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Eastern Jackson County School Districts Deserve Credit for Perfect Academic Scores

Education surely will be a top priority for lawmakers again this year. However, Eastern Jackson County's academic performance makes clear that our local communities are dedicated to giving students a first-rate education year in and year out. Several area districts received perfect scores on their annual accreditation reports, and everyone associated with these schools should be proud of the students, teachers and administrators who are performing so well.

The Blue Springs, Grain Valley, Independence, Lee's Summit and Oak Grove school districts met 14 of 14 standards on Missouri's Annual Performance Report. These standards include performance in the statewide Missouri Assessment Program as well as attendance, graduation rates, and the number of advanced-placement programs available.

This outstanding achievement has earned each district the Distinction in Performance Award, the state's highest recognition for academic success. The award acknowledges superior accomplishment and district efforts to continually improve student achievement and academic programs. The Blue Springs and Lee's Summit districts each have earned the award for six consecutive years, a rare achievement, and Grain Valley, Independence and Oak Grove also have earned the award in recent years.

These outstanding scores prove that the teachers and administrators in Eastern Jackson County are providing their students the best possible education. Additionally, these accomplishments show that students are taking advantage of the opportunities they've been given to prepare themselves for college and successful careers.

Congratulations to everyone affiliated with these excellent academic institutions, and I am proud to say I know the members of these districts are not resting on their accomplishments. Everyone working for these districts constantly pushes to improve the education of the children who walk through their doors.

If you have comments or questions about any matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by e-mail at matt_bartle@senate.mo.gov or by phone at (888) 711-9278.

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