

**Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Attention: Margie Vandeven, Assistant Commissioner  
Office of Quality Schools  
P.O. Box 480  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480**

**DATE**

**Dear Mrs. Vandeven,**

**Please consider my comments in regard to the newly proposed MSIP 5 standards:**

(Pick one or two points from the following or fill in with one of your own. Explain in your own words why you agree or disagree with the proposed change.)

Currently the proposed standards do NOT:

1. Recommend that schools identify or serve gifted students. (The old MSIP standard 8.2 has been eliminated and gifted students are included under the umbrella of “all” students.)
2. Accountability for school districts to have certificated teachers for gifted services.
3. Assessments for above grade level performance. (Currently all students are measured at grade level. High ability students are not allowed to take above grade level MAP testing.) The emphasis is definitely on bringing the bottom up to minimum standards.
4. Planning time becomes recommended, not required. The previous standard of 250 minutes a week was not adequate.
5. Regulate class size. MSIP 5 will not require minimum class size standards.
6. No minimum and desirable student ratios for certified counselors and certified media specialists.

**Please explain in your own words the effect the proposed change will have in your school district and how it will impact your students and their learning.**

Background information:

Proposed changes in MSIP 5:

- Accreditation based on performance criteria: attendance, graduation rate, percentage of students taking the ACT/SAT, test scores on MAP/ EOC, ACT/SAT/COMPASS/ASVAB, and percentage of students who successfully complete advanced courses (AP/IB/TSA/college credit). Possible issues—many gifted students plan to go to colleges and universities that will not accept advanced credit from high school transcripts. Rural districts have limited opportunities for AP/IB/college credit courses.

- Every school district evaluated every year, not every five years. (This seems very unreasonable given the current cuts to DESE budget.)
- Accreditation criteria can be changed or added anytime with two year's notice. (Again seems somewhat unreasonable.)
- Districts encouraged to use recommended resource standards, but not required to do so.
- View the complete proposed MSIP 5 standards at <http://dese.mo.gov/gs/MSIP5.html>

CONCLUSION:

**Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact me if you have questions or would like additional information from me.**

Add a quote or some conclusion about why you think gifted programming is important for the success of Missouri's schools.

**Sincerely,**

**Name**

**Address**

**Phone**

**Email**