



MARE Focus

JULY 17, 2020

FROM THE DESK OF MR. KEVIN SANDLIN, MARE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ENDORSEMENTS

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- EDPLUS
- AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE
- GIRLS STATE
- MISSOURI ADMIN. JOB POSTING

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 381 member school districts ([2020-2021 MARE 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!

State Coronavirus Relief Funds to Address K-12 Education Challenges

For more information, contact:

Communications

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Phone

[573-751-3469](tel:573-751-3469)

Communications@dese.mo.gov

Contact Communications

Mon, 07/06/2020 - 15:15

Missouri will use \$55 million from the state's Coronavirus Relief Fund to expand educational opportunities for students and address two key challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has presented for K-12 education: student internet connectivity and potential learning loss during extended school closures.

While school buildings were closed this spring, one in five Missouri students could not access online learning opportunities due to Wi-Fi availability and/or affordability. On July 2, the Department of Economic Development announced it had allocated \$10 million of the state's Coronavirus Relief Fund to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to reimburse schools for costs associated with increasing student connectivity and expanding campus Wi-Fi networks for the coming school year. It is estimated that these funds will allow 250,000 new concurrent connections to the internet for students.

DESE will then use nearly \$20 million allocated to the agency through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund and the Elementary and Secondary Schools Education Relief Fund state reserve to support schools in providing additional student devices. Applications and the necessary documentation schools will be required to submit to collect this reimbursement will be forthcoming.

DESE will receive an additional \$10 million of the state's Coronavirus Relief Fund to create a formative assessment tool to gauge the level of learning loss – or growth – students experienced this spring. These funds will also be used to develop strategies to accelerate learning to help students who may have fallen behind get back on track quickly. These short, turnkey assessments will not be used for accountability, but rather as a valuable tool educators can use when students return to school in August to inform instruction and assemble the supports a student may need, with results returned to schools in just one week.

The state is also allocating \$7.5 million of the Coronavirus Relief Fund to reimburse schools for

transportation expenses incurred when delivering meals to students during school closures. Missouri families counted on this assistance, with schools serving over 19 million meals through the pandemic.

An additional \$7.5 million of the state's Coronavirus Relief Fund has been allocated to help schools cover the costs of personal protective equipment and cleaning and medical supplies for schools and buses, as part of a cost-share program with local counties. Just over \$795,000 has also been allocated to reimburse those schools that provided childcare for emergency workers during school closures.

Network for Educator Effectiveness Information

Based on the experience of last spring, the NEE staff members have worked hard the past three months to prepare materials and resources to help our NEE districts (and any others seeking assistance) with the difficult task of properly evaluating teaching in remote learning settings. The primary focus of these evaluating remote teaching resources follow the same NEE value of helping teachers grow through a supportive evaluation process. Our intent with these materials and training is to get in front of potential issues by providing sound protocols, associated resources, and supplemental training to all involved to reduce the anxiety that will probably come this fall as schools enter another period of likely-changing learning environment.

The link below takes you to a page on our public website with some introductory information. You can fill in the request form on that page for access to the guide (technical sheet) and associated resources. We are also hosting two Q&A zoom sessions next week to give anyone the opportunity to ask questions and get some feedback. If you would like to join one of those sessions you are more than welcome to register.

We also plan to schedule a series of online supplemental trainings in August-October to give district staff a more in-depth training in the new materials and protocols as their districts adjust their learning environment and need assistance in effectively evaluating in remote learning settings. We aren't forcing this process or materials on any district---just making it available to their staff as needed. Quite frankly there isn't much out there on this topic to help districts as they maneuver through these uncharted times.

<https://neeadvantage.com/blog/evaluating-remote-teaching-recommendations-and-resources-now-available/>

As always let me know if you have any questions or have any difficulty getting to the resources.

Marc Doss, EdD

Project Director

Network for Educator Effectiveness

573-882-9869

2800 Maguire Blvd., Columbia, MO 65211

www.NEEAdvantage.com

Mickes O'Toole/Slate XP Seminar Opportunity

"COVID-19 and the Unintended Consequences of Distance Learning"

Mickes O'Toole Attorneys at Law, in conjunction with SlateXP, the makers of LearnSafe, are pleased to sponsor an online seminar for educators and administrators that focuses on the issues that need to be considered with respect to student safety and school liability during distance learning. Featuring Thomas A. Mickes, a leading education law attorney representing

more than 200 school districts, private schools, and institutions of higher learning, this webinar will take place on **Tuesday, July 21st, at 10:00 am CST via Zoom**. Tom Mickes will draw from his experience as an education law attorney and a former teacher, principal, superintendent and school board member to discuss the liability issues schools face with distance learning, including:

1. Where does a school's liability start and end?
2. How can a school control liability, and why that is important?
3. How does a school maximize its CARES Act allocation?

This online seminar will be highly beneficial for superintendents, principals, technology directors, school board members, and school board attorneys.

To register [click here](#) or copy and paste this link in your browser:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8Lq6EdbdQby-n6stxZWmTA

EdCounsel, LLC - July 20th Summer Legal Seminar - The scheduled in-person Legal Seminar prior to the MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament on Monday, July 20th has been cancelled. More information will be shared this week by EdCounsel regarding their upcoming virtual Legal Seminars!

Boardworks Webinar - Please consider joining our friends at Boardworks as they share information on empowering teachers and improving comprehension!

"Keeping Teacher's Teaching in a Virtual World" hosted by Boardworks Education Empowering every teacher to engage students and improve comprehension across all learning environments.

Tuesday August 4th at 9a CST

Link to Register: <https://forms.gle/PR1r3MXR9yN9t9FA8>

Learning Blade Information

MO **Introduce Students to STEM and Computer Science Careers Through Learning Blade®**

Start the school year right by exposing students to high-demand STEM and Computer Science careers. At no charge, use Learning Blade's 200+ hours of interactive STEM and Computer Science activities to show your students how these careers and technologies solve human-centered problems. Great for in-class as well as blended or distance learning. Over 400 online interactive student-ready interactive lessons plus downloadable lessons for hands-on projects, design thinking, 3D printing, coding, career videos and parent discussions are all offered through Learning Blade. (Grades 5-9)

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has

Interactive Career Awareness Toolbox



provided Learning Blade® to offer middle school students more opportunities for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and Computer Science (CS) career awareness. Receive your school's free account by registering at www.LearningBlade.com/MO.

Register for free 60-minute PD/training by clicking this link - <https://conta.cc/38Orh1D>
Contact info@learningblade.com to request a webinar training or ask questions.

"I love it. Kids find Learning Blade challenging and interesting. I really like that they get to know different occupations. We are out here away from the city and the students don't get to see these careers."

Jane Wehmeyer, Math Teacher, Mansfield High School

DESE Supported Online STEM and Computer Science Career Awareness Program (Zoom)

MARE is excited to share with its members free access to Learning Blade's **interactive toolbox** which provides **over 400 online lessons** connecting your students to **more than 100 STEM and Computer Science careers and technologies**.

Thursday, August 6

9:00 am - 10:00 am pm CST

Wednesday, August 12

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm CST

Wednesday, August 19

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm CST

The online lessons are aligned to Missouri State Standards grade 5-9 and are appropriate for supplementing lessons in a variety of classroom settings, including RTI, STEM, Science, Math, English, Coding Block, and more! Please join the webinar to learn how to use the system.

Share what you are doing and tag **@LearningBlade!**

Learning Blade | (423) 521-2309 | Info@LearningBlade.com

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!!!

Summer Law Workshop Schedule - Please access the links below for the latest information on the various Summer Law Workshop schedules from our partners at EdCounsel, Guin Mundorf, Mickes O'Toole and Tueth Keeney.

[EdCounsel, LLC 2020 Summer Law Workshops](#)
[Guin Mundorf, LLC 2020 Summer Law Seminar Schedule](#)
[Mickes O'Toole Annual Legal Seminar](#)
[Tueth Keeney 2020 Law Seminar Schedule](#)

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 in late August or early September!**

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 Registration, Call for Presentations and Outstanding Rural Education Awards found on the cover of this MARE Focus article!

10th Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament - **For those of you who have signed up, don't forget the Golf Tournament with a shotgun tee time of 12:00 noon. Registration begins at 10:00 a.m. in the clubhouse. Stick around after the event for an evening meal, Flight winner announcements, Closest to Pin and Long Drive Competition winner announcements and Door Prize giveaways. We are looking forward to seeing all of you there! It is going to be hot, but we will get through it together while supporting scholarships for rural Missouri school teachers!**

2020 Health Office Orientation - *2020 Health Office Orientation Updated*

Missouri Association of Rural Education (MARE) is partnering with the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) School Health Program and the Missouri Association of School Nurses (MASN) to offer an orientation for health office staff.

Date and Location: The unusual circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic event has caused us to re-think and adjust the plan for the annual program. This year, the Health Office Orientation will be offered as a *virtual* training and orientation package. Learning modules will be posted and the link to accessing the required modules will be shared upon registration. An online live event will be held to allow participants to come together and share their challenges and concerns, and talk with our faculty in follow up to the learning modules, asking questions and clarifying how to apply the materials to their school nursing practice.

Purpose: This virtual workshop provides a series of online modules to assist in orienting nurses without prior work experience in schools and an overview of information regarding school nursing practice.

Areas to be addressed include: general school nurse responsibilities, immunizations, communicable diseases, documentation, chronic disease management, medication administration training and

screenings- vision, hearing, dental; as well as review of practices in Special Education Services; Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and child abuse reporting.

Who should attend: Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses who have not previously worked in schools, and new health office staff in schools, working without the benefit of a LPN or RN supervisor.

Cost: No cost for registration.

Registration: https://missouriwic.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0iZzZfVt9VQyvYh

Deadline for Registration is July 24, 2020

After confirmation of your registration, the School Health Program will send the information for accessing the learning modules, additional program information and the schedule of dates for completing the materials and the virtual interactive live meeting.

(Note: The emails are sent manually, so you will not receive an automatic confirmation response)

For additional workshop information call Heather at the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services at (573) 526-5872 or email: Heather.McClure@health.mo.gov

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

Quote of the Week

"A leader... is like a shepherd. He stays behind the flock, letting the most nimble go out ahead, whereupon the others follow, not realizing that all along they are being directed from behind."

Nelson Mandela

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