



The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) works to maintain a strong public education system that meets the educational needs of Missourians from birth through adulthood. As an agency, DESE is future-focused, dedicated to serving others, and committed to excellence.

The Commissioner of Education directs DESE and, according to state law, seeks to "...elevate the standards and efficiency of the instruction given in the public schools of the state." DESE is organized under two divisions: Financial and Administrative Services and Learning Services.

Division of Financial and Administrative Services

This division is responsible for distributing all federal and state funds to local school districts and other agencies that provide education-related services. The division assists local school officials with budgeting, audits, and the reporting of financial statistics, both state and federal.

The division also provides assistance with school administrative and governance issues. Other personnel in this division administer the federally-funded school lunch and breakfast programs. This division also manages the department's internal business operations, such as accounting and procurement, budget, and human resources.

Division of Learning Services

This division is responsible for DESE's activities related to the success of children, educators, and schools. The division offices include:

- Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
- Office of Childhood
- Office of College and Career Readiness
- Office of Data System Management
- Office of Educator Quality
- Office of Special Education*
- Office of Quality Schools

*The Office of Special Education oversees the operation of the three school systems administered by the State Board of Education: the Missouri School for the Blind, the Missouri School for the Deaf, and the Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled.

SHOW ME SUCCESS



Our Vision

Improving Lives
through Education

Our Mission

Providing Access
to Opportunity

Priority Areas



Early Learning &
Early Literacy



Success-Ready
Students & Workforce
Development



Safe & Healthy
Schools



Educator
Recruitment &
Retention

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