



State Senator Gary Nodler  
District 32



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## STATEMENT BY SENATOR GARY NODLER Regarding the Missouri Assessment Program

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Today, I was pleased to introduce Senate Bill 1080, a bill that I refer to as the truthful testing act to reform Missouri's MAP testing program. A number of years ago our state made a wise decision to pursue higher educational attainment through a program of required testing of students to achieve an accurate assessment of school and student progress and to achieve improved performance.

Subsequent to the implementation of the MAP testing program, the United States imposed standards for education including requirements from the No Child Left Behind law. Because the Missouri testing program was already in place, it does not align with federal testing standards. This results in frustration for teachers, challenges for administrators and an almost constant preparation for testing for students.

This act does not replace MAP testing or destroy MAP testing, but rather recalibrates the tests to conform to National standards.

By 2006, Missouri schools and teachers will be measured in a way that accurately assesses improvement and performance with a valid means of comparing to the National levels of achievement.

Educators around our state have expressed frustration with MAP testing as it now exists. We believe that through this bill we are responding to those concerns in a way that maintains accountability and a pursuit of academic progress.

The complaints of school administrators and teachers are understandable. The Missouri General Assembly has heard you loudly and clearly and I would like to say to Missouri's educators that we are doing our best to respond to your concerns and to make sure that the school testing program in our state is an instrument to aid your educational efforts rather than an obstacle.

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