



MARE Focus

JANUARY 27, 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

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MARE PARTNERSHIPS

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

MISSOURI ADMIN. JOB POSTING

Preparing for the Upcoming Legislative Session – The new legislative season is upon us and our team in Jeff City is tracking over 400 bills that could have an impact on education in Missouri. All school leaders are strongly encouraged to know your numbers as it relates to the various pieces of legislation and how they will impact your district if passed. This varies greatly from district to district depending on your status (Formula or Hold Harmless, Transportation Expenditures, Small Schools Grant status, current Salary Schedules, Enrollment Status (Growing/Declining), etc. You are also encouraged to participate in the weekly MASA calls to get the latest developments from Jeff City and to read the Weekly Bulletin that MASA puts out. Please encourage others in your school community – BOE members, Community Leaders, Teachers, etc. to get involved as well. It is going to take all of us working together to get our message out and fight for public education, especially funding.

Side Note – Open Enrollment (House Bill 711 – Brad Pollitt) is scheduled for a hearing before the House Education Committee on Wednesday, January 29th at 12:00 p.m. or after adjournment, whichever is later. We are seeking school leaders, BOE members and community leaders to testify in opposition to this legislation. If you are interested in doing so, please notify Kevin Sandlin at ksandlin@moare.com or (660) 747-8050.

Superintendent Search Program – MARE has been retained to assist with:

Bucklin R-II Superintendent Search – Mrs. Mary Beth Scherer is the consultant. She can be reached at (660) 281-7678 or mbscherer@ucmo.edu. **Closes 2/5/2025!**

Lonedell R-XIV Superintendent Search – Dr. Jamie Burkhart is the consultant. She can be reached at (660) 525-0952 or jamiabeth.burkhart@gmail.com. **Closes 02/10/2025!**

Eminence R-I Superintendent Search – Dr. Mike Jinks is the consultant. He can be reached at (660) 441-7473 or 19mj46@charter.net. **Closes 02/28/2025!**

Closed Searches – Maysville R-I, Northeast Nodaway Co. R-V, Franklin Co. R-II, Osage Co. R-III, Putnam Co. R-I, Lakeland R-III, Green Ridge R-VIII, Sullivan, Orrick R-XI & Jamestown C-1!

Check out the MARE website at www.moare.com for announcements/applications!

Additional Administrative Vacancies

Camdenton R-III Principal Vacancy – Contact jprice@camdentonschools.org

Ridgeway R-V Superintendent Vacancy – ridgewayr5.net, jbeavers@rhsk12.org

Wright City R-II -Asst. Superintendent – amy.salvo@wrightcity.k12.mo.us

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!

MARE Scholarship Programs – Guidelines & Applications

The Missouri Association of Rural Education offers two scholarship programs for students interested in becoming teachers and returning to rural school districts to teach. The first program is the MARE Rural Missouri Scholarship Fund. This program is open to only junior and senior level students attending Missouri colleges or universities that offer degrees in education. Applicants must have completed 60 or more credit hours and have declared a major in education. Last year, MARE provided twenty-three (23) \$1,000.00 scholarships. We plan to present 20-25 \$1,000.00 scholarships this year alone! Information for this program is available below. This information was mailed to all Missouri colleges and universities that offer teacher education programs and certifications. The deadline to apply for this scholarship is Friday, March 14, 2025.

[2024-2025 Guidelines & Application for College Scholarship Awards](#)

The second scholarship program offered by MARE is open to graduating high school seniors of MARE member school districts. Applicants must have indicated plans to pursue a degree in education. Only senior students from MARE member school districts are eligible to apply. Last year, MARE, with support from EdCounsel, LLC provided thirty-eight (38) \$750.00 scholarships to graduating high school seniors from all over the state. The deadline to apply for this scholarship is Friday, March 14, 2025.

[2024-2025 Guidelines & Application for HS Senior Scholarship Awards](#)

If you have any questions regarding these Scholarship Programs, please contact Kevin Sandlin, Executive Director, at (660) 747-8050 or ksandlin@moare.com. Since 2017, MARE has provided a total of \$262,000.00 in scholarships through these two programs.

Cabool R-IV – Bus For Sale

The Cabool R-IV School District has the following bus for sale:

Thomas 2017 Freightliner b2 106 CH
71 passenger
VIN 4UZABRDU6HCJD6585
Mileage 72,000+
Engine ISB/ 74039027 Cummins
Transmission Model 2500 PTS/ 6311485432 Allison
Cummins Diesel - No Air- Hydraulic Brakes-Allison Transmission
Black hood, White Top
No AC

This bus has been a trip bus since day 1 and has never been on gravel. There is nothing wrong with this bus, it is just the only Thomas in our fleet.

Minimum bid is \$40,000. Questions or to make an appointment to see the bus contact Brandon Andrus at 417-962-3153 ext 410, or email at bandrus@cabool.k12.mo.us

Sealed Bids are due by March 7th, 2025, at 3:00 PM. Bids will be opened at our regular School Board meeting on March 10th, 2025.

Bids should be mailed to:

Cabool R-IV School District
725 Main St
Cabool, MO 65689

Write "Bus Bid" in the bottom left of the envelope.

Respectfully,

--
Dr. Karl Janson
Superintendent
Cabool R-IV School District
725 Main St
Cabool, MO 65689
(417) 962-3153 Ext 401
www.cabool.k12.mo.us

USDA Rural Development Grant Funding Opportunity

Up to \$1 Million in Grant Funding—Apply Now!



The [USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine \(DLT\) Grant](#) program is offering **\$40 million in funding** to improve education and healthcare access in rural areas. With a **20% set-aside** for substance use disorder (SUD) and opioid use disorder (OUD) projects, this grant can be a transformative opportunity for your community.

Eligible projects include:

- Interactive video equipment for distance learning or telemedicine
- Virtual reality headsets and training simulators
- Broadband transmission facilities, cybersecurity, and more

Key Details:


- **Deadline:** March 6, 2025
- **Award Size:** \$50,000 to \$1,000,000
- **Eligibility:** State & local governments, Tribes, Nonprofits, Nonprofits and Incorporated, For-profit Businesses, & Consortiums
- **Cost Share:** Applicants provide a 15% match

[KCAV](#) will help you determine grant eligibility and the best approach for higher chances of getting awarded. Our team is here to guide you through the application process, ensuring you maximize your chances of success.

Why partner with KCAV?

- Expertise in distance learning and telemedicine technology.
- All items purchased through KCAV fall under the **Greenbush contract**, en-

suring compliance and cost savings.

 **Fill out the form below** to start planning your project and leveraging this grant opportunity!

[Start Now](#)

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.

Nearpod & Flocabulary Information/Camp Engage Opportunity

I've linked a couple of resources and brief description below.

Nearpod Brochure - Nearpod is the most comprehensive instructional platform for educators to deliver engaging teaching and learning experiences that drive results. The magic of Nearpod comes from our 20+ dynamic media and formative question types that help teachers respond to the educational moment live and real time for every student. These engagement tools can be built into resources you already love or explore the Nearpod Library with over 22,000 high quality standards aligned resources in every subject area k-12. [Quick Video](#)

Flocabulary Brochure- Flocabulary is a tool that helps students master academic content, build schema or background knowledge, and academic vocabulary through academic hip hop videos. The lesson activities build core literacy skills through engagement, mastery, and student creativity. [Quick Video](#)

Camp Engage - February 7th - 9th, 2025 - Camp Engage is a FREE virtual PD event for educators like you; packed with interactive, expert-led sessions focused on topics you care about and innovative strategies to support your instruction. Each session is designed to provide immediate classroom impact, so you can apply what you learn at Camp Engage right away. Earn PD credits, make connections, and have fun!

Sammy Contact Information -
sammy.welsh@nearpod.com
(850) 655-2169
[Calendar Link](#)

I look forward to continuing our partnership. I'll reach back out in the new year once I hear more about the other solutions I can offer Missouri Schools. Let me know if you need anything else in the meantime, always happy to help!

Happy Holidays:)
Sammy Welsh



Sammy Welsh
Account Executive
Small School District Specialist
Nearpod & Flocabulary
M: (850) 655-2169



nearpod

A Renaissance Company

www.nearpod.com



[Book time to meet with me](#)

Learning Blade Statewide Webinar – Tuesday, February 25th!

Learning Blade is a fully-funded by DESE. It is a supplemental, STEM/CS/CTE toolbox of interactive online lessons, ready-to-use lesson plans, and classroom activities designed to expose pri-

marily 5th -9th grade students to STEM/CS/CTE-related career opportunities and help them develop key skills as they move forward and make career path decisions.

Join this statewide webinar!

"Empowering STEM/CS/CTE and Career Exploration Success: Unlocking Student Potential with Learning Blade",

Register for the

Tuesday, February 25th, 2025 at 3:30-4:30pm CST statewide training webinar [HERE](#).

Participants will gain confidence in using Learning Blade. For the best training experience, **create your FREE account in advance at www.LearningBlade.com/MO**

Training is always available at no cost to educators. Schedule a time that works for you by visiting <https://calendly.com/d/3xc-4s3-99n>.

Thank you,

Michele

Michele Linch, PhD
State Director
Learning Blade - Career Blade - Ready for Industry!
c: 501.766.3931
e: michele@learningblade.com

BIA-MO – Information About Upcoming Seminars

Concussions: Facts, Fallacies and New Frontiers “Refresher” Seminars

There is still time to register for FREE Seminar about concussion recognition, management, and prevention to help prevent long- and short-term effects of concussions.

The Brain Injury Association of Missouri (BIA-MO) **Concussions: Facts, Fallacies and New Frontiers “Refresher” Seminars are being held between February 5 – 14, 2025.**

The in-person Seminars are Columbia (Feb 4), Kansas City (Feb 5) and St. Louis (Feb 13). There is also a Live Stream Seminar on Feb 14. All Seminars are scheduled from **7:30 am – 11:00 am. There is no cost to participate!**

Each Seminar includes the sessions of:

- Concussions Facts and Fallacies
- Return to Play Guidelines
- Incorporating Exercise in Concussion Management when an Athletic Trainer is Not Available
- Early Recognition of Fear Avoidance Behaviors That May Lead to Prolonged Recovery
- Concussion Resources

This exceptional education is FREE, but registration is required. Registration options include:

Online Form - [BIA-MO Concussion Seminar Registration](#)

Website – biamo.org

Email – Concussions@biamo.org

Phone – 314-426-4024

For more information, contact the Brain Injury Association of Missouri at 314-426-4024 or Concussions@biamo.org.

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

"Football is like life. It requires perseverance, self-denial, hard work, sacrifice, dedication, and respect for authority."

Vince Lombardi

Missouri Social Studies Curriculum News – Rhett Oldham

1. **The EOC Government Insights and Strategies Conclave** is February 11th from 9:00 AM-11:30 AM. The link is in the newsletter so plan on attending this intense look at strategies and tools to best prepare your students for the test.
2. **The EOC Government Test Prep Understanding Government Standards** will be March 18th at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City. I have hotel rooms available for any teachers that want to attend and includes breakfast and lunch. We will also pay for your sub and a stipend is available. I will need you to fill out a form for this and it is in the newsletter. This day will be full of collaboration and ideas on how we, as social studies teachers, can best teach students and prepare them for the EOC Government test.
3. Here is the newsletter. [Engage Missouri: Social Studies Leaders Newsletter 1.9](#)

As always, if you have anything to add to the newsletter or have questions about what is going on with DESE, feel free to contact me. Take care, stay safe, and talk to you soon.

Best regards,

Dr. Rhett Oldham
Director of Social Studies Curriculum-DESE
573-751-0398 (w)

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness"-Mark Twain

Innovate 2025 Conference – February 23-25, 2025

The **innovate 2025 conference** scheduled for **February 23 – 25** provides a variety of opportunities to connect, learn and grow alongside educators and thought leaders. From breakout sessions led by national speakers and regional educators, panel discussions with local experts and an exhibitor expo, teachers and leaders will benefit from the content around instructional design, culture and climate, technology and leadership.

What to Expect:

- **Engaging Breakout Sessions** led by educators sharing practical and inspiring insights
- **Interactive Content Panels** with education leaders on hot topics and trends
- **National Speakers** with proven strategies and innovative ideas that can be implemented immediately into your school\ classroom
- **exhibitor expo and podcast row** featuring innovative tools and resources

Conference Topics:

Sessions are designed to spark ideas, introduce new strategies and challenge traditional thinking in critical areas of leadership, wellness, belonging, integration, culture and design. Topics include:

- AI in education
- Digital Literacy
- Student Engagement
- Competency-based Instruction and Assessment
- Building Classroom Culture
- Enhancing Creativity in the Classroom
- Student and Educator Wellbeing
- Student and Educator Leadership
- Behavior Management
- Lesson Design

Keynote Speakers

This year's lineup includes:

- **Stephanie Boyce** – Founder of [Freshclassroom](#), Stephanie wants to show ALL people entry points for engagement to ensure equitable outcomes for students.
- **Taylor Hughes** -Author of *Road to Wonder*, [Taylor's storytelling and pres-tidigitiation](#) will spark wonder in every aspect of life.
- **Roy Moye, III** – Funder of [STEMusic](#), Roy wants to inspire the next generation of multicultural STEM professionals through engaging and entertaining music.
- **David Preston** – Author of *Academy of One*, David will share practices and strategies for Open-Source Learning.

Expanded Content & Registration Options:

This year, the conference has expanded to 2 ½ days! Registration options include two-day or single day registrations. **All registrations include the Sunday evening keynote with Taylor Hughes and the exhibitor expo cocktail party on Monday afternoon.**

Ready to Register?

Get your team ready for #innovate25! Discover more about the conference on the [website](#) and secure your spots [here](#). **Early Bird Registration ends December 18!**

Christine Stanek McDonald

Director of Communications

EducationPlus

1460 Craig Road | St. Louis, MO 63146
o: 314.692.1233 | c: 314.443.6990

MARE Board Elections for 2025 – MARE will be electing/appointing Regional Executive Board Members in Regions, A, C, E, G and I this year. In addition, one member from a MARE member school district's BOE and a Higher Education Representative will be appointed. **All current Board members up for re-election/appointment have expressed interest in serving another two-year term through June 30, 2027! (Due to the recent retirement decision of Dr. Brian Robinson, MARE will be in need of a Board Member to represent Region J, which includes the following counties - Atchison, Holt, Nodaway, Andrew, Buchanan, Platte, Clay, Worth, DeKalb, Clinton, Ray, Caldwell, Daviess, Gentry and Harrison. If you are serving as a Superintendent or Asst. Superintendent in a MARE member school district within one of these counties and you have interest in representing Region J, please reach out to me at ksandlin@moare.com or (660) 747-8050!)**

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
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Raymond James Webinar Opportunity

Last week, the House Ways and Means Committee released a list of potential revenue raisers to pay for at least part of a large reconciliation bill later this year. Some of the options included on the list are 1) eliminating the exclusion of interest on State and Local bonds, and 2) ending tax preferences for "Other Bonds," which include Private Activity Bonds and Build America Bonds. As municipal market participants know, this would be detrimental to communities throughout the nation as tax-exempt bonds provide a crucial tool that enables state and local governments to fund essential infrastructure projects efficiently and affordably.

Tune in to hear from **Raymond James Washington Policy Analyst Ed Mills** and the **Federal Liaison for the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Emily Brock** as they break down the very latest updates on the proposed threat to tax-exempt municipal bonds. During this 30-minute webinar, we plan to address:

1. What's being proposed, what's the likelihood of it happening, and why tax-exempt bonds are vital to our economic stability
2. Potential effects of tax reform on the municipal market
3. Call to action! Steps municipal issuers can take to advocate for the preservation of tax-exempt bonds

Please join us by clicking the link below to register for the webinar.

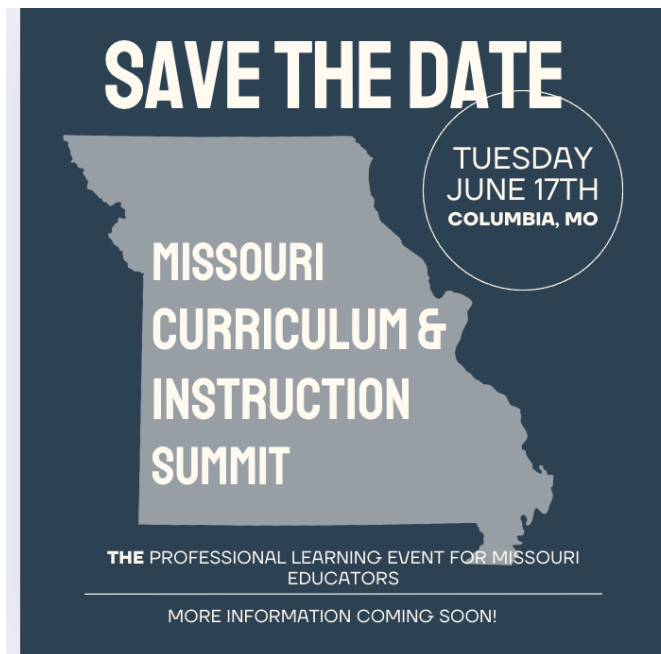
**Thursday, January 30 at
3 p.m. ET | 2 p.m. CT | 1 p.m. MT | 12 p.m. PT**

[Register for the webinar here](#)

RAYMOND JAMES

RJPublicFinance.com

ICEV Learning Event – Save the Date!



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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