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TO: MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY
FROM: Kyna Iman
DATE: August 13, 2015
RE: TEACHER PREP REPORT/STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Missouri State Board of Education received an update Monday on work being done on the Missouri Content Assessments from Dr. Gale "Hap" Hairston and Paul Katnik, both with Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. It was similar to the report that they provided in July to the Joint Meeting of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education and the State Board of Education.

The two said the testing times and the number of test items on seven assessments were being adjusted. The changes will be implemented beginning in September. Katnik said some students' scores could be adjusted to "passing," while other students could be eligible to retake the tests for free.

In addition, Katnik said Content Advisory Committees are working to confirm the alignment of the test frameworks on 13 assessments to Missouri Learning Standards and national standards. Depending on the outcome of the committees' work, Katnik again said the scores of some students could be adjusted to "passing," while other students could be eligible to retake the tests for free.

When the Bias Review Committee met in early July, their report determined that assessments were not biased.

Finally, the State Board of Education spent a considerable amount of time discussing the need to increase teacher salaries in order to attract stronger math and science candidates. The Board plans to draft related legislation for the coming session of the Missouri General Assembly.

Please let me know if you have any questions at kynaiman@earthlink.net.