



WEEKLY REPORT

State Senator Gary Nodler
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SEN. GARY NODLER INTRODUCES LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REFORM MISSOURI'S MAP SYSTEM

Missouri's educational testing system is badly broken and this week I filed legislation that will reform and improve the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) and put it in line with the federal No Child Left Behind law.

Since its inception the MAP system has been badly flawed. Teachers and administrators have complained that the results were not a true indication of student's knowledge.

The MAP system is an 800-pound gorilla that we can no longer ignore.

Last year the Missouri State Teachers Association formally called for the elimination of the MAP program.

When developing this legislation I worked closely with teacher's organizations, educators and school administrators to find the answer.

My bill will require that by June 30, 2006, the State Board of Education will align the performance standards of the MAP test so that the performance standards meet, but do not exceed, the performance standards of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) exam.

Other changes include:

- Institute yearly examination of students in the required subject areas as established by federal standards.
- Administer any adjustments necessary in order to aid the state in conforming to federal standards.

Leadership in both the Senate and the House of Representatives has assured me that this legislation will be given top priority.

Standardized tests are an important tool to gage how our state's students are performing. However, our current MAP system is only a hindrance to the learning process.

The reforms made in my bill will make the Missouri Assessment Program will allow Missouri to accurately track the new skills and new knowledge students are gaining in school.

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