



MARE Focus

AUGUST 8, 2024

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 – For the fourth consecutive year, MARE has completed more Superintendent Searches for Missouri public schools than any other agency that provides such in the state. We are proud of this fact and committed to providing a quality, yet affordable search process for your school district. If you plan to retire or leave your district next year, we would be honored to assist in finding your replacement. We appreciate all of those who have given us this opportunity in the past! **We will be posting a number of Superintendent Searches over the course of the next few months. Please stay tuned for specific openings!**

MARE Membership Invoices – We greatly appreciate all of our 423 MARE Member School Districts. Invoices for 2024-2025 were mailed on Wednesday, June 19th to the Superintendent’s Attention. **We are requesting that districts process payment for membership prior to September 13th!** If you are not currently a MARE Member School District, we would love to have you join us. Attached is a list of Current Members and a List of Member Benefits for your consideration.

[2024-2025 MARE Membership by County](#)
[2024 MARE Membership Benefits](#)

Welcome New Member Districts – MARE is pleased to welcome **Blue Eye R-V, Success R-VI, Lutie R-VI and Oak Hill R-I** as new or returning member districts for 2024-2025! Why not consider joining them as members!

Welcome New Associate Members – MARE is pleased to welcome the following organizations as New Associate Members (joined since January of 2024): Quality Network Solutions, Varsity Tutors, Air Answers, Inc., Community Foundation of the Ozarks, Nearpod, U-First Reconstruction, Lucas & Associates, LLC, Schooley Mitchell, Smith Paper & Janitor Supply, McKinstry Essention, LLC, Kansas City Audio Visual, Holland Construction Services, 4M Building Solutions, Daikin TMI, and MO School Expertise, LLC. Please consider these businesses when making decisions for your school district! We appreciate all of our 103 MARE Associate Members!

T-Mobile Small-Town Schools Prize Opportunity

I'm thrilled to share an incredible opportunity: T-Mobile is offering small-town schools (MISSOURI) numerous chances to win fantastic prizes, including: • \$100,000 school grant • New teched-out scoreboard • Consultation with football field experience experts for pro tips to elevate the game • 5G network upgrades package to unlock player potential and performance • Epic tailgate party with live music • 5G-powered halftime drone show • Upgraded weight room from GronkFitness.com For more details, please visit our Friday

Night 5G Lights website: please help me spread the word! Missouri is ready for some football!!! <https://www.fridaynight5glights.com/>

CDC's Funding Opportunity to Address Preemption

CDC's [Office on Smoking and Health](#) shared the following funding opportunity to address preemption. See the information below and this [recorded information session](#).

Grants to Fight Harmful Preemption

Voices for Healthy Kids launched two calls for proposals related to harmful preemption described below and in more detail on their [website](#).

Preemption Campaign Grants (\$70,000 - \$150,000)

- The Preemption Grant Opportunity funds campaigns that promote and defend local government power by working against harmful preemption.
- Three types of preemption campaigns will be funded under this grant: proactive campaigns, repeal campaigns, and cross-issue coalition support.

Resource Support for Preemption Campaigns (\$2,000 to \$5,000 Value)

- This opportunity allows recipients to identify strategies that have helped states defend against harmful preemption. At the same time, Voices for Kids does the rest, including staffing and paying for approved tactics, increasing recipients' campaign effectiveness while not overwhelming staff.

Reach out to VoicesforHealthyKids@Heart.org for upcoming deadlines and if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Christy

Christy Inskip, MPH, CHES®

Youth Tobacco Use Prevention Specialist

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Tobacco Prevention and Control Program

P.O. Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570

Christy.Inskip@health.mo.gov | 573-526-1880

Youth can get free [help to quit](#) tobacco and vaping by texting **Start My Quit** to **36072** or visiting www.MyLifeMyQuit.com

Parents & adults learn about the next generation of tobacco at TobaccolsChangingMO.org

Quote of the Week

Each of us has a fire in our hearts for something. It's our goal in life to find it and keep it lit. - Mary Lou Retton,

NREA News - For all of the latest news from our national affiliate, please access these links: [July 12, 2024 NREA Weekly Update](#), [July 19, 2024 NREA Weekly Update](#), [July 26, 2024 NREA Weekly Update](#), [August 2, 2024 NREA Weekly Update](#)

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 205 Missouri Participants, including school districts (as of February 7, 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
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MARE Board Training Opportunities - MARE will provide Board Training in 2024 for newly elected or appointed BOE members according to this schedule:

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

- **Wednesday, October 16, 2024 (11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)**
- **Thursday, October 17, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)**

Lake Ozark, MO - The Lodge of the Four Seasons

- **Friday, December 6, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)**
- **Saturday, December 7, 2024 (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.

2024 MARE/MO K-8 Conference - October 16th-18th

Make plans now to join us for our annual fall conference on **October 16th-18th** at the beautiful Lodge of the Four Seasons. This event has grown tremendously over the past few years thanks to your support and your willingness to encourage others to attend. We hope to make our 2024 (Education is the Key!) the biggest and best yet! District leaders and vendors are encouraged to put this on your calendars now! We want the MARE/MO K-8 Conference to be your choice event for team building, leadership development and professional growth. We look forward to seeing all of you at the lake!

[MARE/MO K-8 Conference Registration Form](#)

[MARE/MO K-8 Exhibitor Registration Form 1](#)

[MARE/MO K-8 Exhibitor Registration Form 2](#)

[MARE/MO K-8 Outstanding Rural Education Awards Nomination Form](#)

[MARE/MO K-8 Call for Presentations Form](#)

MARE/MO K-8 Room Reservation Link Below

Tip: Right-Click to copy URL

- **Group Direct Booking Link- No login/Attendee Code needed:**

Booking Engine 4.0

URL: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/17336?groupID=4296072>

Conference Theme – Education is the Key!

14th MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament – Biggest Ever!

On Monday, July 15th, 141 golfers teed off in the 14th Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament at the beautiful Osage National Golf Course in Lake Ozark, Missouri. The weather was hot, but our hearty teams endured and enjoyed 18 holes of storm-free golfing. Our tournament this year as far as the number of players and money raised for scholarships was the highest ever! Thanks to everyone who made this our most successful event ever!

We are indebted to all of our amazing Corporate and Hole/Prize Sponsors listed below:

Corporate Sponsors - Veregy (\$5,000.00), STEP Up (\$5,000.00), SIC Midwest (\$4,000.00), UMB Bank (\$4,000.00), L.J. Hart & Company (\$3,000.00), Quality Network Solutions (\$2,000.00), Performance Services, Inc. (\$2,000.00), American Fidelity Assurance (\$2,000.00), MEUHP (\$2,000.00), Mickes O'Toole (\$1,000.00), MOCAAT (\$1,000.00), Acrisure/OSBA (\$1,000.00), Forrest T. Jones (\$1,000.00), Guin Mundorf, LLC (\$1,000.00), iCEV (\$1,000.00), Tueth Keeney Cooper Mohan & Jackstadt, P.C. (\$1,000.00), Reynolds Construction Company (\$1,000.00), Missouri Education Health Group (\$1,000.00) and Slate XP, Inc. (\$1,000.00).

Hole/Prize Sponsors - Universal Construction, Curriculum Associates, Midwest Bus Sales, SIC Midwest, Varsity Tutors, Quality Network Solutions, EdCounsel, LLC, Mickes O'Toole, MRTA, NREA, Hamlin Energy, LLC, Tueth Keeney Cooper Mohan & Jackstadt, P.C., Integrated Facility Services, MET/Gallagher, Gilmore & Bell, P.C., Bukaty Companies - Jeff Walstrom, U-First Reconstruction, Piper Sandler, Missouri Propane Gas Association, MUSIC, KRJ Architecture, Navitas, Incite Design Studio, Nearpod, OPAA!, Gator Graphics, Facility Solutions Group, GRP WEGMAN, 4M and Missouri School Plant Managers Association (MSPMA).

Flight Winners/2nd Place Finishers

Flight A Winner - Mallow, Gemes and Jones

Runner Up - Reynolds, Pannier, Dunham and Rapert

Flight B Winner - Ford, Larson, Kruse and Windy

Runner Up - O'Connor, Brushwood, Hartsfield and White

Flight C Winner - Fransen, Norton, Napper and Herrera

Runner Up - Hanak, Hamlett and Wahn

Flight D Winner - Cochran, Wallace, Oligschlaeger and Garber

Runner Up - Reid, Stewart, Elder and Christian

Closest to Pin Winners

#4 Links - Anthony Hartsfield

#8 Links - Ben O'Connor

#4 River - Mike Creekmore

#7 River - Josh Shoemaker

Long Drive Winner

Neil Branham

Our tournament could not have been the success it was without our sponsors and all of our brave golfers. We thank you and our scholarship winners thank you for the support! Please make plans now to join us for our 15th Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament next year on Monday, July 21st at Osage National. Larry assures me that the weather will be more tolerable then!

Check out the article on the MARE website (www.moare.com) for this article with attached photos! (The rally squirrel even makes an appearance!)

Thinking about retirement? Why you should let your Board of Education know ASAP!

Michael Jinks, MARE Search Consultant

Announcing a retirement decision carries a very serious sense of finality. Making the decision public carries plenty of reasons for hesitation. Being a superintendent in a rural school system may complicate the announcement of the decision since an exceptional network of community relationships exist. As a result of these relationships many individuals in the extended school community will be curious about your plans. They will ask questions – you know they will and you can probably anticipate many of the questions. So – why should you share the decision to retire as early as possible with your board? Why not put off the questions from friends, colleagues, and patrons as long as possible?

Value to you

Sharing a decision to retire should certainly be reserved until you are firmly committed to the prospect of such an important change in your life. A superintendent in a rural school system typically has an extensive network of contacts in the area and a retirement announcement often means having an ‘explanation’ ready. Questions will be forthcoming and you should be ready to answer: why are you retiring and what are you going to do now? Sometimes answers for these questions are not all that precise – be ready! Past an explanation for your decision, offering whatever useful help you can as the board prepares to search for a worthy successor is clearly in the best interests of the district. You have invested countless hours, intellectual focus, and emotional commitment in addition to sacrifices for yourself and family to the district. By announcing your retirement decision as early as possible you will confirm your leadership and professionalism by placing the board in a better position to secure a qualified individual to take over your office.

Value to District.

How can you help the board as they prepare to search for your replacement? Informing the board early is a critical decision for both you and the board. Early notice provides the board a significant advantage as they begin the search for your replacement. Until recently many, if not most, retirements were announced during the winter, typically in December, January, or even February. The effort to secure a replacement generally adds at least four

weeks or more after a search begins before a signed contract for a replacement can be reached. When recruitment efforts begin late in the year the district is at a serious disadvantage securing a strong applicant pool. Searching for a new superintendent has taken on special challenges in recent years. Since 2021 over 300 superintendent vacancies have been listed for Missouri school systems – securing a highly qualified replacement for you with eighty to a hundred superintendent openings each year is more difficult than ever. Offering your board suggestions on how to proceed with the complex process involved in securing a new superintendent is an important leadership decision. By sharing your decision to retire as early as possible a number of advantages exist for the district, the community, and for you.

Advantages include:

- *Early superintendent searches result in a stronger applicant pool. As the year progresses and the number of vacancy announcements for superintendents increase, the applicant pool narrows since potential applicants are filling other positions.
- *Early selection of a new superintendent by the board will enable the new superintendent to collaborate with you on a multitude of school matters. Historical context is always important as decisions are made and few people will have that information better than you. Your insight on decisions that are necessary for the following year will be especially important to share with your successor. Collaboration will make the transition much easier for you, the board, and the new superintendent.
- *Early notification to the board allows you to offer timely advice on what steps and actions to take as they move forward with a superintendent search. Whether the board should proceed independently with the search or retain a consultant will have a direct impact on the search process.
- *Early selection of a new superintendent by the board will enable the new superintendent to begin making connections with the community and your help identifying the people that need introductions will be of special value to all involved.
- *Advantages will even extend to the district from which the replacement comes from since they will be able to initiate their effort to locate a replacement in a timely manner as well.

Conclusion

Making a decision to retire is often difficult, and once made, when and how to announce it is also difficult. Even so, helping your school system secure the best candidate to take your place with an early announcement should be included in your parting gifts. It will also secure a strong legacy statement to your dedication to the district!!

If you have questions regarding how MARE may be of assistance with this matter, please reach out to Executive Director, Kevin Sandlin, at (660) 747-8050 or ksandlin@moare.com.

Missouri Arts Council – Big News!

Big News for Missouri Schools!

The Missouri Arts Council is establishing a new whole-school arts integration training program: **A+ Schools of Missouri [A+MO]**. MAC will choose 3 schools to participate in the inaugural training class to begin August 2025.

This school model has flourished in 4+ states since 1995, and we at MAC are proud to make this opportunity a reality for our schools. Established **A+ Schools** in North Carolina, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas consistently report higher levels of engagement, attendance, and achievement for both students and their teachers.

A+ Schools is a program that encourages collaboration, elevates arts specialists, and embraces learners as unique individuals.

Here are some FAQs:

What is it?

A+ Schools is a model for transforming an entire school by implementing the eight **A+ Essentials**, with arts every day at the center.

How does it work?

A+ Schools provides 3 years of initial training and transformation.

How much will it cost?

Missouri Arts Council proposes to fund 100% of training and support to establish your school as an **A+ School** (roughly \$90,000).

When does it begin?

Our first round of **A+ Schools** will begin professional learning in August 2025.

Where can I get more information?

Contact Jenni Ryan, program director and MAC Arts Education Program Specialist:

Phone: 314.340.6857

Email: jenni.ryan@ltgov.mo.gov

Links to established states:

A+ Schools of North Carolina: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4IPnjm-saY> *This is a great promotional video!*

Arkansas A+ Schools: <https://youtu.be/p4IPnjm-saY> *This is a great promotional video!*

Oklahoma A+ Schools: <https://okaplus.org/> *Our mentor state*

Louisiana A+ Schools: <https://www.aplusla.org/>

Proposed Timeline of Implementation*

September, October 2024: 9.26 - Pre-Application Meeting with OKA+ and MAC (in-person half day)

10.1 -10.18 - Letter of Intent to MAC; Presentation to faculty
[85% support required]; Prepare and submit application

October 18, 2024: Applications due to MAC for review
Visits from the A+ team

December 20, 2024 Schools for inaugural implementation are announced

July/August 2025: 7.28-8.1 - Initial Summit in person, all faculty

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

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