



MARE Focus

AUGUST 26, 2021

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

M.U.S.I.C.

MO. Consultants for Ed.

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 - 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. **Stay tuned for upcoming Vacancy Announcements!**

MARE Welcomes New School District Members - MARE is thrilled to welcome Bolivar R-I, Climax Springs R-IV, Newburg R-II, Monett R-I, Spickard R-II, Bucklin R-II, Licking R-VIII, Appleton City R-II, Gilman City R-IV, Grain Valley R-V, Republic R-III, Crane R-III, North Nodaway Co. R-VI & Billings R-IV as new or returning MARE member school districts. These 14 new or returning school districts are welcomed by the other 380 MARE member districts. If you have questions about MARE membership, I would welcome the opportunity to visit with you!

MARE Welcomes New Associate Members - MARE is pleased to welcome STEP Up Consulting, Poettker Construction, Integrated Facility Services, Fired UP Consulting, Universal Construction Company, DFH Consulting, Kincaid IT & Apptegy as new Associate Members. More information will be provided in an upcoming MARE Focus and on the MARE website regarding these organizations and how they can be of service to your local school district.

MARE/MO K-8 Fall Conference - Make plans now to join us for the 2021 MARE/MO K-8 Conference which will be held Wednesday, October 20th through Friday, October 22nd at the Lodge of Four Seasons. Help us reach our goal of 200 attendees! Information is posted on the MARE website at www.moare.com!

- 2021 Conference Registration Form
- Exhibitor & Sponsor Information - Page 1
- Exhibitor & Sponsor Information - Page 2
- 2021 Outstanding Rural Awards Nomination Form

LDS Series - Legislative Advocacy - District Leaders Need to Own It!

MASA, MOASBO and MARE are pleased to offer the following LDS Series workshop.

District leaders are charged with many important responsibilities including the need to be an effective legislative advocate for your district and the students it serves. MASA, MoASBO and MARE have designed a workshop for superintendents, assistant superintendents, and chief financial officers, that will give participants the knowledge and confidence to build relationships with those at the state capitol, to advocate for good legislation, and to push back against legislation that is harmful to your districts and public education.

This workshop will address the following topics:

- Building relationships with legislators so your voice is effective.

- Preparing to make a positive impact when testifying in a committee hearing.
- Interpreting the potential impact of bills that are filed and responding to fiscal notes.
- Understanding the logistics of the Capitol facility and how a bill becomes law.

Date: September 27, 2021

Time: 9:00 am. to 12:00 pm.

Location: In person event - MCSA Education Center, 3550 Amazonas Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109 or chose to participate online via webinar.

Cost: \$60 (includes box lunch). There is no charge if you are participating as a first-year superintendent in the MASA Workshop Discount Program

Deadline for Registration: Wednesday, September 22, 2021.

This workshop is part of the MASA LDS Series in collaboration with MoASBO and MARE.

[Register Now!](#)

CANCELLATION POLICY: Workshops registration cancellations will only be accepted in writing, by fax or email 72 hours (three business days) prior to the event. All cancellations received less than 72 hours prior to the event will be subject to the full registration charge. ALL cancellations will be subject to a \$20 administrative charge. No shows will be charged the full amount.

eMINTS "Talk to Read" Grant Opportunity - Time is of the Essence!

Literacy Learning meets Speech Recognition Talk to Read Summary

The eMINTS National Center at the University of Missouri's College of Education and Human Development with Professor Betsy Baker have teamed up to submit a U.S. Department of Education grant to fund further exciting research on recovering and building literacy skills in second grade utilizing speech recognition technology. Many students struggled with reading and writing prior to COVID-19. Now, even more students are struggling because of the impacts the pandemic had on schools and teachers. Dr. Baker's research has shown that an underused strategy called the Language Experience Approach results in students increasing their sight vocabulary, reading and skills in a short amount of time. Using SR technologies and PD, this project mitigates challenges to a proven teaching strategy which bolsters children's reading abilities while being culturally responsive and advancing socio-emotional health.

In the 1960s, Ashton-Warner successfully used the Language Experience Approach (LEA) to support reading acquisition among the Maori of New Zealand. At the time, there were limited texts available in the Maori language. Ashton-Warner overcame this challenge by asking Maori to share their experiences with her. She took dictation and created texts based on Maori experiences using Maori language. Hence, the name: Language Experience Approach. In the ensuing years, LEA has been successfully used with preschoolers, ELL students, special needs middle schoolers, high schoolers, and adults to embrace the cultural and linguistic diversity of multilingual, multinational students as well as students who have dropped behind (see Baker, 2019).

The goal of LEA is to give learners ample opportunities to make matches between oral and written words. However, there is a critical barrier. LEA is labor-intensive. It requires sustained 1:1 interaction between teachers and learners. Due to this barrier, LEA is commonly dismissed or relegated to group dictation which results in amalgamated stories stripped of personally meaningful vocabulary, experiences, and grammar thus rendering it less effective for learners who struggle to read. Until now.

In the past decade, speech recognition (SR) has become ubiquitous on digital devices. While we commonly think of SR as an online assistant by asking, *Hey Siri, Hey Alexa, Hey Google, what's the weather or who is winning the game?* SR can also take dictation. Instead of waiting for a teacher, learners can talk to Siri,

Alexa or Hey Google and watch their personally meaningful experiences magically appear on the screen in the own vernacular.

Dr. Baker conducted a series of studies and found that students developed over 97% sight word accuracy which indicated that some students' struggles may be unrelated to their capabilities. Over 50% of the words that users incorporated appear on grades 3-9 high frequency words which indicates increased preparedness to encounter literature and textbooks. In addition, Dr. Baker identified pedagogical tips to integrate SR and LEA. Finally, Dr. Baker identified interface design insights.

We are seeking letters of support (not commitment) for the grant proposal indicating an interest in having second grade teachers participate in professional development, support and data collection starting in January, 2023. Teachers and students will receive tablets, storage carts, speech recognition apps, and other items to support the project. Teachers will participate in 40 hours of professional development. Stipends will be provided for either substitutes or out of contract time.

For more information, please contact Cara Wylie at wyliec@emints.org or by calling 636-357-5358.

References

Ashton-Warner, S. (1963). *Teacher*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster.

Baker, E. A. (2019). Talk to Read and Write: Using Speech-Recognition Apps in a First-Grade Writing Center. *Language Arts*, 96(6), 358-369.

Baker, E. A., & Bradley, C. (2019). Closing the gap between oral lexicons and sight vocabulary: The potential of speech recognition technologies. *Journal of Early Childhood Literacy*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1468798419851851>

Baker, E. A. (2017). Apps, iPads, and Literacy: Examining the Feasibility of Speech Recognition in a First-Grade Classroom. *Reading Research Quarterly*, 52(3). <https://doi.org/10.1002/rrq.170>

Kincaid IT (KIT) Google Service Offer Webinar - Don't Miss It!

I am pleased to introduce you to Kincaid IT, a new partner of MARE. Kincaid IT is based in the Kansas City area and specializes in assisting schools, governments, and businesses with their technological challenges through consulting, technical services, and professional development. They have more than 60 years of combined educational experience and technology expertise and are a Google for Education Partner.

Kincaid IT will be hosting a webinar September 7, 2021 that will focus on the Google Service Offer as well as discuss how they can assist rural school districts. If your district purchased Google products between January 12, 2021 and September 30, 2021 you may be eligible for free for IT Deployment services. If you are planning a Google purchase with Emergency Connectivity Funds, you will want to tune in for details. If you haven't purchased chromebooks or Google products this year, but you are interested in a partner for special IT projects or expanding your knowledge in Google Workspace best practices, tune in to learn more about how Kincaid IT can support you.

Webinar - Kincaid IT (KIT): Google Service Offer and how KIT can help support your district

September, 7, 2021
11:00 am - Noon CT

[Registration link](#)

If you would like to know more about Kincaid IT, please visit Kincaidit.com.

We are happy to welcome Kincaid IT as a MARE Associate Member!

MARE Announces New Energy Management Program in Partnership with Hamlin Energy

MARE is pleased to announce our new partnership with Hamlin Energy as we roll out the new MARE Energy Management Program. The information copied below will be mailed to all current MARE member school districts sometime next week. We are very excited about this new partnership and the opportunities for access, service and savings that are available within the program. If you would like more information on the MARE Energy Management Program, please contact Mike Williams (Missouri Representative) at (417) 499-0591 or Rhonda Hamlin at (713) 248-7662.

Dear School Administrator:

For Missouri school district members, the Missouri Association of Rural Education (MARE) is pleased to announce that the MARE Executive Board has engaged in a partnership with HAMLIN ENERGY as the exclusive energy management consulting team for MARE. This relationship marks the beginning of the MARE ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

Ongoing changes and the unforeseen burdens caused by the Winter Storm Uri this past February has energy management on the top of everyone's agenda. Hamlin Energy, as MARE's new energy management consultant, is ready to work with your school to develop an energy strategy best suited for your specific needs.

Natural gas transportation programs and the options available to consumers can be challenging and confusing at best. Hamlin Energy has the experience and industry relationships that will allow your schools to make informed and educated decisions about natural gas purchasing, energy incentive programs and taking advantage of utility rebate and refund opportunities.

MARE believes with this new partnership that Hamlin Energy, as our energy consultant, can bring greater value to far more members across the state of Missouri than just having a single natural gas supplier (Pro Energy Solutions) than can serve only limited areas of the state. Plus, you get the added bonus of working with an energy manager to explore other opportunities available to you.

If your school system is interested in knowing more about the new MARE Energy Management Program, you will be able to find information on the MARE website at www.moare.com under the Associate Member tab for Hamlin Energy.

You will find attached a one-page informational sheet on the MARE Energy Management Program. Hamlin Energy works with numerous natural gas suppliers throughout Missouri and, as your energy manager, will facilitate a smooth transition to transportation gas with a supplier best suited for your needs and to protect your budgets. Hamlin Energy will also be discussing with each school various programs and opportunities available to help decrease spending and bring value to the services offered by this new program.

Specific questions about this new partnership may be directed to Mike Williams at (417) 499-0591 or Rhonda Hamlin at (713) 248-7662.

Sincerely,

Kevin F. Sandlin
Executive Director, Missouri Association of Rural Education

Get Schooled on Concussion for Missouri

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) *Sports Concussions: Facts, Fallacies and New Frontiers* Education offers additional support this year with the Get Schooled on Concussions website and resources.

The Get Schooled on Concussion for Missouri resources are **FREE of charge for EVERY SCHOOL** in Missouri through a partnership with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Service and the Missouri Athletic Trainers' Association **through JUNE 2022**.

The Get Schooled on Concussions (GSOC) resources are available to help teachers and school personnel:

- support students in return to learn following a concussion
- recognize a possible concussion

- gain knowledge about concussion management
- save time

The Get School on Concussion website features a Teacher Acute Concussions Tool (TACT) for teachers to implement individualized learning strategies to help a concussed student. The GSOC strategies are designed for elementary through high school students while they are recovering from a concussion.

The TACT strategies are based on short questionnaire about educational content, teaching style, environment and student factors. Teacher logs in the GSOC website to answer the five-minute questionnaire. Then individuals strategies are sent to their email inbox for the next four weeks with updated strategies to help support the student through concussion recovery. Many times a 504 or IEP are not needed.

The Get Schooled on Concussion resources may be accessed at:

Website Link: [Get Schooled on Concussions for Missouri](#)

Login Password: TACTmissouri2022

You will be required to enter information your name, school or work email, school and district. Then you have access to the Teacher Acute Concussion Tool (TACT), Fact Sheets and Tutorial Videos as often as needed through June 2022.

For additional information to Get Schooled on Concussions for Missouri, contact the Brain Injury Association of Missouri at BIAMO.org, concussions@biamo.org or 1-800-444-6443.

MARE Welcomes FiredUP Consulting Group as New Associate Member

FiredUP Consulting Group was founded in 2014 by Dr. Kevin Daniel who serves as president and senior consultant. FiredUP is comprised of multiple professional educators and school leaders from across the state of Missouri with experiences in a wide-range of school district sizes, demographics and challenges. FiredUP Consulting Group prides itself in providing relevant and affordable professional learning, staff development and strategic planning from those who have recently done this work in schools, or, are currently doing it now. We are passionate about public schools being successful, up to date on the latest innovations and trends in schools, yet, also believe in keeping things simple when possible. We are committed to our mission of building capacity, motivating, equipping and inspiring.

Services we are currently providing:

- Strategic Planning - CSIP Development Facilitation
- Culture / Climate Audits with results and recommendations provided
- Executing Coaching, Leadership Coaching and Transition in Position Coaching
- Curriculum and Assessment Development, Curriculum Audits
- Staff Development and Professional Learning for Certified Staff
- Development, Training and Skill Building for Non-Certified Staff
- Technology-based Professional Learning, Innovative Teaching and Learning
- Enhancing Relationships, Teamwork and Navigating Difficult Dialogue
- Facilitating Board of Education work sessions, Administrative Retreats
- Mastering Difficult Dialogue - This is a growing request of services provided
- Motivational, Inspirational and Relevant messages for schools and districts

Contact Information:

Dr. Kevin Daniel, Founder, President & Senior Consultant

816.935.0428 or

kdfiredup@gmail.com

OnToCollege joins MARE as an Associate Member

The OnToCollege team is excited to be a new NASA VIP partner! At OnToCollege, we help schools create more two- and four-year college graduates with minimal debt. We do

this by providing engaging, comprehensive, online ACT/SAT Prep and College Counseling. Partnering with OnToCollege typically increases school-wide composite ACT scores 1-2 points, and many students join the **#FivePointJumpClub!**

Take the burden of test prep off of your busy teachers and counselors with our fun instruction videos, assignments, and online assessments. You can prepare your students for the Nevada ACT in as little as five weeks prior to the test date. We also have a full-semester curriculum if you have a semester-long test prep class, or it can be woven into your existing class schedule.

When you subscribe to OnToCollege ACT Prep, you'll also receive a PreACT course for younger students, an ACT Refresher course for students taking the test a second time, and PSAT and SAT instruction for students who are working toward becoming National Merit scholars. Since students have their own login, they can review the course in the summer if they're taking the June or July ACT.

Our test prep and college counseling courses are designed to improve your school's college-going culture and also provide motivation to students so they understand that Test Day is Pay Day! They'll learn that jumping that score 2-5 points can earn them thousands of dollars in scholarships. Increasing their ACT score is the best-paying job a high school student can have.

Call Becky Voss at 636-368-7497 or email becky@ontocollege.com to see a demo.

<https://www.ontocollege.com/>

Here's a great video if you're able to embed in the landing page. Or simply link here for folks to see sample videos of our lessons. <https://www.ontocollege.com/course-sample-video/>

Thanks!

Becky Voss

636.368.7497

Becky@OnToCollege.com

Superior Industrial Coatings joins MARE as Associate Member

SIC is a commercial and industrial contractor serving the entire Midwest region with over 50 years combined experience. We specialize in building envelope maintenance and repair. Roofing, Flooring, Waterproofing, and Industrial Coating Systems for everything from heavy industrial to commercial customers. We launched our company in 2014 and have over 50 years of combined experience in our field as a Certified WBE Contractor. We specialize in a revolutionary two component advanced membrane roofing system that is cost effective with unmatched durability and adhesion. It chemically bonds to existing roofing systems and is a 100% fully adhered membrane which cures in place. It is not a silicone or urethane roof like other contractors are providing. If you don't want a coating but don't want the cost and inconvenience of a complete tear off we definitely are your choice. We have been known to save customers over 50% on their roofing projects while giving them a bullet proof roof. Very resistant to puncture and no seams to fail from poor welds. SIC is a small company that is very proud of our perfect safety record and our dedication to personal service. We offer a wide array of products and services,

delivered safely and affordably to clients throughout Nebraska, Iowa,

Minnesota, Missouri, Illinois, Kansas, Indiana, and Arkansas.

** We specialize in a revolutionary, two component, advanced membrane roofing system that is cost effective with unmatched durability and adhesion. We realize there are a lot of roof projects that are on hold and/or cancelled due to material supply issues. This is a great alternative and is not a silicone. We are just finishing up a project for Mike Fransen at the Osceola School district that he is very happy with if you need a reference on our performance or cost comparison to others.

[Poly Armor Lite Roofing System](#)

SIC Web Site: www.sicmidwest.com

Tim Corry

314-458-6811

Email: tim@sicmidwest.com

Web Address: www.sicmidwest.com

MARE Welcomes IFS as a New Associate Member

MARE is pleased to welcome Integrated Facility Services as our newest Associate Member. Read below for more information on who they are and what they can provide to assist your district in meeting its goals!



Integrated Facility Services (IFS), your Single-Point Resource Mechanical Contracting and Service, designs, builds, and maintains sustainable HVAC and Building Automation solutions to ensure occupant comfort, improve systems efficiency and reduce facility operational costs for the life of your building.

We employ 250+ professionals and technicians, with a fleet of more than 175 vehicles ready to meet your HVAC, Plumbing, and Building Automation needs. We have been named among the Top 5 Mechanical Contractors in the region by the St. Louis Business Journal and among the Top 50 Midwest Specialty Contractors by ENR Midwest.

Lee Tiberghien | Mid-Missouri HVAC Manager

M: 573-239-3103

leet@intfs.com

Chris Ruth | Mid-Missouri Controls Manager

M: 314-210-6213

chrisr@intfs.com

NREA News - For all of the latest news from our national affiliate, please click on these links: [NREA Weekly Update - August 13, 2021](#), [NREA Weekly Update - August 20, 2021](#)

MARE Board Training Opportunities - MARE will offer the required Board Training for newly elected or appointed Board members on the following dates and at the noted locations:

MARE Board Training Dates – 2021

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

Wednesday, October 20, 2021 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)

Thursday, October 21, 2021 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

**** Will be closed at 30 registrants plus a few alternates!**

Lake Ozark, MO - The Lodge of the Four Seasons (Deadline to register - November 19th!)

Friday, December 10, 2021 (12:00 noon-6:00 p.m.)

Saturday, December 11, 2021 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

To register for these in-person training events, please access the form found on the MARE website or contact Kevin Sandlin at (660) 747-8050 or by email at ksandlin@moare.com.

Quote of the Week

"Our chief want is someone who will inspire us to be what we know we could be." *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

MARE Organization Staff

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