remarkable.

Of course, the work of transforming the profession cannot be shouldered by our nation's teachers and principals alone. That is why this Blueprint for Recognizing Educational Success, Professional Excellence and Collaborative Teaching (RESPECT) is a framework for all of us; parents, students, educators, policymakers, business and community leaders, elected officials, and other partners, to use in guiding our collective efforts to strengthen America's public education system by rethinking teaching and leading.

This document describes the collaborations and voices that shaped this blueprint, lays out the seven critical components that compose the RESPECT policy framework, connects this new framework with existing policy, and outlines the next steps necessary to turn the RESPECT vision into reality.



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

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION

Alternative certification programs play a vital role in ensuring that all students have effective educators. You're invited to become a member of the premier association focused on expanding the important reach of nontraditional teacher preparation programs: the National Association for Alternative Certification (NAAC).

NAAC is renowned for its annual conference that brings together hundreds of educators to share best practices and research, hear policy updates, engage in professional development and network with colleagues. NAAC serves the field with many other programs and benefits:

- A comprehensive database of alternative certification programs (under development).
- The Journal of the National Association for Alternative Certification (JNAAC), the only peer-reviewed publication focused specifically on alternate routes to certification.
- The National Quality Indicators for Nontraditional Teacher Preparation Programs, a research-based tool for program self-assessment. The Quality Indicators are currently in development by NAAC and Project KNOTtT (a multistate TTT collaborative based at The Ohio State University).
- The NAAC Newsletter, an online and print publication highlighting association activities, member programs, and news from the field.
- NAAC's annual Intern Scholarships, awards of \$1,000 to three outstanding new interns from member programs.
- NAAC Research Grants, which fund research projects focused on alternative certification.
- The NAAC website, a place to find research, reports, and news from the field, as well as to promote your program in our directory of alternative certification providers.

Annual dues are just \$65 for individuals. Dues-paying members of NAAC's state affiliates - the California Teacher Corps, the Louisiana Alternative Certification Association, and the Texas Alternative Certification Association pay just \$25 per year, and interns may join for \$15.

To join, please download and return the membership application attached or click here to join online. Learn more by visiting www.alternativecertification.org.

COORDINATOR ADULT EDUCATION

After 36 years as coordinator of Adult Education for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Don Eisinger is retiring. Part of his role is providing oversight of the Veterans' Education section.

"Missouri's veterans education program has always the highest rating awarded by the Veterans Administration," said Eisinger. "More important is the high quality service we provide our veterans. We have had excellent leadership in the program during my time at the Department, as well as wonderful staff to aid veterans in accessing their benefits and to assist schools and employers."

Missouri has approximately 330 schools and 250 on-the-job training sites, serving over 9,000 veterans.

In addition, the Department's Troops to Teachers program is working to make the transition from service to teaching easier. The On-the-Job (OJT) training program for veterans has also been successful. "We have more veterans in OJT than states twice our size and we typically rank within the top five in the country," continued Eisinger.

A two year Army Veteran himself, Eisinger recalled the importance of the Project Transition Office at his base and the need for accurate and timely information for veterans to be successful. He credits staff's coordination with the Veterans Commission and veteran representatives at local career centers in meeting the needs of veterans. For more information about Missouri's veteran education program, visit the Department's website at dese.mo.gov.



Left to right: Don Eisinger & Ron Marsch

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

p: 877.530.2765

fax: 573.526.5710

e-mail: chad.schatz@dese.mo.gov

TEACHER CERTIFICATION CONTACT INFORMATION

IOWA

Dr. Mary Lou Nosco

p: 515.725.2146

e-mail: marylou.nosco@iowa.gov

MISSOURI

Debbie Butcher

p: 573.751.7863

e-mail: debbie.butcher@dese.mo.gov

KANSAS

Sungti Hsu

p: 785.291.3573

e-mail: shsu@ksde.org

NEBRASKA

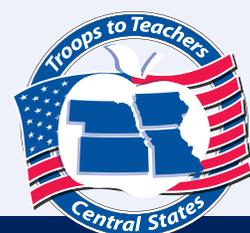
p: 402.471.0739

e-mail: nde.tcrtweb@nebraska.gov

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

PARTICIPANT LIFE CYCLE

Determine Eligibility
Register
Bachelors Degree
Teacher Certification
Job Search
Get Hired
Be a Mentor



VETERAN'S EDUCATION & TRAINING SECTION

MISSOURI STATE APPROVING AGENCY



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 Mehlville School District

Room 110

3100 Lemay Ferry Road

St. Louis, MO 63125

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>

ARMY CHANGES REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSFER OF GI BILL BENEFITS

April 17, 2013

Beginning Aug. 1, 2013, every Soldier who elects to transfer their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to a family member will incur an additional four years in the Army, without regard to their time in service.

Related Links

<http://www.army.mil/article/101298/>

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, April 17, 2013) -- Beginning Aug. 1, 2013, every Soldier who elects to transfer their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to a family member will incur an additional four years in the Army, without regard to their time in service.

That news comes in a message to military personnel, dated April 15, 2013. The new rule largely affects senior officers and enlisted Soldiers who are retirement-eligible. As of now, these Soldiers may be able to transfer benefits to their loved ones with anywhere from zero to three years of additional service.

Soldiers who are not retirement eligible, electing to transfer their GI Bill benefits to a family member means re-upping for an additional four years. Come Aug. 1, that rule will apply to all Soldiers, whether they are retirement-eligible or not.

"This is a benefit. Soldiers are entitled to the benefit for their own use, but to transfer to dependents: that is used as a recruiting and retention tool," said Lt. Col. Mark Viney, chief of the Enlisted Professional Development Branch, Army G-1.

Viney also serves as the policy proponent for the Army's Post-9/11 GI Bill Transfer of Education Benefits Program.

"We want Soldiers to be informed of the

impact of this change in policy," Viney said. "This is going to impact their decisions and their families, and whether or not they are going to have this money available to find their dependent's education."

Veterans Affairs, or VA, also has eligibility requirements for transferability. A Soldier must have six years of active duty in order to transfer his GI Bill benefits.

In some cases, if a Soldier has incurred additional time in service in order to transfer GI Bill benefits to a family member, and is afterward unable to serve that additional time in service, he or she may be required to pay back those benefits.

Viney said that as the Army draws down, some Soldiers will be involuntarily separated under force-shaping initiatives. Soldiers who are separated early under such circumstances and who had previously transferred their Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits to their dependents may retain the transferred benefits, without needing to repay them to the VA.

VRAP UPDATE

The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) has had more than 1117,000 applicants to date with over 47,000 taking course work and training toward a "high demand" career field.

The VA has notified over 101,000 veterans that they are approved to begin training (through a Certificate of Eligibility-CDE).

The VRAP program is a joint program between VA and the Department of Labor, renewing opportunity for education, training and job assistance to unemployed veterans 35-60 years old.

EXPENDITURES



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 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.**

2012 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VA EXPENDITURES

Each fiscal year the Department of Veterans Affairs' Office of Policy and Planning publishes the annual Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures (GDx) Report. The GDx report provides the estimated dollar expenditures for major VA programs at the state, county, and Congressional District levels. Expenditure data are grouped by the following categories: Compensation and Pension; Education and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment; Insurance and Indemnities; Construction and Related Costs; General Operating Expenses and Related Costs; Loan Guaranty; and Medical Expenditures. The GDx Report also includes Veteran population estimates at the state, county and Congressional District level and the number of unique patients who used VA health care services.

TOLL-FREE HOTLINE

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.



FY12 SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STATE EXPENDITURES IN \$000s

State	Veteran Population*	Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension	Construction	Education & Vocational Rehabilitation Employment	Loan Guaranty #	General Operating Expenses	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Unique Patients **
IOWA	238,236	\$994,001	\$425,818	\$16	\$67,379	-	\$10,315	\$18,484	\$471,990	71,887
KANSAS	226,916	\$1,042,004	\$458,118	\$796	\$87,107	-	\$26,874	\$16,196	\$452,914	58,197
MISSOURI	505,729	\$2,527,524	\$1,153,182	\$23,204	\$161,337	-	\$145,835	\$31,630	\$1,012,336	135,475
NEBRASKA	141,102	\$887,641	\$427,268	\$13,127	\$58,708	-	\$34,294	\$11,914	\$342,330	46,798

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.

IOWA

US NEWS HAS RANKED THE NATION'S SCHOOLS.

<http://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools>
Top Ranked IOWA Schools



To be eligible for a state ranking, a school must be awarded a national gold or silver medal.

#1 - JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

4545 Wenig Rd. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

#2 - DECORAH HIGH SCHOOL

100 Claiborne Dr.
Decorah, IA 52101

#3 - AMES HIGH SCHOOL

1921 Ames High
Dr, Ames, IA 50010

#4 - CEDAR FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

1015 Division St.
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

#5 - LINN-MAR HIGH SCHOOL

3111 North 10th St.
Marion, IA 52302

#6 - MID-PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL

1634 Hwy 22 East
Wellman, IA 52356

#7 - ADM SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

801 Nile Kinnick Dr. South
Adel, IA 50003

#8 - WEST LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL

310 West Maxson Ave.
West Liberty, IA 52776

#9 - PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL

401 76th Ave. SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

#10 - ANKENY HIGH SCHOOL

1302 North Ankeny Blvd.
Ankeny, IA 50023

MISSOURI

Top Ranked MISSOURI Schools



#1 - METRO ACADEMIC AND CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL

4015 Mcpherson Ave.
St Louis, MO 63108

#2 - CLAYTON HIGH SCHOOL

1 Mark Twain Circle
Clayton, MO 63105

#3 - KIRKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

801 West Essex Ave.
Kirkwood, MO 63122

#4 - MARQUETTE HIGH SCHOOL

2351 Clarkson Rd.
Chesterfield, MO 63017

#5 - EUREKA SR. HIGH

4525 Hwy 109
Eureka, MO 63025

#6 - PARK HILL HIGH SCHOOL

7701 Nw Barry Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64153

#7 - LINDBERGH HIGH SCHOOL

4900 South Lindbergh
St Louis, MO 63126

#8 - ROCK BRIDGE SR. HIGH

4303 South Providence Rd.
Columbia, MO 65203

#9 - SOUTH HIGH

801 Hanna Rd.
Ballwin, MO 63021

#10 - LEE'S SUMMIT WEST HIGH

2600 Sw Ward Rd.
Lee's Summit, MO 64082

For more information about the Missouri Learning Standards and the Common Core State Standards visit:
dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum/Common_Core.html.

KANSAS

Top Ranked KANSAS Schools



#1 - SUMNER ACADEMY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

1610 North 8th St., Kansas City, KS 66101

#2 - BLUE VALLEY NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

12200 Lamar Ave., Overland Park, KS 66209

#3 - BLUE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

6001 West 159th St., Stilwell, KS 66085

#4 - OLATHE NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL

21300 College Blvd., Olathe, KS 66061

#5 - NORTHEAST MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL

1847 North Chautauqua., Wichita, KS 67214

#6 - GARDNER EDGERTON HIGH

425 North Waverly, Gardner, KS 66030

#7- LIBERAL SR HIGH

1611 West 2nd, Liberal, KS 67901

#8 - FORT SCOTT SR HIGH

1005 South Main, Fort Scott, KS 66701

#9 - MAIZE SR HIGH

11600 West 45th St. North, Maize, KS 67101

#10 - LOUISBURG HIGH

202 Aquatic Dr., Louisburg, KS 66053

NEBRASKA

Nebraska schools in forefront of exercise movement

An article by Julie Anderson , WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER on April 22, 2013



<http://www.omaha.com/article/20130422/LIVWELL02/704229930>

Last month, Superintendent John Skretta was among six speakers who participated in a conference call to help first lady Michelle Obama launch her "Let's Move! Active Schools" initiative. While the earlier phase of the first lady's campaign focused on nutrition, the new round is aimed at physical activity. About 250 education leaders from across the country listened to the call.

The goal is to help foster healthier students. Increasingly, educators and health advocates are recognizing that healthier kids — physically, emotionally and socially — make better students, a conclusion backed by a growing body of research.

WHAT SCHOOLS ARE DOING:

» The North Platte school district will increase PE from four days a week to five days a week for K-5 students.

» The Lincoln Public Schools have adopted a practice of providing at least two activity periods a day for elementary students.

» More than 30 buildings in the Lincoln Public Schools and about two dozen in the Millard school district are on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's HealthierUS School Challenge's list of schools that have created healthier school environments. To see them, visitusda.gov/tn/healthierus/awardwinners.html

» The Kearney Public Schools last weekend placed first among schools with 5,000 to 20,000 students in the 19th annual Magna Awards program sponsored by the National School Boards Association. The district's wellness program has reduced obesity among students in kindergarten through eighth grade by 13 percent. Recent numbers have pushed the drop to 22 percent at the elementary level. "We truly believe we have to address the health of our kids to address their academic excellence," said Julane Hill, director of coordinated school health for the Nebraska Department of Education. The Nebraska Board of Education put that belief in writing in 2010 when it adopted a policy encouraging districts to adopt comprehensive health plans.

On the White House call, Skretta described some of the techniques the school has used. The Ten at Ten and Ten at Two initiatives get elementary-age kids moving in the halls, in the gym, outdoors at times of the day when attentiveness slips. Other classrooms dance to streamed music videos or Dance Dance Revolution tracks played over intercoms. Middle school students take similar breaks.

Skretta said some might see such activities as taking time away from instruction. But research indicates that kids need to be alert to process information. Many of the teachers have been trained in techniques to promote activity.

When kids get back to work, he said, their blood is moving, their neurons are firing and they're more receptive to learning.

Mary Jo Rupert, Norris Middle School principal, said teachers are encouraged to get kids moving every 20 minutes or so during the 73-minute classes that are part of the school's block schedule.

Cindy Larson-Miller, a high school science teacher, also incorporates activity or "brain breaks" in longer classes and before tests or quizzes. "A lot of people think this is an elementary thing," she said. "But these kids need it, too."

Classroom breaks aren't the only part of Norris' strategy. The district teamed up with the local natural resources district to build a half-mile walking path around the building.

Skretta said a lot of districts are embracing similar concepts. Norris, he said, got in early and has been able to tap into a lot of assistance.

Norris is among some 260 Nebraska schools along with 190 in Iowa that have received tips, tools and other assistance through the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, a nonprofit that now is one of three managing partners in the first lady's initiative. A 2010 report by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and a recent study by the Lincoln Public Schools and Creighton University found evidence that physical activity can help improve academic achievement.