



MARE Focus

APRIL 22, 2025

FROM THE DESK OF MR. KEVIN SANDLIN, MARE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ENDORSEMENTS

American Fidelity Assurance Co.

Claim Care, Inc.

Forrest T. Jones & Co.

Hamlin Energy

IMS Technology

L.J. Hart & Company

MASA MTS

MEUHP

Mike Keith Insurance

MO. Consult. For Ed.

MOCAAT

M.U.S.I.C.

SOCS

Veregy (CTS)

MARE PARTNERSHIPS

- LEGAL HOTLINE: ED COUNSEL, GUIN MUNDORF, MICKES O'TOOLE, TUETH KEENEY
- EDPLUS
- AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE
- GIRLS STATE

MISSOURI ADMIN. JOB POSTING

Superintendent Search Program – MARE has facilitated sixteen (16) Superintendent Searches this year. Noted below are the various searches and the selected Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent for 2025-2026.

Closed Searches – Maysville R-I (Christopher Hodge), Northeast Nodaway Co. R-V (Chaim Jenkins, Asst. Supt. for 25-26), Franklin Co. R-II (Erica Freitag), Osage Co. R-III (John Kitchens), Putnam Co. R-I (Jonnie Beavers), Lakeland R-III (Dr. Deanna Jurkowski), Green Ridge R-VIII (Jonathan Peterson), Sullivan (Matthew Peregoy), Orrick R-XI (Chris Russo), Jamestown C-1 (Amber Bouse), Bucklin R-II (Michael Kahn), Lonedell R-XIV (Dr. Monica Hiatt), Eminence R-I (Stephanie Barbagiovanni), Spring Bluff R-XV (Tina Wnuk), Fair Play R-II (Buck Shockley) & Iberia R-V (Amanda Mace).

Please join me in welcoming these new leaders to the leadership family!

Rural School Burglaries – Tips & Information – Some of our rural schools around the state have experienced recent burglaries. Here is some information shared by one of the district leaders.

Insurance has stated they are targeting small rural schools that are far from police or sheriff presence. The MO varies but they are looking for cash and not items it seems.

Recommendations

Whether doors and windows are locked or not, they are going to get in. They are using crowbars to bust glass and access buildings.

All cash should not be kept in files, drawers, cabinets or rooms. Cash money needs to be deposited daily to not reward their efforts.

Keys should be kept on persons and not in drawers, desks or hanging on the walls. Once they get a key, it becomes easier. No key means they just bust the glass to get in but may slow them down.

Even if you don't have a security system, some cameras can be set to report motion detection. MO is they enter late Saturday or Friday night and work through the building.

They are familiar enough with schools to search offices. Secretary, principals, superintendents and bookkeepers. They are spraying cameras to cover the lens. Consider a camera not ceiling mounted or discreetly located.

If you have a vault to keep gate boxes in, that is great but if not, those boxes, even if they lock, they are not stopping them. They pried a key lock box off the wall, used pry bars to break it open and did not take any keys just looking for money.

They wore masks, gloves and used flashlights and spray paint to cover cameras. Ours parked far away and walked through a field and wooded area to get to school. No vehicle present.

They tried to get through a window and didn't get through so they just found another way in.

2025 MARE/EdCounsel HS Senior Scholarships – MARE is pleased to announce and recognize the following scholarship award recipients. Scholarship recipients must be graduating seniors from MARE member school districts and have plans to become teachers. Special thanks to our partners, EdCounsel, LLC!

2025 MARE/EdCounsel HS Senior Scholarship Recipients

<u>Student</u>	<u>District</u>
Clara Akers	Bucklin R-II
Kalli Barnett	Marceline R-V
Zoe Bentley	Chaffee R-II
Afomiya Bess	Marion C. Early R-V
Brock Boatwright	Fair Grove R-X
Sadie Burtch	Chillicothe R-II
Kenzi Cheek	Hickory Co. R-I
Matthew Cook	Lincoln R-II
Addison Cotton	Southwest R-V
Ashley Daly	West County R-IV
Breahna Dennison	Gideon #37
Luke Dierker	St. Clair R-XIII
Kacie Edwards	School of the Osage
Riley Essenpries	Adrian R-III
Hailey Golian	Ralls Co. R-II
Ryah Hardin	Crane R-III
Elizabeth Havens	Summersville R-II
Sienna Heckemeyer	St. Elizabeth R-IV
Kylie Ingram	Oran R-III
Lyndsey King	Gallatin R-V
Cailyn Kite	Reeds Spring Schools
Brylee Martin	Polo R-VII
Emily McCammon	Adrian R-III
Trevor Miller	Clearwater R-I
Shalynn Norris	Glasgow
Gavin Painter	Brunswick R-II
Brody Pratt	Hickory Co. R-I
Jalea Price	Maryville R-II
Ava Rakers	Montgomery Co. R-II
Kenzie Reynolds	Chillicothe R-II
Kendall Rhorer	Pilot Grove C-4
Garrison Richards	Hale R-I
Ashlyn Russell	Cole Camp R-I
Owen Schellman	Blair Oaks R-II
Madilynn Schubert	Mt. Vernon R-V
Natalie Shively	Monroe City R-I
Evan Simmons	Scott City R-I
Maleena Sims	Brunswick R-II
Grace Smith	Odessa R-VII
Lauren Tucker	Clinton
Reese Wells	Fair Grove R-X
Dalton Wheeler	Osborn R-O
Reeve Woodall	Van Far R-I

MARE Scholarship Information – MARE will award a total of 65 (up from 61 last year) scholarships this year including 22 - \$1,000.00 scholarships to college juniors/seniors & 43 - \$750.00 scholarships to graduating seniors from MARE member school districts = **Total of \$54,250.00 (up from \$51,500 last year)**. Since 2017, MARE has awarded \$316,250.00 in scholarships to students interested in becoming teachers! (**Articles on website soon!**)

Elevate Conference Dates

Re: Elevate your impact at the **E**levate Conference - now at two locations!

Get ready to be inspired! EducationPlus is hosting the **Elevate Conference in both St. Louis and Kansas City this year!** **E**levate St. Louis will be June 3 & 4 at Ft. Zumwalt West High School and **E**levate Kansas City will be held on Thursday, June 5 at the Kauffman Foundation Conference Center.

Experience dynamic keynote speakers, innovative breakout sessions and networking opportunities that will ignite new ideas and elevate your impact in the classroom. Learn best practices and gain new strategies for creating inclusive and effective learning environments. Learn more about St. Louis on the [Elevate St. Louis conference website](#) and Kansas City on it's [conference website](#).

This conference is for leaders, EL educators and content teachers who have EL students within their classroom. All can gain valuable learning experiences and practical strategies that can be applied to the classroom and their school communities. Attached are flyers with additional information for both conferences.

Don't miss this chance to collaborate, learn and grow with fellow educators. Reserve your spot today for [Elevate St. Louis](#) or [Elevate Kansas City](#).

Christine McDonald, o: 314.692.1233 | c: 314.443.6990

Wastewater Testing Initiative in Missouri High Schools – Opportunity to Engage!

Subject: Wastewater Testing Initiative in Missouri High Schools

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) is launching a statewide initiative involving wastewater testing for opioids including fentanyl in Missouri high schools. Your school is invited to participate in this important program aimed at assessing the feasibility of a statewide initiative for opioid testing. Please refer to the attached fact sheet for additional details.

If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please reach out directly to Blake Clark at Mighty Good Solutions (MGS) via email: blake@mightygoodsolutions.com.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to student health and community well-being.

For more information on this initiative, please access the link below.

[..\Opioid Testing Fact Sheet.pdf](#)

Open Enrollment (HB 711) – HB 711 was voted out of the Senate Education Committee on Wednesday, April 16th. Three main changes were made – 1) Charter schools can now participate. 2) The cap was raised from 3% to 5% of kids that can leave. 3) Transportation requirement was removed. Our team in Jeff City has been told that this bill will be brought to the Senate floor for debate on Tuesday, April 22nd when the Senate reconvenes from the Easter break. We still have opportunities to defeat this damaging legislation. Do not get discouraged and give up the fight! **(At present, 256 school districts touching 453,781 student lives have passed opposition resolutions.) (New talking points were emailed out recently to MARE members!)**

MARE Board Training Calendar for 2025

MARE Board Training Dates – 2025

Southeast Missouri - Poplar Bluff, MO – Holiday Inn – (573) 712-9021

- Friday, May 30, 2025 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, May 31, 2025 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Northeast Missouri - Kirksville, MO - Holiday Inn Express (660) 956-4682

- Friday, June 13, 2025 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 14, 2025 (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

Southwest Missouri - Bolivar, MO - Comfort Inn - (417) 326-6169

- Friday, June 20, 2025 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 21, 2025 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

West Central Missouri - Warrensburg, MO – Quality Inn - (660) 747-3000

- Friday, June 27, 2025 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 28, 2025 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Northwest Missouri - Maryville, MO - Holiday Inn Express (660) 562-9949

- Friday, July 11, 2025 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, July 12, 2025 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Lake Ozark, MO – The Lodge of the Four Seasons (Conference)

- Wednesday, October 22, 2025 (11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- Thursday, October 23, 2025 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Lake Ozark, MO - The Lodge of the Four Seasons

- Friday, December 5, 2025 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, December 6, 2025 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

***** Please share this information with any new Board member who has not completed the 18.5 hours of required training! MARE is an approved Board Training provider!**

To register, please complete the form found on our website and fax to (660) 747-8160, scan and email to ksandlin@moare.com, or go online (www.moare.com) and complete the electronic form found under Board Training.

Save the Date – The 15th Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, July 21st at Osage National Golf Course in Lake Ozark, Missouri. We will accept the first 36 paid teams for this growing event. Last year's event raised over \$35,900.00 for scholarships for students interested in teaching in rural Missouri schools. [Plan now to join us!](#)

Quote of the Week – Benjamin Franklin

"The only thing more expensive than education is ignorance."

MOCAAT – What Can You Do for Me?

The MOCAAT® Advantage:
Missouri's Trusted Financial Management Resource for School Districts.

Our experienced team, with broad expertise in Missouri school budgeting, finance, and investments, thoroughly manages over \$3 billion in assets for over 240 Missouri Participants, including school districts (as of September 30, 2024).

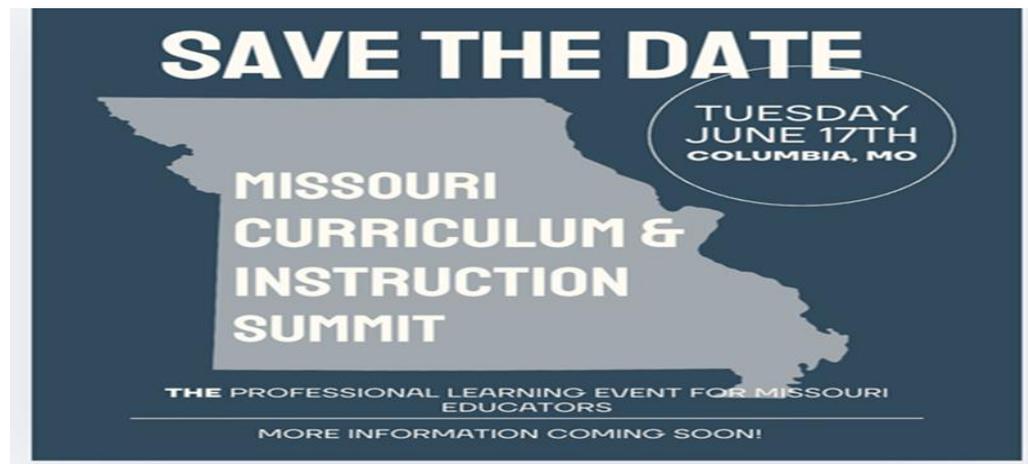
Since inception in 2020, MOCAAT has provided a new level of service and performance to Missouri communities.
Our philosophy – Partnership.

Maximize the potential of your reserve funds, tax revenues, state revenues, and bond proceeds with our professional guidance.

For financial support tailored to your district's unique needs, contact us:

 John Jungmann Vice-President Investment Services (417) 228-4148 jjungmann@pmanetwork.com	 Jason Hoffman Vice-President Investment Services (573) 212-6258 jhoffman@pmanetwork.com	 Paul Ziegler Coordinator, Sales & Relationship Manager (417) 387-6005 pziegler@pmanetwork.com
---	--	--

STEPUp Missouri Curriculum & Instruction Summit



SAVE THE DATE

MISSOURI CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION SUMMIT

TUESDAY JUNE 17TH COLUMBIA, MO

THE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING EVENT FOR MISSOURI EDUCATORS

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!

I wanted to reach out because we believe members of MARE would greatly benefit from attending the **Missouri Curriculum & Instruction Summit**, happening on June 17, 2025 in Columbia, MO.

This event is designed to support Missouri's instructional leaders with innovative learning opportunities. Right now, **Early Bird registration is open**, and we'd love your help in spreading the word to rural educators who could take advantage of this opportunity.

You can find more information and register here: <https://sites.google.com/stepupconsultingservices.com/mocis/home>

Valorie Montgomery, Senior Director of Marketing & Operation

Boys State & Girls State 2025 – MARE will be sponsoring two young men and two young women to attend their respective State gatherings this year. We are proud to be a part of these amazing programs and opportunities for our students. More to follow in an upcoming MARE Focus!

Save the Date – The 2025 MARE/MO K-8 Conference will be held on October 22-24, 2025 at the Lodge of Four Seasons. Plans are underway to make this our biggest and best ever. Please block this on your calendar now and make plans to join us! I promise you will have a great time and learn a lot! More information will be posted on the website and appear in an upcoming MARE Focus. Our goal this year is 325 in attendance!

Missouri Arts Council Professional Development

As the arts education program specialist for Missouri Arts Council [MAC], I have been developing a new program of arts-centered schools called A+ Schools Missouri—it's part of a national consortium called A+ Schools Network. This model is focused on whole-school arts integration and transformation. MAC will provide the funding and personnel to train Missouri schools that meet the requirements through an application process.

Briefly, this is ongoing and intense professional development that builds competencies in 8 areas (the A+ Essentials): arts, infrastructure, curriculum, climate, collaboration, multiple learning pathways, experiential learning, and enriched assessment. The result [over 30 years in established network states] is higher levels of engagement, achievement, and overall satisfaction of both learners and teachers.

I have information sessions this spring: Wednesday, April 23, at 4 PM, and Thursday, April 24, at 8:30 AM. Please share this registration link with school leaders in your region:

[A+ Schools Information Meeting](#)

And please reach out with any questions/forward this email to interested or curious folks in your sphere.

Thank you so much.

Jenni Ryan (she/her/hers)

Arts Education Program Specialist

Missouri Arts Council

815 Olive Street, Suite 16

St. Louis MO 63101

314.340.6857

jenni.ryan@ltgov.mo.gov

Tobacco-Free School Policy Survey

Need Help with Student Vaping or Tobacco Use? Speak Up for Your Schools!

More youth are vaping than ever before! Speak up about your schools' needs and challenges with student vaping and tobacco use by completing the highly recommended Tobacco-Free School Policy Survey! The results will inform the creation of resources to better support schools statewide. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Tobacco Prevention and Control Program (TPCP) and Missouri State University (MSU) Ozarks Public Health Institute (OPHI) created the voluntary survey to identify the needs of schools in implementing tobacco-free policies and addressing student tobacco use. MSU OPHI emailed the confidential survey to superintendents. It can also be completed by clicking [this survey link](#) or scanning the QR code below. Please have the person who can most easily answer the questions complete the survey. If you have any questions, contact DHSS TPCP at motobaccoprogram@health.mo.gov or 573-522-2820. Thank you for taking the time to complete this crucial survey for the health of Missouri's students and schools!

Welcome Moberly School District – MARE is thrilled to welcome Moberly back as a school district member! With Moberly in the fold, our membership stands at 424.

MARE Organization Staff

Kevin F. Sandlin -- Cell Phone: (660) 351-0596 -- Email: ksandlin@moare.com

Executive Director

Jerry L Cochran, EdD. -- Cell Phone: (660) 596-3184 -- Email: jcochran@moare.com

Assistant Executive Director

Ray V. Patrick, EdD. – Cell Phone: (660) 909 – 5118 – Email: rpatrick@moare.com

Associate Director

Missouri Association of Rural Education

710 N College, Suite C

Warrensburg, Missouri 64093

(660) 747-8050

Fax: (660) 747-8160

Website: www.moare.com

If you are the intended recipient but do not wish to receive communication through this medium, please notify the sender immediately.