



MARE Focus

JANUARY 8, 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.

MOCAT

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SOCS

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MARE PARTNERSHIPS

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EDCOUNSEL,
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MUNDORF,
MICKES
O'TOOLE,
TUETH
KEENEY

EDPLUS

AMERICAN
LEGION BOYS
STATE

GIRLS STATE

MISSOURI
ADMIN. JOB
POSTING

Preparing for the Upcoming Legislative Session – It is time now to gear up for the Missouri Legislative Session which officially begins today, Wednesday, January 8, 2025. During pre-filing, a number of education related bills were filed. All of us will need to stay informed and do our part to oppose where needed and support where we can! Some suggestions as you prepare for the session include the following: 1) Get to know your area senator and representatives, especially if these folks are new to Jefferson City! 2) Arrange your calendar to be able to join the Monday morning MASA calls that are provided each week during the session. 3) Read the weekly MASA Legislative Bulletin that comes out on Friday and stay informed on the various pieces of legislation that will impact education and the overall budget. 4) Share with your local legislators how the various pieces of proposed legislation will impact your district. This is especially true of SB 727! 5) Plan to take part in Legislative Rally Days as arranged by various groups – MASA/MARE/MRTA/MSTA/MNEA. 6) Encourage BOE members and key community leaders to become active in the legislative process and sharing the great things that are happening in your local school district and community!

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!**

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!

**** We anticipate additional openings to post within the next two weeks!**

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

Additional Administrative Vacancies

Woodland R-IV Superintendent Vacancy – www.wsdr4.net, scowell@wsdr4.net

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.

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



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[Book time to meet with me](#)

SRSN – Missouri PCBL Master Teacher Cadre

Missouri PCBL Master Teacher Cadre



Holiday greetings from the [Success-Ready Students Network](#) (SRSN)! We hope this message finds you enjoying a slower pace and quality time with those you care about most.

This is a friendly reminder about SRSN's implementation of the inaugural Personalized Competency-Based Learning (PCBL) Master Teacher Cadre (MTC), a year-long professional development program designed to equip educators with the knowledge and skills to master personalized competency-based learning through a dynamic blend of in-person and virtual experiences.

Applicants can access the application form at the following link between **December 6-January 15**. A recommendation from the applicant's direct supervisor and superintendent is required as part of the application. Details are on the form.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE PCBL MTC APPLICATION](#)

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

“True education is a kind of never ending story — a matter of continual beginnings, of habitual fresh starts, of persistent newness.” — J.R.R. Tolkien

Missouri Social Studies Curriculum News – Rhett Oldham

I am sending this: [Engage Missouri: Social Studies Leaders Newsletter Travel Edition](#) out now so you have time to explore all the great **FREE** travel for educators. There are so many great opportunities and some of the applications don't take much time to complete. Some of the applications, like Fulbright, do require letters of recommendation, so keep that in mind, but most do not. More than anything, these programs will make you a better teacher, will expand your knowledge base in a profound way, and connect you with teachers all over the country who have the same passion for education as you do.

I wish all the best on a successful application. Feel free to contact me or any of the Missouri teacher travel experts listed on the last page of the newsletter for tips or advice. Take care and enjoy the rest of your break.

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-tidigitation](#) 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:



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Investment Services

(417) 228-4148

jjungmann@pmanetwork.com



Jason Hoffman
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Investment Services

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MARE Organization Staff

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(660) 747-8050

Fax: (660) 747-8160

Website: www.moare.com

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