

The MU Partnership for Educational Renewal

BELIEFS STATEMENT, MISSION STATEMENT, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Beliefs Statement

[amended August 2008]

To advance our shared vision of assuring the learning of all students, members of MPER believe we should:

- Share our vision of an exemplary school-university partnership, hold ourselves accountable, and master our commitment to the simultaneous renewal of the education of educators and of our schools.
- Collaboratively create and sustain the infrastructure needed to achieve our mission through the enhancement of communication channels. Consistent representation at decision-making bodies is essential for an effective partnership.
- Actively and enthusiastically engage university and school-based educators in the involvement of parents and community members in the success of students, in school governance, in supporting the work of school staff, and in playing a vital role in all areas of school life.
- Provide opportunities for university and school-based educators to engage in ongoing research related to student learning.
- Provide a framework for schools to integrate emerging technology into teaching to support increased student learning.
- Recognize and disseminate information regarding exemplary teaching, innovative programs and their effects on learning in schools and at the university.
- Seek external funding for securing resources to help achieve our mission.
- Provide vehicles for improving curriculum in schools and at the university through collaborative efforts.
- Provide meaningful and frequent professional development within and across disciplines challenging university and school-based educators to sustain their commitment to assuring the learning of all students.

Mission Statement

[amended August 2008]

The mission of MPER is to prepare, support, and motivate professional educators to assure the learning of all students.

Goals and Objectives

Goal #1

A collaborative partnership will be created to provide an effective, standards-based professional development program for Missouri educators.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1.1 As an evolving, collaborative partnership, each participant will bring its unique expertise to the group to develop systemic change strategies. The change processes may be identified by any of the partners or other stakeholders in the education system.
- 1.2 A governing board will be established from the participating groups. The board will administer and facilitate the partnership process through a consensus agreement structure. The governing board will include representatives from each of the partners with participation to include:
 - The Superintendent (or designated representative) from each of the participating School Districts,
 - the Missouri Commissioner of Education,
 - the Dean of the MU College of Arts and Sciences, and
 - the Dean of the MU College of Education.

By-laws and related procedural documents will be reviewed by the Operations Council and adopted by the Governing Board. Governance within each partnering organization will not be affected by the partnership.

- 1.3 Practitioners in the participating school districts, the University of Missouri faculty and staff, and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will collaborate in developing and promoting effective research-based instructional strategies, intervention approaches, and assessment systems for their schools.
- 1.4 Public school educators, MU faculty and staff as well as consultants that the partnership may choose, will develop professional development activities that draw upon the expertise of all who participate.
- 1.5 The partnership will work to ensure that students come to school ready to learn. Partner school districts may choose to work with the social services agencies, MU, the business community, educational support organizations, and others to develop effective strategies to ensure that students have access to comprehensive array of educational, health, and mental health services to meet their individual needs.

Goal #2

An interactive electronic communication network will be established to link the partnership participants with each other and with other professional resource providers. This system provide information sharing opportunities and professional development that will be available in the appropriate time frame, in a form (e.g., written, electronic, face-to-face) that is comfortable for users, and in a place they can easily access.

OBJECTIVES:

- 2.1 Educators within each participating organization will have access to the most current information on the application of performance standards to classroom learning, the integration of culturally diverse instructional strategies, and collaboration among educators at all levels.
- 2.2 Participants may enter in an on-going, structured, educational dialog with each other via an electronic communications network, individual and group meetings, and learning sessions.
- 2.3 Participants may use the communications network to facilitate and enhance practitioner-led inquiry into effective standards-based instruction and assessment.

Goal #3

The University of Missouri educator preparation programs will be structured in order to better prepare educators for a standards-based education system in Missouri's public schools.

OBJECTIVES:

- 3.1 Participants will collaborate to determine the appropriate content and form of educator preparation.
- 3.2 The educator preparation programs will focus on high quality field experiences of candidates in partnering school districts.
- 3.3 Educators from the partner schools and faculty of the MU Colleges of Education and Arts and Sciences will collaborate and share their knowledge of effective practice in local schools and to facilitate practitioner-led inquiry.
- 3.4 The MU educator preparation program will increase the number of minority students that enter and graduate from those programs.