



Quality Education Act (QEA): What You Need to Know

[Sponsored by Rep. Mike Haffner \(R\)](#)

[Sponsored by Sen. Curtis Trent \(R\)](#)

The QEA creates a new public school accountability framework for Missouri's K-12 schools. Focused on growth, the QEA aims to ensure all students in Missouri have access to a high-quality public education.

Missouri's academic outcomes are below average and declining since 2009. Significant achievement gaps based on race and income persist. A better accountability system is needed.

The **Quality Education Act** will make three key changes:

- 1) Measure what matters:** For K-8 schools, 50% of the school performance rating will be based on student growth and 50% of the rating will be based on student achievement and other student outcome indicators measures. For high schools, student growth and college/career readiness will make up 60% of a school performance rating and 40% will be based on student achievement and a 5-year graduation rate. Currently, student growth and achievement make up *less than half* of a school's accreditation score.
- 2) Provide parents with clear, accessible information:** All public schools - district and charter - will receive a report card that describes how the school compares with statewide outcomes in student growth, achievement, college/career readiness, and graduation rate.
- 3) Support underperforming schools:** Ensure there is adequate funding for schools that are Provisionally Unaccredited or Unaccredited to develop and implement school improvement plans through the School Turnaround Act.

What's wrong with the current system?

- 99% of Missouri's school districts are "Fully Accredited" under the current system, even though academic achievement in Missouri is below average and declining since 2009. The current system is not accurately measuring student outcomes.
- It is difficult for families to access and understand information about the schools their children attend.
- It blurs the line between academic outcomes (student growth and achievement) and compliance (regulatory paperwork schools must complete). These are entirely different functions, but they are grouped together when evaluating schools.

- It does not adequately value academic growth. Many students make significant academic gains in a single year but remain below grade level. The QEA places special emphasis on academic growth, not just achievement.
- It penalizes schools serving a high-poverty student population that endure more obstacles in the pursuit of academic achievement. These schools are often labeled as 'failing' based on the added challenges their students face.
- It does not have a consistent set of interventions and supports for K-12 schools that are underperforming.

How is QEA an improvement?

- K-8 schools will be evaluated on student growth and achievement. High schools will be evaluated on student growth and achievement, college/career readiness, and graduation rate.
- All public schools - district and charter - will receive a report card that aligns with student outcomes. Information will be clear and easily accessed online.
- Schools that are Provisionally Unaccredited or Unaccredited will have access to resources to complete and implement a school improvement plan.

Is new legislation necessary?

Yes. The current system - in effect since 1991 - is in its 6th iteration and is not serving Missouri's citizens well.

How will these changes be enforced?

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will calculate APR scores with the calculation parameters laid out and provide report cards for every public school and public school system. These report cards will be easily accessed on DESE's website and each school's website. DESE will hold low performing district schools accountable and charter sponsors will hold low performing charter schools accountable.

Does the QEA support workforce development and real world learning?

Yes. A high-quality K-12 public education system is a cornerstone for developing a skilled workforce and vibrant economy. To close the education, economic and health disparity gaps that exist in Missouri we must improve our public education system. The QEA will focus educators' attention on measures that matter - student growth, achievement and college/career readiness - and improve education opportunities for all Missouri students.

When does the QEA take effect?

If passed, the QEA will be implemented by the 2026-2027 school year.