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## **Missouri Senate Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee Holds First Public Testimony Meeting** *Chairman Sen. David Pearce Schedules Committee's Next Meeting for Nov. 9 in St. Louis*

JEFFERSON CITY— The Missouri Senate [Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee](#) held a meeting this week (11/5) at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg to hear public testimony on the future of education in Missouri. Senator David Pearce (R-Warrensburg) serves as chairman of the committee, which is charged with determining where Missouri should stand in terms of education by the year 2020 and developing long-term strategies to achieve these future goals.

The public testimony focused on answering specific questions, such as what it will mean to be an educated citizen in the year 2020, what employers will require from their employees by the year 2020, what principles will anchor the state's decisions about education, and how to best balance the needs of Missouri students.

“Ultimately, our state's economic fate is tied with the quality of our state's education,” Sen. Pearce said. “This is why it is critical to gather input from people across the spectrum of education, so we can put together a plan of action that is comprehensive, effective and achievable.”

The Educated Citizenry 2020 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.

“Too often lawmakers are focused on the present, 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 given an opportunity to look at the big picture and develop a strategic plan for getting us where we need to be.”

Committee members will once again hear public testimony when the Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee meets at 1 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 9 at Confluence College Prep High School in St. Louis (310 N. 15th St.). Written testimony will also be accepted by the committee at the meeting.

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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Contact: Matt Michelson  
(573) 751-2272