



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cold Water Elementary Recognized by Missouri Department of Education as a 2014 Exemplary School

Florissant, MO- Cold Water Elementary in the Hazelwood School District was named one of 15 2014 Exemplary Schools by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

The exemplary school award for professional learning acknowledges Cold Water staff for their promotion of learning with collaborative teams and using data to increase student achievement.

“This recognition really speaks to the job that the Cold Water teachers and staff have done,” said Dr. Grayling Tobias, superintendent of Hazelwood School District. “The application process is lengthy and requires a site visit from DESE officials. The state obviously likes what they see and identified Cold Water as a school moving forward and making its mark on education.”

“Since 2009, we have been implementing data to drive all of our decisions at Cold Water. By using data, we are able make academic plans for individual students as well as the entire grade level,” said Dr. Christa Warner, principal of Cold Water Elementary. “Each week our teams meet and plan collaboratively, which has become a powerful learning experience for our entire staff. By focusing on individual students and specific learning outcomes, we increased our Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) scores.”

Cold Water teachers tweak their outcomes based on the data. Pre-assessments are used for each student to gauge each student’s level regarding each specific skill. Proficiency skills are then determined and adjustments are made for each student as the quarter evolves.

Over the past four years, Cold Water has grown from a staff where teachers once worked in isolation, to one that now works collaboratively and focuses on the success of every child. Cold Water staff has celebrated the overall positive trend in math and communication arts on MAP scores. Teachers are working towards proficiency in 100 percent of Cold Water students.

To learn more about Cold Water Elementary School, a 2014 Exemplary Award Winner, visit: <http://www.moplc.org/cold-water-elementary-school-hazelwood.html>

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The Hazelwood School District serves nearly 19,000 students and is the second largest district in St. Louis County. It is the fifth largest district in the state of Missouri. Communities in the district include Hazelwood, Black Jack, Spanish Lake, a large section of Florissant, portions of Bridgeton, Bellefontaine Neighbors and Ferguson, and several square miles of unincorporated St. Louis County. The mission of the Hazelwood School District is to launch learners on a quest for high standards, fairness and distinguished achievement.