

TRANSFORMING EDUCATOR PREPARATION

Making sure that every child succeeds in college, career and life depends on having a highly effective teacher in every classroom. Missouri, a member of the Network for Transforming Educator Preparation, is taking important steps to make sure new teachers have the knowledge and skills they need.



RAISING THE BAR FOR TEACHERS

Aspiring teachers must meet more rigorous requirements:

- All candidates for licenses must complete a performance assessment that captures their practices during student teaching. The assessment takes place online and includes video.
- Standards are the same for all teachers, whether they graduate from a university program or an alternative route.
- Teachers receive initial certification and must complete 30 hours of professional development, teach for four years, including two with a mentor, participate in a Beginning Teacher Assistance program and undergo annual performance evaluations to earn "career certification."

ASKING MORE OF PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Missouri is setting higher standards for the programs that prepare teachers:

- The annual performance report grades programs on meeting state goals using a five-point scale to encourage continuous improvement.
- To make sure that candidates are prepared when they graduate, some institutions are placing them in classrooms for longer than the minimum 12 weeks. 
- The state is looking at measures of these partnerships between preparation programs and school districts for the Annual Performance Report.

USING DATA TO MEASURE SUCCESS

By setting goals and examining data each year, Missouri is learning what works and making needed changes along the way:

- For the next version of its annual performance report, the state would like to tie the performance of new teachers once on the job back to their preparation programs. 
- Using student growth data from practicing teachers is seen as desirable but challenging in order to maintain candidates' privacy. 

“Every child deserves a great teacher and Missouri is fully committed to preparing, developing and supporting excellent educators. To achieve this, we have built partnerships with teachers and leaders in local school districts and higher education to ensure educator preparation programs are preparing highly effective educators who support all students in becoming prepared for college, career and life.”

– Dr. Margie Vandeven, Commissioner of Education