



Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals

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MoASSP Update April 28, 2017

Video Version: <https://youtu.be/E0M9I6VTI40>

MoASSP Principal,

Missouri Scholars 100 a Success - On Sunday April 23, 2017 MoASSP hosted the 23rd Annual Scholars 100 Luncheon honoring our member principals' finest students. Over 325 parents, principals, and honors students were in attendance. The MoASSP Board of Directors in attendance served as masters of ceremonies, awarded the trophies, and presented facts about the scholars as well as read excerpts from the scholar's written works about their service and activities. Wagner Portraits Group took the photos to be sent to the students free of charge and Jostens provided the trophies. Representing DESE and our luncheon speaker was Dr. Chris Neale. His presentation provided congratulations and he challenged the scholars to use their minds for creative and forward thinking ideas that will help humanity. It truly is amazing what your schools are doing to provide learning opportunities, supporting dreams, and encouraging students to follow their passion. This year the Missouri students honored had 23 perfect ACT scores out of 105 honorees. Many of the students honored were from large school districts, but 18 of the students were from small or rural districts. The smallest school represented was Jefferson C-1 in Northwest Missouri, with a student enrollment of 67 students in the high school. Thank you to all of the principals that gave up a Sunday to continue modeling servant leadership.

How did you rank in the U.S. News national school rankings? Sometimes it is fun to look at rankings, even if they are based on just a few bits of data and not always indicative of what truly is important. It is interesting to see what schools rank in the top 50 and notice that there are some small districts with different demographics beginning to have the data that showcases their commitment to students. Here is the ranking link to [Missouri Schools](#) from *US News* and how they determined the ranking. First, U.S. News looked at student performance on state-required tests during the 2014-2015 school year. Schools had to perform better than statistically expected on these tests in their state, given their student poverty levels, to make it to the next step. Then, schools were evaluated on whether their least-advantaged students – those of black, Hispanic, and low-income backgrounds – performed at or better than the state average.

The third step required schools that passed the first two steps to have a graduation rate of at least 75 percent. Those that did made it to the final phase which determined if their national ranking was a gold, silver or bronze medal. In this fourth step, U.S. News looked at how well schools prepared students for college based on participation in and performance on Advanced Placement exams.

Drama in the Missouri State Senate may continue to slow down progress on bills. It could be a positive if the bills that may cause more harm than good get bogged down and don't get through the process. It may hurt us if at the end of session action legislators get hurried and load up "omnibus" bills with many amendments attached.

HB138 – If this bill stays clean, it is good for students and schools. If it is a vehicle for other bills or amendments, it is troubling. This bill changes the Missouri Virtual Instruction Program (MOVIP) to "The

Missouri Course Access Program" (MCAP) and allows any K-12 student to enroll in up to two MCAP courses per year, to be paid by the school district, if the student, is a public school student and the course is approved by a school counselor.

SB313 PASSED Thursday! - What's Next: SB 313 will now move to the House. The School Administrators Coalition is still opposed to SB 313. In addition to opposition to the voucher program, we have significant concerns with many of the provisions added to the bill while it was being debated. This would be a good time to write your local representative and provide reasons for your concerns.

[We have an education budget and it is fully funded!](#) Send a nice note to your legislators thanking them for investing in the future of Missouri by fully funding the education budget. On a 19-14 vote, the Senate approved an amendment sponsored by Republican Sen. Gary Romine of Farmington that brings the Senate budget **[in line with the House version](#)** by adding \$45 million to public school funding, bringing the total to \$3.4 billion. "Budgets are documents of priorities," said Sen. Ryan Silvey, a Kansas City Republican. "The money follows where the priorities are."

ACT Funding – depending on whom you talk to, the funding is out for the ACT, or the funding is in. The only way to know is for us to wait until the budget is approved.

DeVos – Dr. Vandeven was one of just a few Commissioners (Chief State School Officers) able to have a face-to-face meeting Tuesday in Washington D.C. with Betsy DeVos, Education Secretary. It was the commissioner's feeling that DeVos was making an attempt to explore the culture of the United States educational system. Dr. Vandeven expressed how unique Missouri's demographics are and that we are very pleased with our educational progress and our future.

Federal Funding for Title II and Title IV are still in the air. There is also concern Title I and other title programs will become block grants. There is concern that there is no way to show data that the money in the title programs is making an impact.

Keep up your stamina and your enthusiasm for just a few more days. **It really is the Principal of the Thing!**