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Parent Tool-Kit

Know your Level

2025



www.knowyourlevel.org

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Dear Parents,

We see you.

You are the ones who get your children up each morning, help with homework after long days, sit in car lines and at kitchen tables, and pray that your babies get the education they deserve. We also see the gaps—when your child is struggling but no one tells you why, when test scores come too late or not at all, and when schools leave you out of the very decisions that shape your child's future.

That's why parent power in St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS) matters more than ever.

The truth is, no one knows your child like you do. You are their first teacher, biggest advocate, and strongest protector. And when parents unite—when we speak up, ask questions, demand better, and support each other—systems shift. Parent power means showing up informed. It means knowing your child's reading level and what that level really means. It means asking for help and expecting answers.

It means not settling for “just getting by” when your child deserves to thrive.

With Senate Bill 681 now law, schools are required to give families real information about reading levels and success plans—but too many parents still don't get what they need. That's why **Bridge2Hope** launched the Know Your Level campaign, and why your voice matters in this fight.

Parent power is how we break cycles.

It's how we move from being left out to leading change. It's how we hold schools accountable—not just for what they teach, but for how they listen. At Bridge 2 Hope, we believe in you. We believe that when parents are equipped with knowledge, connected in community, and supported in their leadership, everything changes.

So let's keep asking the hard questions. Let's keep showing up. Let's keep pushing for a system that treats our children like they matter—because they do.



Literacy Laws



Senate Bill 681

What parents should know:

Missouri's literacy law (SB 681) is designed to strengthen education by ensuring schools use effective, evidence-based practices, are held accountable for student progress, and involve families and communities in driving lasting improvements.

- Literacy Advisory Council (Section 186.080, RSMo) reviews and recommends literacy improvements.
- State Board creates a reading instruction system (Section 161.241.1) with guidance and resources.
- Office of Literacy (Section 161.241.3) coordinates statewide literacy efforts.
- Local Education Agencies (LEAs) must have a Response to Intervention policy (Section 167.268) for reading support.
- Reading assessments and interventions (Section 167.645) ensure progress monitoring.

What this means for you:

SB 681 requires schools to notify you if your child is behind in reading and to create a clear plan to help them catch up.

📞 Need Help? Start with your child's teacher or school parent liaison. For official updates and resources, visit dese.mo.gov.

Senate Bill 68

What it is...

MODELS OF READING INSTRUCTION

(Section 170.014)

Phonics instruction for decoding and encoding words shall be the primary instructional strategy for teaching word reading in school districts and charter schools. Instruction in word reading shall not rely primarily on strategies based on the three-cueing system model of reading or visual memory. Visual information may be used in reading instruction to improve background and add context, but shall not be used to teach word reading.

Why it matters...

Schools must use phonics—teaching children how letters and sounds connect—as the main way to teach reading. Schools can no longer rely on “three-cueing” (guessing words from pictures or context). When children are taught to “sound it out,” they learn the building blocks of reading instead of guessing. This helps struggling readers catch up faster and gives every child a stronger foundation for reading success.

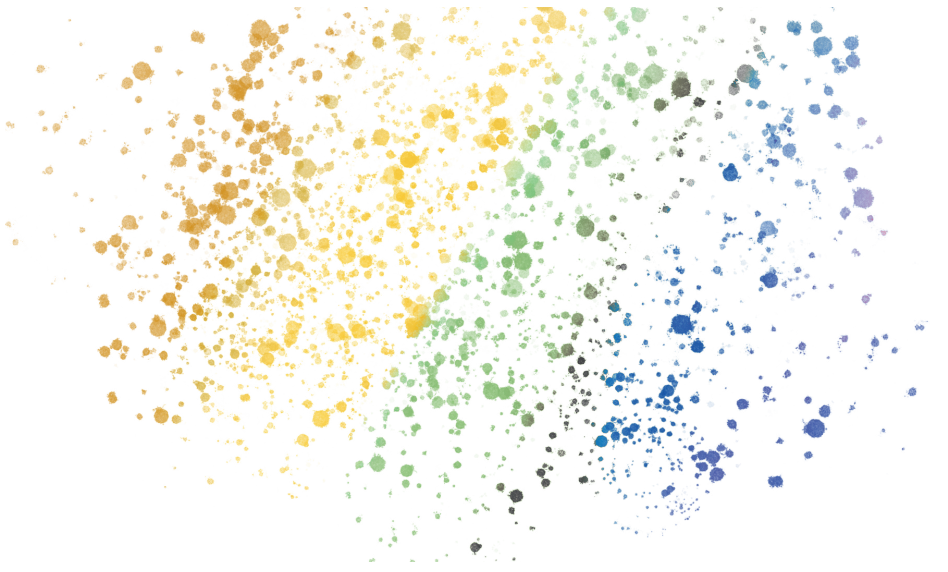
Senate Bill 68

What it is...

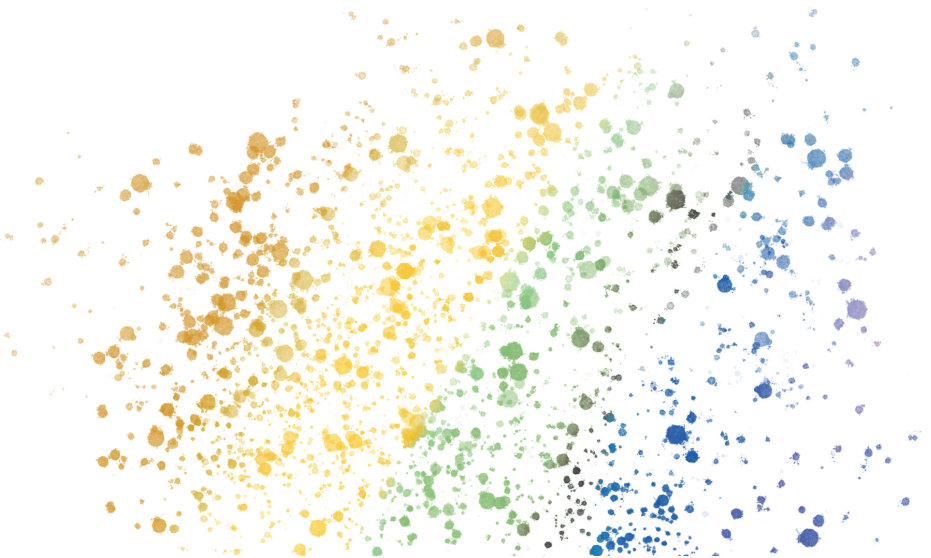
The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Sections 160.518 and 160.522) (DESE) will establish a grade-level equivalence metric for grades 3-8 to assess student knowledge and performance. This will categorize achievement into four levels: advanced, proficient, basic, and below basic. Students will receive equivalence data with their assessment scores, and this information will be publicly available while ensuring student privacy. DESE may partner with a third-party nonprofit for this development, and the data will feature in annual performance reports.

Why it matters...

Schools must share student levels. Each student's results will come with their assessment scores, and schools will share this information with families. Parents can see how their child compares to grade-level expectations. This makes it easier to know if your child is on track, needs extra support, or is excelling — and gives families clear information to use when asking for help or celebrating progress.



EQUIPPED



Parent Notification Letter – SB 681 Compliance

Date: [Insert Date]

To: [Teacher/Reading Specialist/Principal Name]

From: [Parent/Guardian Name]

Student Name: [Child's Full Name]

Grade: [Grade Level]

School: [School Name]

Subject: Request for SB 681 Reading Assessment Results &
Reading Success Plan

Dear [School Name/Principal/Teacher],

Under Missouri Senate Bill 681, parents must be informed if their child is not reading at grade level, and a Reading Success Plan must be created within 45 days of identify any substantial reading deficiency.

I am writing to formally request the following regarding my child:

- A copy of their most recent reading assessment results, including their current reading level in relation to grade-level expectations.
- Written notification if they are performing below grade level in reading.
- If a reading deficiency exists, a meeting to co-develop a Reading Success Plan that includes:
 - Details of the evidence-based structured literacy instruction to be provided.
 - Recommended home reading activities and resources to support growth.
 - A progress monitoring schedule with reporting dates.
 - Information about any summer reading instruction opportunities, if applicable.
 -

Please provide a written response within 10 school days so that we can work together to ensure compliance with Missouri law and, most importantly, to support my child in achieving grade-level reading proficiency.

Thank you for your partnership and commitment to my child's success. I look forward to collaborating with you.

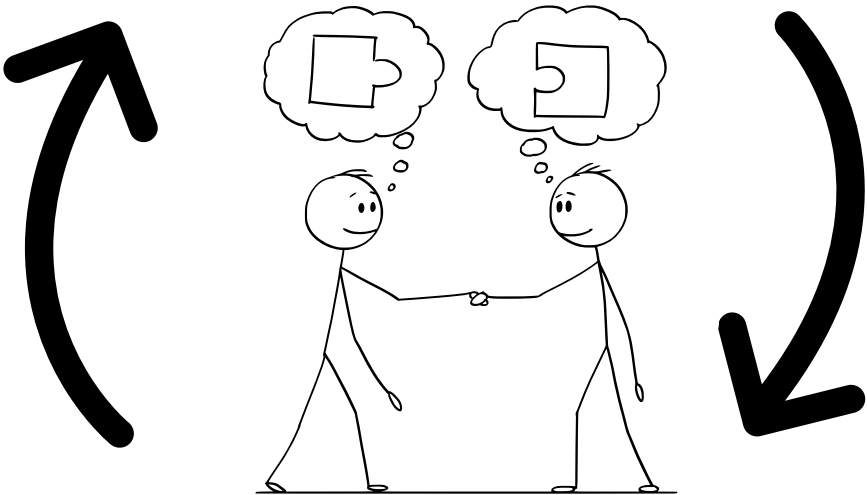
Sincerely,

Your Full Name]

[Your Phone Number]

[Your Email Address]

parent



TEACHER

“Be In the Know, So They Can Grow” – A Quick Guide to Make the Most of Your Conference

Come Equipped!

Be In the Know, So They Can Grow

Equip yourself to engage with the
teacher and ask for:

Most accurate report card

Work samples (tests, homework)

Questions or concerns

Notes from your child about school

"Know Your Level" Tracker (below)

Key Reminder:

Your child deserves to know where they are and how to grow. Be prepared to speak on your child's strengths and things you would like your child to improve on, Ask for level info, support tools, and a clear path forward. Use the tools to provided to help you sdtay on track.

Set the meeting date:

virtual in-person

Before the Conference

**Fill out this guide to help you conduct the meeting with your
child(ren) teacher**

What's going well?

Where is my child struggling?

Do I know my child's current reading/math level? Yes No



During the Conference

**Fill out this while you conduct the meeting with your
child(ren) teacher.**

What's going well?

Where is my child struggling?

What is my child's current reading/math level? Yes No



During the Conference

Fill out this while you conduct the meeting with your
child(ren) teacher.

Example Questions:

Is my child on grade level in reading, writing, and math?

What is their reading level and what's the goal for the year?

What are their strengths and growth areas?

How do they behave and participate in class?

What can I do at home to support them?



During the Conference

“Speak Up, with clarity”

Take notes :

Reading level Now : _____ Goal level by end of year : _____

Ways to Support at Home:

Focus area 1:



Focus area 2:

* Key Reminder

Your child deserves to know where they are and how to grow. Speak on your child's strengths followed by things to improve on, Ask for level info, support tools, and a clear path forward.



CONNECTED



Stay Connected!!

Example Questions:

- Is my child on grade level in reading, writing, and math?
- What is their reading level and what's the goal for the year?
- What are their strengths and growth areas?
- How do they behave and participate in class?
- What can I do at home to support them?

Focus area:

Support I can give at home:

Additional & solutions Notes :

Current Reading Level :

Goal by end of year :

Current Math level:

Goal by end of the year:



Stay Connected!!

Here are some simple, practical ways parents can stay connected at their child's school:

1. Stay in Touch With Teachers

- Check your child's folder, planner, or school app daily.
- Email or text teachers with questions instead of waiting for big issues.
- Schedule short check-ins if needed.

2. Show Up for School Events

- Attend parent-teacher conferences, back-to-school nights, and open houses.
- Participate in family nights, literacy nights, and school plays or sports games.

3. Volunteer (Big or Small)

- Help in the classroom, library, or during field trips.
- Offer skills—like reading to students, organizing supplies, or serving at events.

4. Join Parent Groups

- Get involved with the PTA/PTO or parent advisory committees.
- Be part of school surveys or focus groups to share your voice.

5. Stay Informed

- Read school newsletters, flyers, and emails.
- Follow the school's social media pages.
- Download and use the school's communication apps (like ClassDojo, Seesaw, or Remind).

6. Support at Home

- Ask your child about their day using open-ended questions ("What was the best part of your day?").
- Review homework and progress reports together.
- Encourage your child to advocate for themselves when they need help.

Know Your Level Tracker



Student Name : _____

School name : _____

<u>Month</u>	<u>Current Grade</u>	<u>Grade level goal</u>	<u>Teacher-Parent notes</u>
	<u>Level</u>		
AUGUST			
SEPTEMBER			
OCTOBER			
NOVEMBER			
DECEMBER			
JANUARY			
FEBURARY			
MARCH			
APRIL			
MAY			
JUNE			
SUMMER			



EMPOWERED

Stay Engaged!

Be In the Know, So They Can Grow” – A Quick Guide to Make the Most of Your Conference

AT SCHOOL

- Per Senate Bill 681 - If child is 2 or more years behind, Request a reading success plan from your child's school to address specific needs.
- Volunteer at the school to gain insights into your child's learning environment and show involvement
- Maintain regular communication with your child's teacher, scheduling at least three check-ins per year.

AT HOME

- Balance home activities to reinforce learning without overwhelming your child.
- Set achievable goals with your child to foster ownership and motivation.
- Track progress throughout the year to celebrate milestones and identify areas needing attention.
- Identify a tutoring program for challenging subjects to provide specialized support.

Why this matters: The CDC also highlights that parent engagement leads to higher grades, better behavior, and stronger social skills (CDC Parent Engagement in Schools, 2023)

Know Your Level

Parent Report Card Guide

3 Key Questions for Every Report Card

- ✓ Is my child reading and doing math at grade level?
- ✓ If not, how far behind are they?
- ✓ What supports are in place at school, and what can we do at home?
- ✓ When will I get an update on their progress?

How to Read a Report Card

Grades/Levels:

A–F, 1–4, or terms like Meets / Approaches / Needs Support show how your child is performing.

Teacher Comments:

Look for notes on strengths and areas for growth.

Attendance: Missing school means missing valuable learning.

👉 **Ask the teacher:** “What does this grade indicate about my child’s level?”

Parent Rights (Missouri SB 681)

- 📌 You have the right to know your child’s reading level.
- 📌 Schools must provide a support plan if your child is falling behind.
- 📌 You can request progress updates and additional help.

Reflection (Fill In)

- 📌 My child’s strongest subject: _____
- 📌 Biggest challenge: _____
- 📌 Steps I will take this quarter: _____

🌟 **Remember:** Report cards are not the end — they mark the beginning of a plan. With dedication and advocacy, you can help your child succeed.

30-DAY READING TRACKER

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Current Reading Level: _____

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5
Read together 15 mins	Word work 10 mins	Independent reading 15 mins	Read anywhere you like 10 mins	Night-time reading 5 mins
DAY 6	DAY 7	DAY 8	DAY 9	DAY 10
Read book aloud to friend or family member	Read a newspaper article	Read about your favorite animal or place	Read a comic book or graphic novel	Write down 3 new words you learned while reading.
DAY 11	DAY 12	DAY 13	DAY 14	DAY 15
Read something funny	Find a Quiet Spot and Read	Clap out the syllables in 5 words from your book.	Look for prefixes and suffixes in today's reading.	Read a decodable book; highlight all short "a" words.
DAY 16	DAY 17	DAY 18	DAY 19	DAY 20
Sort words vowel sounds (short a vs. short e)	Practice reading a list of sight/high- frequency words.	Time yourself reading a short passage, then try again faster and smoother.	Practice pausing at commas and stopping at periods	Record your child reading, then listen back together
DAY 21	DAY 22	DAY 23	DAY 24	DAY 25
15-Read . Stop mid-story "What do you think will happen next?"	Find and highlight figurative language (simile, metaphor, idiom).	15 mins read Write 3 "quiz questions" about what you just read	15 mins read Summarize a chapter in 3 sentences or less	15 mins read look up words you have read.
DAY 26	DAY 27	DAY 28	DAY 29	DAY 30
Read a poem with rhythm and expression.	15 mins read Act out a scene from your book with voices.	15 mins Read	Pick your favorite book and explain why	30 min read Pass it on : Give a good book to a friend to read

Know Your Level

Tip: Hang this tracker on your fridge. Celebrate small wins - motivation encourages progress

Science of reading tips at home



Strengthen Phonics Skills

- Letter-Sound Connections: Focus on one letter sound per day.
- Use magnetic letters or flashcards to build simple words.
- Practice blending sounds: c-a-t → cat.



Build Phonemic Awareness

- Play “I Spy” with sounds: “I spy something that starts with /b/.”
- Clap out syllables in words: ba-na-na → 3 claps.
- Practice rhyming words: cat → hat → mat.



Encourage Reading Fluency

- Read aloud together daily for 10–15 minutes.
- Choral reading: read together in unison.
- Reread favorite books to build confidence and speed.



Boost Vocabulary

- Introduce new words daily during reading or conversation.
- Talk about word meanings: “The word enormous means really, really big.”
- Label items around the house (e.g., door, fridge, lamp).



Daily Routine

- Short, consistent reading times are more effective than long sessions.
- Celebrate progress with stickers, high-fives, or verbal praise.
- Integrate reading into everyday activities: recipes, signs, or labels.





Parent Action Card



Understanding your child's reading progress is important. Here's how:

Check Reading Level: Ask the teacher for your child's reading level and how it compares to their grade. Get the latest reading assessment results.

Reading Success Plan: If your child isn't on grade level, the school must create a plan within 45 days. This plan should have structured literacy instruction and home activities.

Extra Support: Inquire about tutoring, reading groups, or summer programs to help your child's reading skills.

Tip: Keep all letters, emails, and reports in one folder—documentation matters.



Know Your Level

Be In The Know Series

3rd Thursdays

6:00pm-7:15pm

"Clarity and confidence in every report card"

www.KnowYourLevel.org

Bridge2Hope

A champion for all children & families.

ST. LOUIS






facebook










RESOURCES






 St. Louis Parent Resource List
 Education & Child Development
Parents as Teachers – St. Louis Public Schools
Home-based early childhood education and developmental screenings.
 801 N. 11th St, St. Louis, MO 63101
 (314) 231-3720
 www.slps.org/pat



St. Louis Public Library
Free storytimes, learning kits, homework help, computer access.
 Multiple locations
 www.slpl.org

Youth In Need Early Head Start & Head Start
Free preschool and family support services.
 (636) 946-0101
 www.youthinneed.org

Urban Sprouts Child Development Center
Quality childcare with a trauma-informed lens.
 2812 N. Norwood Dr., St. Louis, MO 63136
 (314) 395-9230
 www.urbansprouts.org

 Health & Wellness
St. Louis Children's Hospital
Pediatric care, therapy, parenting resources.
 (314) 454-KIDS (5437)
 www.stlouischildrens.org


Behavioral Health Response (BHR)
24/7 crisis support for parents, youth, and families.
 (314) 469-6644 or 1-800-811-4760
 www.bhrstl.org


St. Louis County Department of Public Health
Immunizations, WIC, parenting support.
 Locations in Berkeley, Sunset Hills, North County
 www.stlouiscountymo.gov

 Housing, Shelter & Utilities

St. Patrick Center


Housing assistance, case management for families.

 800 N. Tucker Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63101

 (314) 802-0700

 www.stpatrickcenter.org


The Housing Helpline – Coordinated Entry
Helps families at risk of homelessness.

 (314) 802-5444

 www.stlouisarearesourcehub.org

Heat-Up St. Louis

Utility assistance for low-income families.


 (314) 241-7668

 www.heatupstlouis.org

 Food Assistance

Operation Food Search

Food pantries, mobile markets, meal programs.


 (314) 726-5355

 www.operationfoodsearch.org

St. Louis Area Diaper Bank

Free diapers and period supplies through community
partners.

 6141 Etzel Ave, St. Louis, MO 63133


 (314) 624-0888


 www.stldiaperbank.org

 **Legal & Advocacy Support**

Legal Services of Eastern Missouri

Free legal help for custody, housing, domestic issues.

 **701 Market St., Suite 1100, St. Louis, MO 63101**


 **(314) 534-4200**

 **www.lsem.org**

ArchCity Defenders

Holistic legal support for justice-involved families.

 **440 N. 4th St., Suite 390, St. Louis, MO 63102**

 **(855) 724-2489**


 **www.archcitydefenders.org**

 **Jobs & Parent Training**

MERS Goodwill – Family Strengthening Program

Job training, parenting support, housing referrals.

 **Multiple locations**


 **(314) 241-3464**

 **www.mersgoodwill.org**

Fathers' Support Center

Parenting programs, job readiness, child support mediation.

 **1601 Olive Street, St. Louis, MO 63103**

 **(314) 333-4170**

 **www.fatherssupportcenter.org**



Emergency & Crisis Resources

United Way 2-1-1

***Call 2-1-1 to get connected to any local
service.***



2-1-1 or 1-800-427-4626



www.211helps.org

Safe Connections

Support for domestic violence survivors.



24/7 Crisis Line: (314) 531-2003



www.safeconnections.org




**St. Louis City & County School Resources for
Parents**



Enrollment & School Choice

**St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS) – City
District-wide K-12 education, early childhood, and
magnet school programs.**


 **801 N. 11th St, St. Louis, MO 63101**

 **(314) 231-3720**

 **www.slps.org**

**Special School District (SSD) – County
Special education services & career/technical
education for all St. Louis County districts.**

 **12110 Clayton Rd, Town and Country, MO 63131**

 **(314) 989-8100**

 **www.ssdmo.org**

**St. Louis City Charter School Collaborative
Information about public charter school options in the
city.**

 **www.stlcitycharterschools.org**

**St. Louis County Public School Districts
For districts like Normandy, Jennings, Ritenour,
Hazelwood, Ferguson-Florissant, Parkway, Ladue, etc.**

 **Find your district here:**

<https://www.stlouiscountymmo.gov>



Academic Support & Tutoring

**St. Louis Public Library – Literacy & Homework
Help**

**Free homework help, digital literacy, and
tutoring.**



www.slpl.org

Ready Readers

**Literacy programs for preschool-aged children
in low-income communities.**

 (314) 564-8070



www.readyreaders.org

The Literacy Lab – Leading Men Fellowship

**Early literacy support for preschool and K-3
students in STL public schools.**



www.theliteracylab.org

Blueprint4SummerSTL

**Searchable summer learning & enrichment
opportunities for K–12.**




www.blueprint4.com



Afterschool & Youth Programs

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis


After-school programs, academic enrichment, and family supports.

 **(314) 335-8000**

 **www.bgcstl.org**

Gene Slay's Girls & Boys Club (Soulard)

Homework help, meals, and enrichment for city youth.

 **(314) 772-5661**

 **www.gsgbc.org**

Girls Inc. of St. Louis

Programming for girls ages 5-18: STEM, leadership, and tutoring.

 **3801 Nelson Dr, St. Louis, MO 63121**


 **www.girlsincstl.org**



Special Education & Disability Support

Family Support & Resource Center (SSD)


Helps families navigate IEPs, evaluations, and accommodations.

 **(314) 989-8460**

 **www.ssdmo.org/fsrc**

Missouri Parents ACT (MPACT)


Statewide advocacy group for special education rights and parent support.

 **1-800-743-7634**

 **www.missouriparentsact.org**

Easterseals Midwest – Autism & Developmental Services

Parent training, support coordination, and school partnerships.

 **(314) 394-7100**


 **www.easterseals.com/midwest**

 **Parent Leadership & Advocacy**
Bridge 2 Hope – Parent Institute (City & County)
Coaching, workshops, and advocacy support
for parents navigating schools.

 **ebony@stlbridge2hope.org**

 **Coming soon: www.stlbridge2hope.org**

Parents for Public Schools – St. Louis
Equipping parents to be leaders in their
schools and communities.

 **(314) 345-2345**

 **www.ppsstl.org**


HomeWorks! The Teacher Home Visit Program
Connects teachers and families for better
student outcomes.

 **Serves SLPS and select charter/county**
districts.

 **www.teacherhomevisit.org**

 **Transportation, Attendance, and Student**
Rights

SLPS Transportation Office

 **(314) 389-2202**

 **www.slps.org/transportation**

Missouri Department of Elementary and
Secondary Education (DESE)
Information on student rights, attendance, and
homeschooling.

 **www.dese.mo.gov**

STAY READY BE POWERFUL

ACTIVATE!



www.knowyourlevel.org