

The Public Comment Period for MSIP 5

The public comment period for MSIP 5 (approved August 2011 by the Missouri State Board of Education) opened on October 3rd, 2011. Through the public comment period, there may be an opportunity to influence both the revision of the Resource and Process Standards and the MSIP 5 scoring guide development, which is now beginning.

While there were some positive changes from the previous draft, there are concerns that Professional School Counselors may wish to address during the 30 day public comment period:

Professional School Counselors should be included in the list of stakeholders that will provide input during the revision process of the Resource and Process Standards, as well as the development of the MSIP 5 scoring guide. Professional School Counselors were not included on either the MSIP 5 Steering Committee or the Regional Advisory Committees that met in June and July 2011.

Minimum student-to-counselor ratios should include the current "desirable" standards. Increasing student-to-counselor ratios severely inhibits Missouri students' ability to access effective comprehensive guidance and counseling services, which have been demonstrated to increase student academic achievement, college and career readiness, school attendance, and graduation rates.

Professional School Counselors should not be identified as the sole entity responsible for data collection and reporting of College Remediation rates and "pipeline" measures reflecting student success after high school. Professional School Counselors have always been an integral part of the Graduate Follow-Up Process for school districts, and should be consulted as a vital stakeholder in the individual district process for reporting "pipeline" measures, as well as the proposed "future work in determining a consistent way to define and report remediation rates."

The revised assessment plan, which is scheduled to be phased in by 2018, is problematic for several reasons, including:

- 1.Lack of clarity regarding "voluntary" early childhood assessments for districts providing early childhood programs;
- 2.Lack of clear vision and purpose surrounding the "model" kindergarten readiness assessment;
- 3.The lack of provisions for alternative assessments for special needs students, as well as calculating graduation rates or college and career readiness of special needs students;
- 4.The number of EOC (End of Course) exams for students have from 8 to 11, which will further inhibit students from participation in exploratory, career and technical coursework;
- 5.The proposed EOHC (End of High School) exam is tied to district accountability only, thus creating more exams that do not have significance to the students;
- 6.The number of assessments and overlapping testing windows may conflict with AP, dual credit, TSA and IB testing, all of which have a greater significance and credibility with students, parents and faculty.

A summary of the proposed MSIP 5 revisions as compared to MSIP 4 and the previous MSIP 5 recommendations can be viewed by accessing this link:

<http://dese.mo.gov/qs/documents/msip5-crosswalk.pdf>

Links to other useful documents to preview regarding MSIP 5 recommendations are available here:

<http://dese.mo.gov/qs/documents/MSIP5-QA.pdf>

<http://dese.mo.gov/qs/documents/msip5-major-changes.pdf>

<http://dese.mo.gov/qs/documents/msip5-recommendations.pdf>
<http://dese.mo.gov/qs/documents/msip5-comparison-totals.pdf>
<http://dese.mo.gov/qs/documents/msip5-comparison-totals-class.pdf>
<http://dese.mo.gov/am/ccr/FAQ-RemediationRates.html>

Comments can be submitted to DESE in several ways, including online <http://www.dese.mo.gov/qs/MSIP5.html> or mailed to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of Quality Schools, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480.

The Missouri School Counselor Association will keep members informed of the development process regarding MSIP 5 and ways to be involved!