



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Hickman Mills C-1 Schools Challenges DESE's Initial Accreditation Report, Confirms Higher Corrected Score of 76.7%

Kansas City, MO – Today, the Hickman Mills C-1 School District (HMC-1) responds to the Accreditation Performance Score (APR) released by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), which does not account for critical corrections and adjustments that would reflect the district's accurate score of **76.7%**. The district has verified that they've Made the Grade for full accreditation under two frameworks DESE uses to evaluate school districts.

"While the score DESE released today does not reflect our validated adjustments, we stand by the corrected APR of 76.7%, demonstrating the tremendous progress our district has made," said Superintendent Yaw Obeng. "This score is a reflection of the dedication and hard work of our teachers, staff, students, and families. It places Hickman Mills among the leading districts in the Kansas City area."

Unwavering Commitment to Excellence

Hickman Mills' journey to accreditation has been marked by resilience and strategic focus. The district's corrected APR score of 76.7% is supported by the following keys to success:

- **System Alignment:** Competitive teacher and staff salaries, middle school realignment, and strengthened school board governance have been pivotal in achieving this progress.
- **Fine Facilities:** Renovated schools, the addition of the Real-World Learning Center, and investments in resources have created enhanced learning environments.
- **Academic Achievement:** Continuous gains in MAP scores and an impressive 2024 graduation rate of 92.1% underscore the district's commitment to student success.

Setting the Record Straight

The discrepancy in today's DESE-reported score underscores the need for transparency and accuracy in the accreditation process. Hickman Mills has provided DESE with all necessary documentation to ensure corrections are reflected. The district is confident that DESE will soon recognize its accurate score of 76.7%.

Looking Ahead

Despite this momentary challenge, HMC-1 remains focused on the future.

"Our corrected score reflects not just a number, but the quality of education we provide and the trust our families place in us," said Obeng. "We will continue to advocate for the recognition our community deserves while remaining steadfast in our mission of excellence."



These scores highlight HMC-1's position within the regional educational landscape, underscoring the district's progress and dedication to student achievement.

Area School Districts 2024 APR Score

1. Lee's Summit - 87.2%
2. Blue Springs - 86.0%
3. Park Hill - 85.7%
4. Liberty - 84.2%
5. Independence - 80.0%
6. Belton - 77.5%
7. **Hickman Mills (HMC-1) 76.7%**
8. Excelsior Springs - 73.7%
9. Raymore-Peculiar (Ray-Pec) - 73.2%
10. Kansas City Public Schools - 73.2%
11. Oak Grove - 72.0%
12. Raytown - 71.5%
13. Fort Osage - 68.2%
14. Odessa - 68.2%
15. Center - 66.7%
16. Grandview - 63.7%