To: School Administrators

From: Cindy Bryant, DESE Mathematics Consultant

Re: K-12 Math Learning Goals

Recent state and national initiatives have prompted the call for the development of new K-12 mathematics goals, to replace the existing grade-level expectations (GLE) document. These initiatives include:

- The governor’s METS Alliance has recommended changes in the GLEs for math and science in order to support “inquiry-based instruction based on internationally recognized best practices.”
- The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Achieve, The College Board and others are calling for changes in K-12 math standards.
- Recent state law (Senate Bill 389), which requires the Department of Higher Education to develop entry-level competencies for college courses.

These factors have prompted the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in concert with the METS Alliance, to develop a new document, Missouri K-12 Mathematics Learning Goals. The document will identify critical ideas, knowledge and skills and provide foundations for further mathematical learning. It will communicate the goals of required annual assessments and serve as a guide for schools in updating and aligning their mathematics programs.

This effort is co-chaired by Cindy Bryant, DESE mathematics consultant, and Barbara Reys, professor of mathematics at the University of Missouri. Writers of the new document include K-12 teachers, curriculum coordinators and university faculty. We expect a draft copy of the goals to be ready for public review in March, and we hope to present a final version to the State Board of Education in September, 2008.

For more information about the development of the math learning goals visit, http://mets-dese-mathematics.missouri.edu or contact Cindy Bryant (cindy.bryant@dese.mo.gov).

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