



MARE Focus

APRIL 1, 2020

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

ENDORSEMENTS

American Fidelity Assurance Co.

Benefits 360 LLC

Claim Care, Inc.

CTS Group

Forrest T. Jones & Co.

IMS

L.J. Hart & Company

MASA MTS

MEUHP

Mike Keith Insurance

M.U.S.I.C.

MO. Consultants for Ed.

Pro Solutions, LLC

SOCS

MARE PARTNERSHIPS

- LEGAL HOTLINE: ED COUNSEL, GUIN MUNDORF, MICKES O'TOOLE, TUETH KEENEY
- EDPLUS
- AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE
- MISSOURI ADMIN. JOB POSTING

Troubling & Uncertain Times - Never in my wildest dreams would I have imagined what has happened with the COVID 19 virus. These are certainly very troubling and uncertain times for everyone, but especially for educators and education in general. I want to thank all of you in the field who are working so diligently to provide meaningful learning, meals, support and encouragement to your students while the nation works through this crisis. It is so uplifting to me to hear stories of the many great things that are going on for kids even though schools are not in session!

Many of you may be struggling with various issues related to virtual or distance learning, access to resources and getting information on who to contact for assistance. I would encourage all of you to check out the information provided in this MARE Focus from some of our Associate Members who provide needed services, programs and opportunities along these lines. Please reach out to these good people and see how their organizations may be of assistance to you as you continue to deal with the impact of COVID 19.

Thank you again for all that you are doing for your students. Working collectively together for the good of all students, we will get through this! Best wishes to all of you!

MARE Welcomes BetterLesson as a New Associate Member

BetterLesson is excited to join MARE as the newest associate member! We look forward to serving this community as a resource and thought partner in your work to prepare students for success in a rapidly changing world -- especially during these unprecedented times.

The spread of COVID-19 across the United States has dramatically changed the education landscape, and we understand the urgency educators are feeling to prepare for the weeks to come. In a matter of days, districts across the state of Missouri were forced to pivot from in-person to remote instruction with minimal guidance and few resources. With most initiatives focused on more populated urban centers, many rural leaders have had to go it alone.

It is now more important than ever to ensure your team has the right resources and skills to ensure students continue to receive a high-quality education, regardless of their location. We want to come alongside the work you're already doing and help you make the rapid shift to distance learning. We've created [a free resource guide](#) to help you get started and are providing collaborative, [virtual learning sessions for leaders and teachers beginning the week of April 6](#). If you're looking for a more personalized approach, our Solution Designers are available for a **complimentary consultation to help build and refine your distance learning plan**. We are prepared to help you take your professional learning online with [1:1 coaching](#) and [virtual learning series](#) specifically designed to address the new digital reality.

If you're looking for additional resources or have questions about how we can serve the unique needs of your community, please reach out to Mike Bauer, mike.bauer@betterlesson.com. If you're already thinking past the immediate need, look into our other [professional learning services](#) that can address your most [pressing instructional needs](#).

Please contact:
Mike Bauer - Director of Partnerships
mike.bauer@betterlesson.com
918.497.9864

Free PD and Remote Learning Resources for Educators

Administrators, if you're looking for professional development on how to incorporate remote learning with your teachers, [EVERFI](#) is hosting a webinar on Tuesday April 7th at 2:30 CT. It will be led by a Principal in Missouri who will talk about their remote learning strategies and discuss a number of **free** digital resources covering topics like early literacy, STEM, college and career readiness, and social-emotional learning that align with standards and have self-graded assessments built in. If you want to sign up click [here](#). You can also contact Ben Gwynne - bgwynne@everfi.com - 314.384.6931 if you want more information. EVERFI's resources are *always* free and so is their training and support.

MARE Welcomes SlateXP as New Associate Member

Greetings to you all! SlateXP is proud to be a new associate member of MARE and committed to becoming a valuable partner. Our expertise is in school computer monitoring for student safety and it's something we have been doing successfully for large and small school districts in several states. Most districts don't realize the Children's Internet Protection Act requires monitoring of student use of school computers nor that monitoring is different from blocking inappropriate websites. Blocking is a function of all content filters. Monitoring allows school leaders to seek and understand if computer users are behaving appropriately per your Acceptable Use Policy. Without the right technology monitoring is a difficult task. SlateXP, Inc. has designed [LearnSafe](#) to provide valuable student computer supervision services that content filters weren't meant to perform. Administrators want to know if student's are by-passing your filter to access inappropriate content, planning to harm themselves or others, using online applications inappropriately, using off-line applications inappropriately and bringing unacceptable files in on USB drives.

About [LearnSafe](#):

[LearnSafe](#) is a screen monitoring solution trained to detect when students exhibit inappropriate or harmful behavior on school computers. Unlike a content filter, LearnSafe supervises and reports when inappropriate activity occurs from any online or offline application whether on-campus or off-campus. School leaders are furnished with easy, non-technical behavior reports to more accurately intercede and address critical behavioral issues in a timely manner. LearnSafe's reporting accuracy and detail gives you the ability to help vulnerable students and promote a climate that encourages student achievement.

LearnSafe for MARE Member Districts Only:

1. **THIS IS BIG.** Well it is for us! Our pricing is traditionally based on the quantity of computers of an individual district; however MARE members that implement LearnSafe will be able to take advantage of pricing based on a MARE aggregate computer quantity. **Look for more information to come.**
2. **PILOT OPPORTUNITY** –Between now and the end of the school year, MARE members can pilot the full solution of LearnSafe at **no cost** to the district for 2 weeks.

- It's Easy: Launching the pilot only requires 1 hour from a network administrator to deploy on Windows, Mac and/or Chromebooks. Further, there is no interruption to the normal school day or computer itself as LearnSafe runs quietly in the background.

- The Right Time: There's no bad time for a LearnSafe pilot, but perhaps the decision your school district makes in preparation for **COVID-19** involves school computers going home. If so, LearnSafe can provide a CIPA compliant monitoring solution for owned computers that helps you during this time. If that's not your scenario, LearnSafe was designed to work wherever ever a school computer is in use and complies with web-based testing rules.

Have your technology coordinator contact with any questions to get your Pilot activated.

For more information:



Kevin Hendrix
EVP & Co-founder
SlateXP, Inc

Office: [\(205\) 259-2689](tel:2052592689) | Mobile: [\(205\) 223-7370](tel:2052237370)

Email: khendrix@slatexp.com

Visit: www.LearnSafe.com

REMINDER OF YOUR LEARNING BLADE ACCOUNT

Learning Blade can be a resource for your students to keep learning STEM content remotely from home during school closures. There are over 400 online STEM lessons in Learning Blade aligned to standards in mathematics, science, English and social studies all that focus on STEM careers and technologies.

Students can log in from home on a tablet, notebook, Chromebook or computer. (Sorry, not phones.) To get your school's account the Learning Blade - email info@learningblade.com or fill out the form at www.learningblade.com/MO

DID YOU KNOW?

Learning Blade can be used for students both with and without internet access.

Our online lessons are already being used in many states to review STEM and academics and we are providing some FREE lesson plans that can be printed for at home use at www.LearningBlade.com/remote

Teachers: For more information contact us at info@learningblade.com

7th grade teacher in Tennessee stated:

"It is a lifesaver! The Learning Blade lessons support all the content areas while promoting STEM thinking. Plus, the kids seem to like them... the lessons and the working from home aspects of this are working perfectly."

Four Areas of Focus for Successful Virtual Learning

It goes without saying, COVID-19 has thrown a new challenge at schools, parents, and students. The big question on everyone's mind is, *Can we virtually educate in an effective, efficient, and secure manner?*

The answer is YES! However, there are four essential areas your district will need to consider:

- **Remote IT Support** – With all users going remote, the district must be able to handle an influx of remote IT issues. This new dynamic can overload the IT staff as they struggle to adapt quickly to trouble shooting, diagnosing, and repairing issues remotely. Managed Technology Services companies, such as [K12itc](#), can help. K12itc provides remote IT support to more than 80,000 users across the United States.
- **Connections at Home** – Secure connectivity at home is crucial for remote teaching and learning. K12itc offers several solutions to assist including, [teleworker devices](#), VPN connectivity, and remote application hosting to ensure users are connected to the files and applications they need.
- **Cybersecurity** – With students and staff remote, there are now thousands of uncontrolled environments. School districts need to make sure that the proper web filtering, email security, and anti-virus are in place. It is important for your district to enlist a trusted partner, such as [K12itc](#), to ensure a secure network at school and at home.
- **Deploying Video Conferencing** – Districts will need to tap into video conferencing to help staff and even students connect remotely. [Cisco Webex](#), the leading enterprise solution for video conferencing, online meetings, and screen sharing, is offering free accounts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Contact [K12itc](#) to set up your district account.

In order to implement a successful virtual learning environment, districts must utilize secure and reliable technology. For more information, please visit: [k12itc.com](#)

MARE Superintendent Searches - One of the many services that MARE provides is a quality, yet affordable Superintendent Search Program. If you are retiring this year or making plans to move, we would welcome the opportunity to work with your district to find the next leader. Contact Kevin Sandlin, MARE Executive Director, at (660) 747-8050 or ksandlin@moare.com for more information.

Other Vacancies Posted

Scott Co. R-IV Elementary Principal - Contact Dr. Kevin Cogdill for more information on this opportunity - kevin.cogdill@kellyhawks.org or (573) 545-3541.

Mexico 59 - Elementary Principal - The application is found on their website at www.mexicoschools.net

*If you are a MARE member school district and have an administrative vacancy to post, please provide the information on your vacancy and I will gladly post this on our website and in upcoming MARE Focus articles.

MARE Board Training Program Update - Please note the scheduled training opportunities below:

West Central Missouri - Warrensburg, MO - Comfort Inn - (660) 429-4848

- Friday, June 5, 2020 - (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 6, 2020 - (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Northeast Missouri - Sturgeon R-V School District - (573) 687-3515

- Friday, June 5, 2020 - (3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 6, 2020 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Northeast Missouri - Clark Co. R-I School District - (660) 727-2377

- Friday, June 12, 2020 - (3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 13, 2020 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

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

- Friday, June 12, 2020 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 13, 2020 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

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

- Friday, June 19, 2020 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 20, 2020 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

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

- Friday, June 26, 2020 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 27, 2020 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

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

- Wednesday, October 21, 2020 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Thursday, October 22, 2020 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

*****PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH ANY NEW BOARD MEMBER(S) NEEDING THE EIGHTEEN AND ONE-HALF (18.5) HOURS OF REQUIRED TRAINING.**

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.

Dates and locations may change due to unforeseen circumstances!

Board Refresher Training - New Videos Coming - We are in the early phases of planning to produce a new Board Refresher Training video for the 2020-2021 school year. Along with information on the prevention of sexual abuse of children, the video will contain other useful information for current Board members. If you have suggestions for topics to be covered in the new video, please share that information with me by calling (660) 747-8050 or emailing me at ksandlin@moare.com.

Scholarship Program Information - The deadlines for both of our Scholarship Programs have passed. A list of those selected to receive a MARE/EdCounsel \$500.00 HS Senior Scholarship Award is posted below. Information on those selected for a MARE \$1,000.00 College Scholarship Award will be shared in the next few weeks!

*2020 MARE/EdCounsel HS
Scholarship Recipients*

Student

District

<i>Kayleigh Bates</i>	<i>Crawford County R-I</i>
<i>Ariana Carmichael</i>	<i>Wellsville Middletown R-I</i>
<i>Kelsy Carrington</i>	<i>Bismarck R-V</i>
<i>Avery "Eva" Clubbs</i>	<i>Jackson R-II</i>
<i>Chelsie Collins</i>	<i>Sherwood Cass R-VIII</i>
<i>LaKota Collins-Honeycutt</i>	<i>Marion County R-II</i>
<i>Hannah Corpening</i>	<i>Morgan County R-I</i>
<i>Reagan Hill</i>	<i>Fulton 58</i>
<i>Lauren Hoerstkamp</i>	<i>New Haven</i>
<i>Alexander Jackson</i>	<i>Sherwood Cass R-VIII</i>
<i>Ashlyn Lewis</i>	<i>Crawford County R-I</i>
<i>Bailey Lynn</i>	<i>Willard R-II</i>
<i>Clinton McGill</i>	<i>Dadeville R-II</i>
<i>Brendan Myers</i>	<i>Lesterville R-IV</i>
<i>Kortney Nelson</i>	<i>Hale R-I</i>
<i>Conner Orgill</i>	<i>Marion County R-II</i>
<i>Lydia Otten</i>	<i>New Haven</i>
<i>Grace Parrott</i>	<i>Sherwood Cass R-VIII</i>
<i>Travis Patrick</i>	<i>Sherwood Cass R-VIII</i>
<i>Kennedy Ponder</i>	<i>Jackson R-II</i>
<i>Canton Post</i>	<i>Willard R-II</i>
<i>Colbe Radford</i>	<i>Crawford County R-I</i>
<i>Saedee Sherwood</i>	<i>Dadeville R-II</i>
<i>Hailey Stewart</i>	<i>Neelyville R-IV</i>
<i>Mariah Taylor</i>	<i>King City R-I</i>
<i>Carlos Valdez</i>	<i>Marceline R-V</i>
<i>Abigail Verts</i>	<i>Morgan County R-I</i>
<i>Dawson Wheeler</i>	<i>Chillicothe R-II</i>
<i>Madelyn Wilford</i>	<i>Chillicothe R-II</i>

MARE Board Elections - MARE will be electing Regional Executive Board Members in Regions B, D, F, H and J this year. Additionally, one member from a MARE member school district's Board of Education and a MO K-8 Representative will be appointed or selected. Board members will be announced at the May 4th Executive Board Meeting. Terms for newly elected or appointed members will begin on July 1, 2020.

Region B: Counties of – Gasconade, Franklin, Crawford, Washington, Iron, Reynolds, St. Francis, Ste. Genevieve, Jefferson, Perry and St. Louis.

Region D: Counties of – Laclede, Camden, Miller, Cole, Osage, Maries, Phelps, Pulaski and Dent.

Region F: Counties of – Jackson, Cass, Lafayette, Johnson, Henry, Saline, Pettis, Cooper, Moniteau

and Morgan.

Region H: Counties of – Scotland, Knox, Shelby, Monroe, Audrain, Callaway, Clark, Lewis, Marion, Ralls, Pike, Montgomery, Lincoln, Warren and St. Charles.

Region J: Counties of – Atchinson, Holt, Nodaway, Andrew, Buchanan, Platte, Clay, Worth, DeKalb, Clinton, Ray, Caldwell, Daviess, Gentry and Harrison.

For more information on this opportunity, please check out the article on the MARE website at www.moare.com!

10th Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament

The Missouri Association of Rural Education will be hosting our 10th Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament on Monday, July 20th at the beautiful Osage National Golf Course in Lake Ozark, Missouri. Over the past three years, with the assistance of our generous sponsors, we have been able to award \$76,000.00 in scholarship awards to both graduating HS Seniors and College Juniors/Seniors who have goals of becoming teachers in Missouri rural schools. Our annual golf tournament is our primary fundraiser to support these awards. Linked below this message are the various documents associated with this event including the Golf Tournament Flyer, Registration Form, Sponsorship Form, Letter to Superintendents and a Letter to Business Partners. Since our event is not directly tied to the annual DESE Summer Conference this year, we will be offering a Legal Seminar the morning of the event prior to registration and tournament play. More information will be released soon regarding that opportunity. If you have questions regarding this event, please reach out directly to me at (660) 747-8050 or by email at ksandlin@moare.com.

[Golf Sponsorship Information](#)

[Golf Tournament Registration](#)

2020 Missouri Boys State - Missouri Boys State will be held June 13-20, 2020 at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. For more information, go to MissouriBoysState.org. **MARE sponsors Missouri Boys State!**

2020 Missouri Girls State - Missouri Girls State will be held June 21-27, 2020 at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. For more information on this opportunity, please access MissouriGirlsState.org. **MARE sponsors Missouri Girls State!**

Save the Date

2020 MARE/MO K-8 Conference - Scheduled on October 21-23, 2020 at the Lodge of Four Seasons. **Please make plans now to attend this growing event!** We will have five legal sessions, a Legal Panel, presentations from Dr. Margie Vandeven, Dr. Kari Monsees, Dr. Chris Neale, DESE Special Education, Federal Programs, "Outstanding Rural Awards" Luncheon, two receptions, great food, vendor hall, and many other opportunities to grow, learn and collaborate.

Please access the links for Conference Registration, Exhibitor Registration, Call for Presentations and Outstanding Rural Education Awards found on the cover of this MARE Focus article!

Grants Training in St. Louis, MO - June 8-9, 2020

St. Louis Community College - Florissant Valley Campus and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grants workshop in St. Louis, June 8-9, 2020. This training is for grant seekers across all disciplines. Attend this class and you'll learn how to find grants and write winning grant proposals.

[Click here for full event details.](#)

Beginning and experienced grant writers from city, county and state agencies as well as nonprofits, K-12, colleges and universities are encouraged to attend.

We are excited to MOARE members and their staff a special tuition rate of \$425 which includes everything: two days of terrific instruction, workbook, and access to our Alumni Forum that's packed full of tools, helpful discussions and more than 200 sample grant proposals. Please use discount code "ASSN" to receive this \$30 discount off full price at registration.

Multi-enrollment discounts and discounts for Grant Writing USA returning alumni are also available. Tuition payment is not required at the time of enrollment.

Complete event details including learning objectives, class location, graduate testimonials and online registration are [available here.](#)

Contacts:

Janet Darling
at Grant Writing USA
888.290.6237 toll free
janet@grantwritingusa.com

Quote of the Week

"If something is wrong, fix it if you can. But train yourself not to worry. Worry never fixes anything." - Ernest Hemingway

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.