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Missouri Senate Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee Holds “Visioning” Meeting

*Chairman Sen. David Pearce Says Committee Will
Develop Proactive, Not Reactive, Strategies*

JEFFERSON CITY— The Missouri Senate [Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee](#) held its second meeting this week (8/25), focusing on establishing a vision that will help guide the committee as it develops long-term strategies for improving education in Missouri. Senator David Pearce (R-Warrensburg) serves as chairman of the new committee, which is charged with determining where Missouri should stand in terms of education by the year 2020.

Some of the topics discussed at the meeting included the committee’s vision and the process for developing that vision, the principles and values that will guide the process and the committee’s eventual goals. A consultant was brought into the meeting to help the committee establish long-term strategies and develop objectives.

“Too often lawmakers are focused on the now, without looking too far ahead to the distant future,” Sen. Pearce said. “Unfortunately, this leads us to be reactive rather than proactive in our actions. In this committee we are going to focus several years down the road, which is exciting because we have time to really develop a tangible plan and the strategies for how to get there.”

The committee was established this year under [Senate Resolution 304](#) and is responsible for creating long-range plans for improving the state’s educational system. The eventual goal for the committee is to develop tactics for Missouri schools to consistently produce well-rounded individuals who are able to thrive in a competitive global market as a result of the quality of the education they received.

“Ultimately, our state’s economic fate is tied with the quality of our state’s education,” Sen. Pearce said. “It’s our responsibility to determine where we want to be and then figure out how to get there.”

Also serving on the committee is Sen. Jane Cunningham (R-Chesterfield), Sen. Kurt Schaefer (R-Columbia), Sen. Wes Shoemyer (D-Clarence) and Sen. Robin Wright-Jones (D-St. Louis).

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