



MARE Focus

AUGUST 31, 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 Technology

L.J. Hart & Company

MASA MTS

MEUHP

Mike Keith Insurance

M.U.S.I.C.

MO. Consultants for Ed.

Pro Energy Solutions, LLC

SOCS

MARE PARTNERSHIPS

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

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.

MARE Membership - Our organization simply could not exist or provide the services, products and benefits to our member school districts without the support of both our 383 member school districts ([2020-2021 MARE District Membership](#)) and our generous MARE Associate Members ([2020-2021 Associate Members](#)). **Invoices for our school district members were mailed on June 18th. If you did not receive an invoice, please contact me.** If you do not see your name on the attached membership list and would like to become a member of MARE, please email me at ksandlin@moare.com or call the office at (660) 747-8050. Access this link ([MARE Membership Benefits](#)) to see a flyer that shares some of the many benefits that your MARE membership provides for the affordable cost of \$400.00 per year for K-8 districts or \$500.00 per year for K-12 districts!

MCE Policy Updates Available

The August 2020 updates are currently available on the MCE website <http://www.moconed.com>. For your convenience, access to the updates is located on the homepage under the "Updates" section on the left hand side of the page. Simply select "View All Updates" to view or download current and past updates.

If you have any questions concerning these revisions or their implementation, please feel free to call Tom Mickes or Bill Ray.

Thomas A. Mickes
Office Phone: [\(314\) 878-5600](tel:3148785600)
Cell Phone: [\(314\) 330-8903](tel:3143308903)

William C. Ray
Cell Phone: [\(816\) 591-1985](tel:8165911985)

Guin Mundorf, LLC - Training Tracks Series

The 2020-2021 Training Tracks schedule has been released and we are excited to offer a virtual option for this school year! ([Click here for Schedule of Events](#))

To register for any of the sessions, [CLICK HERE](#), or click anywhere on the schedule after opening.

BetterLesson - \$1,000,00 Matching Grant Opportunity

I wanted to let you know about BetterLesson's Matching Grant Program that we launched a week or so ago. Feel free to send this to anyone you think might take advantage.

[BetterLesson \\$1,000,000 Matching Grant Opportunity](#)

Overview

BetterLesson is excited to announce that it is sponsoring a matching grant program. The purpose of the program is to provide public and private K-12 schools, districts, and education service agencies in the United States with virtual professional learning services to improve teaching and learning in distance/hybrid environments, as well as to develop practices that promote social justice.

BetterLesson invites education organizations to submit a proposal for consideration. Proposals should be aimed at increasing the capacity of schools and districts to a) create equitable, student-centered, flexible teaching and learning and/or b) support teachers to integrate culturally responsive and sustaining practices and social-emotional learning (SEL) as part of their regular instruction. The most competitive proposals will show attention to PD considerations for both teachers and leaders.

The grant will be funded up to \$1 million and a total of up to 30 grants will be awarded. Grants can range from between \$30,000 to \$150,000. For awarded grants, BetterLesson will match the amount the district is investing with the same amount of in-kind services/products. Grant awards will be announced Monday, September 14th.



Mike Bauer
Director of Partnerships
C: 918.497.9864

Educators are supporting students amidst profound learning loss, trauma, and inequity, as the coronavirus pandemic shifts how we do school. At the same time, educators have innovated rapidly and connected with families in new ways. Learn more about how BetterLesson is helping educators build the essential skills of student-centered, flexible, equitable learning by [clicking here](#).

[Schedule a consultation with me](#)

Satchel Pulse - Webinar Opportunity

Satchel Pulse will be running a free webinar series in September and October focusing on school improvement

The first webinar - **Why staff culture and climate matters. And how to convince others that it does.** will take place on September 8 at 10AM CST.

The webinar will be run by Dr. Jeff Klein, Satchel's Director of School Experience.

Dr. Klein has spent 18 years in district administration and has a background in research, measurement and psychology.

Join Dr. Klein to hear about the importance of proactively managing staff culture and climate and how to convince others of the benefits of a positive culture for your school or district.

Attend the webinar and you'll learn:

- The many research-proven benefits of a positive culture and climate including

teacher retention and student success.

- The large gap between research findings and school practices.
- Critical components of culture and climate that need to be addressed.
- Proven methods for building support for your culture and climate initiatives.

The webinar is perfect for school and district leaders, especially those in HR, looking to improve staff culture and climate in their district.

To register for the webinar please visit - <https://hubs.ly/H0tZvM90>

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

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. **A link to the video will be shared with all MARE member school districts by mid-September!**

Superintendent Boot Camp - Hosted by Mickes O'Toole, LLC

Mickes O'Toole will be hosting the annual Superintendent Boot Camp on Thursday, September 16th from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Due to COVID 19 issues, limited in-person seating is available. A virtual participation opportunity is also available. For more information or to register for this informative event, please go to <http://www.mickesotoole.com> and access Superintendent Boot Camp.

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 Registrations, Conference Planner at a Glance and Outstanding Rural Education Awards found on the cover of this MARE Focus article!

NREA News - For all of the latest news from our national affiliate, please click on this link: [NREA News](#)

MUSIC Responds to COVID 19 Concerns

We have received several questions this past week as members prepare to reopen schools and resume activities. We hope the following points will address your concerns as we understand the difficulties you face in making the proper decisions for your school and community.

- There is no exclusion for COVID-related claims in the MUSIC Plan Document, either for general liability or workers compensation.
- School districts will have sovereign immunity against most such claims, but this doesn't mean they aren't covered by MUSIC.
- Board members and school district employees will have official immunity against most such claims, **provided they comply with applicable governmental orders**. Whether and to what extent to open schools is a difficult decision for which there is no perfect answer. Health department recommendations are just that—recommendations, but they may not account for all the factors you must consider in deciding whether to reopen your schools or what activities to allow. Your decision on how closely to follow a **recommendation** will not preclude MUSIC's coverage.
- If you reopen or allow an activity, make sure your employees know about, and are instructed to follow strictly, any applicable orders.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Stockwell (314-800-2220) or Anita Kiehne (314-753-1615).

Quote of the Week

“Upon the subject of education ... I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in.”

Abraham Lincoln

eMINTS National Center - EIR Grant

The eMINTS National Center at the University of Missouri's College of Education and a member of MARE is applying for an Education Innovation Research (EIR) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. eMINTS has a history of successful federal grant awards and we are hopeful to win this grant as well. Our proposal for this \$4 million grant is related to the improvement of computer science and mathematics education in upper elementary grades in rural schools in Missouri. We will do this by training teachers on Scalable Game Design (SGD) that helps students learn concepts of coding, computer science, mathematics and computational thinking and then measuring the effectiveness of the program for future implementation. The title of our grant proposal is eDGE: eSTEM Designing Games for Education.

If awarded, this five year grant will provide 60 hours of professional development in 60 upper elementary schools in rural Missouri. We have budgeted for teachers and students who participate to receive a Chromebook as part of the training program.

As part of the grant proposal process, the U.S. Department of Education is asking for letters of support from schools who would be likely participants if the grant is awarded. The grant awardees will be announced in fall 2020 and if we are awarded, we will begin recruiting the 60 schools in January 2021 to receive the first wave of professional development in fall 2021. Those schools who submit letters of support will receive priority as grant participants. Instructions on how to submit a letter of support are below.

Would you please be willing to forward the attached document to your members in rural parts of Missouri? If you federal school codes, we are looking for schools with 41, 42, 43 classification. Your help in securing this grant for the improvement of computer science and mathematics education in the state of Missouri is appreciated.

Sincerely,

C. Tad Brinkerhoff
Director, eMINTS National Center,
College of Education at the University of Missouri- Columbia
brinkerhoffc@missouri.edu, tel: 801-319-4692.

To be considered for future participation in the EIR Scalable Game Design Grant in Missouri, please submit a brief letter of support on school letterhead to Tad Brinkerhoff at brinkerhoffc@missouri.edu by **Friday, Sept 4, 2020 and include following:**

Address the letter of support to:

Ashley Brizzo
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 3E325
Washington DC, 20202 -5900

***You do not need to mail - please email on letter head in PDF or Word format**

Please include the following in your letter of support:

1. Name and location of the school(s).
2. A brief description of the school(s).
3. A brief description of your interest in participating in Education Innovation Research (EIR) eDGE: eSTEM Designing Games for Education
4. A brief description as to how participating will address the needs and goals of your school(s) and students. Topics might include:
 - a. The need for high-quality professional development
 - b. Technology integration
 - c. Computer Science, Scalable Game Design, STEM
5. Any other pertinent information you would like to share.
- 6.

For any questions regarding the letter of support or this STEM related grant, please contact:

C. Tad Brinkerhoff
Director, eMINTS National Center, College of Education
University of Missouri - Columbia

brinkerhoffc@missouri.edu

Cell: 801-319-4692

MO LEAP Information from DESE

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), in response to recommendations from the Task Force for Learning Acceleration, has developed the Missouri Learning, Engagement and Preparation (MO LEAP) resources to support Missouri educators.

When the coronavirus began spreading rapidly across the United States last spring, Missouri educators took swift and decisive action to mitigate the development of a full-blown pandemic by closing school buildings and providing remote learning experiences for students. Despite these best efforts, the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA), studying the effects of school disruptions on student learning, estimated that most students would return to school this fall with learning losses of 30% to 50% compared to previous years. Click [here](#) to read more about the NWEA study. It is imperative that districts determine the status of each student's skills and competencies as school re-opens.

In addition, research tells us and DESE's Task Force for Learning Acceleration agrees that the return to learning in fall 2020 should focus on grade-appropriate, standards-aligned instruction with supports for individual student's learning gaps, not on across-the-board remediation. Built with this in mind, MO LEAP has two categories: Assessments to identify learning gaps and Blocks to provide standards-aligned instructional support.

MO LEAP Assessments are designed to help Missouri teachers understand gaps in student learning so they can develop instructional plans and organize the structures and supports their students need to get back on track. They measure the acquisition of skills and concepts that are essential for students to have learned in order to be successful in the coming year and connect to Missouri priority standards.

Missouri educators played a key role in the design of the MO LEAP resources. MO LEAP Assessment items mirror the question types in Missouri's Grade-Level and End-of-Course assessments. MO LEAP Assessments are available in English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. They can be used flexibly at the classroom level, whether brick-and-mortar or virtual. MO LEAP scores are available shortly after testing.

MO LEAP Blocks are classroom resources made up of diverse and complex texts aligned to grade-level standards coupled with flexible tasks and enrichment options. Inspired by Missouri teachers for Missouri teachers, MO LEAP Blocks may be used as a whole, in parts, or integrated separately into instruction. They function equally well when used by individual teachers or teams of teachers.

MO LEAP Assessments and Blocks are provided free of charge to Missouri districts. Students have been pre-enrolled in MO LEAP Assessments and the test window is open now. MO LEAP Blocks will be available in September. Visit the [MO LEAP website](#) for more information.

If you have questions regarding MO LEAP, please contact at curriculum@dese.mo.gov, assessment@dese.mo.gov, or 573-751-3545

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