



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

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JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON  
GOVERNOR

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June 25, 2009

Ray Scheppach, Executive Director  
National Governors Association Center for Best Practices  
Hall of the States  
444 North Capitol Street, Suite 267  
Washington, DC 20001-1512

Dear Mr. Scheppach:

This letter affirms my signature as Governor of the State of Missouri to the Common Core Standards Memorandum of Agreement.

The passing in January of our Commissioner of Education, Dr. Kent King, placed our state in a unique situation with an interim Commissioner and an ongoing search for a new Commissioner. I recognize that the state's chief education official has to be a signatory to these standards for a state to be a fully committed participant, and initially we were going to wait until our State Board of Education had named a new Commissioner of Education before determining whether we would sign on.

I believe, however, that the development of Common Core Standards is important enough to warrant taking this initial step and signing on in my capacity as Governor.

Missouri has been a leader in developing high standards and assessments, and will continue in this role. It is important to take this first step and join in this nationwide process to develop a common core of state standards in English arts and mathematics for elementary and secondary students based on research and evidence-based learning. Both this letter and the Memorandum of Agreement demonstrate my commitment as Missouri's Governor to this process.

When a new Commissioner of Education for Missouri is named, I will discuss this issue with that individual and the State Board of Education and encourage our new Commissioner to sign on as well.

I look forward to the State of Missouri participating in the development of these standards as we help our students prepare for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century global economy. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Nixon".

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon  
Governor