



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee Announces Recommendations

JEFFERSON CITY— Senator David Pearce, R-Warrensburg, today announced the final recommendations of the Missouri Senate Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee, culminating nearly two years of testimony and research regarding Missouri’s long-range vision for education. Senator Pearce, chairman of the committee, held a news conference at the Capitol to offer some insight to the committee’s findings.

“It has been an honor to lead this committee,” Sen. Pearce said. “The recommendations will be a framework for legislators as we continue to move education forward to 2020 and beyond.”

The committee followed the following benchmarks: Missouri’s kindergarteners will enter school with the essential skills and knowledge to be successful; 75 percent of Missouri students in every school district will demonstrate proficiency on the state’s standardized achievement measure, and Missouri students perform at comparable levels to the highest performing industrialized countries on international, standardized measures; and Missouri will increase attainment of postsecondary degrees and credentials to 60 percent for all adults, which will be supported in part by an increase in retention rates in higher education.

These recommendations were made after drawing upon input from public testimony and presentations from education professionals, people that are vital in the shaping the future in education. With this information in mind, the recommendations developed utilizing five major themes, including access, accountability, teacher quality, school readiness, and governance.

Senate Leader Charlie Shields, R-St. Joseph, who initiated the 2020 Committees last year, commended Sen. Pearce on his leadership and commitment to the project.

“The Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee has created a vision for the future of our children with benchmarks to measure the development of that vision,” Sen. Shields said. “Thanks to their work, we can develop solutions to meet these goals and reshape the continuum of education in our state.”

Senator Shields created the 2020 Committees in order to develop long-range plans in three major areas of concern in Missouri: job creation, health care, and education.

To read the full report, visit www.senate.mo.gov/2020Committees then click on the “Committee Reports and Other Information” link.

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