

Dear Parents of Gifted Kids,

As you may be aware, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) recently withdrew the proposal for the new MSIP accreditation and performance standards. The **Missouri School Improvement Plan** addresses academic achievement, subgroup achievement, college readiness, and attendance and graduation rates; it makes **no mention of "gifted"**.

The newly proposed MSIP 5 standards do NOT:

1. Recommend that schools identify or serve gifted students. (The old MSIP standard 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.

This is problematic as it makes it easier for school districts to reduce/eliminate their gifted programs as they would not be held accountable to provide needed services for kids to reach their full gifted/talented potential. Districts will be encouraged to use recommended resource standards, but will not be required to do so.

The good news (regarding the withdrawal) is that it gives stakeholders (parents, students, teachers, etc) a window-of-opportunity to provide feedback to DESE and Commissioner Chris Nicastro.

Please take a few minutes to read the MSIP 5 information [dese.mo.gov/msip5](https://dese.mo.gov/msip5) and send the Commissioner your feedback.

**Comments may be submitted in the following ways:**

Online:	<a href="#">Online comment collector</a>
Email:	<a href="mailto:msip@dese.mo.gov">msip@dese.mo.gov</a>
Fax:	573-751-9434
Mail:	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Attention: Margie Vandeven, assistant commissioner Office of Quality Schools P.O. Box 480

Hand-delivery:

Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480  
MSIP 5  
Office of Quality Schools  
205 Jefferson St., 7th floor  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

"Limited federal leadership, coupled with a singular focus on grade-level proficiency, has resulted in an educational system that too often fails to address the unique learning needs of gifted students and those who could become high achieving with appropriate supports." NAGC, TALENT Act

[http://www.nagc.org/uploadedFiles/Advocacy\\_and\\_Legislation/TALENT/TALENT%20Act%20summary%20\(4-12-11\).pdf](http://www.nagc.org/uploadedFiles/Advocacy_and_Legislation/TALENT/TALENT%20Act%20summary%20(4-12-11).pdf)

Missouri has an initiative, **Top 10 by 20**. I fail to see, if the most academically gifted and talented kids are not given the support and tools they need, how that initiative can be achieved.

The MSIP 5 rule, will not go into effect until AFTER the 30 day comment period ends (it began April 15).

**Please take time to Advocate for our Gifted Kids!**

Thank you.

***Mary Johnson***

GAM Parent Network  
Parents of Gifted Kids