



# MARE Focus

MARCH 12, 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.

MOCAT

M.U.S.I.C.

SOCS

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## MARE PARTNERSHIPS

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

**Superintendent Search Program** – MARE has been retained to conduct the following Superintendent Searches:

**Superintendent Search – Adair Co. R-II** – Dr. Jerry Cochran is the Search Consultant. Jerry can be reached at (660) 596-3184 or at [cochranj115@gmail.com](mailto:cochranj115@gmail.com). **Closing (3/22/2024)!**

**Closed Searches – South Holt Co. R-I, Marion Co. R-II, North Andrew R-VI, La Plata R-II, Sullivan, Spring Bluff R-XV, Scott City R-I, Shelby Co. R-IV, Central R-III, Ralls Co. R-II, Spokane R-VII, Ash Grove R-IV, Kennett 39, St. Clair R-XIII, Van Far R-I, Chadwick R-I, Kingston 42, Sherwood Cass R-VIII, Otterville R-VI, North Shelby & Craig R-III!**

**All Vacancy Announcements & Applications – [www.moare.com](http://www.moare.com)!**

## Talk to Read Grant Opportunity

We are 4 years post-pandemic. Are learners in your building struggling to recover? Are teachers looking to accelerate literacy learning? The U.S. Department of Education is funding up to 40 hours of professional learning for second-grade teachers who seek to accelerate literacy learning.

Participating teachers glean insights into a field-tested program, Talk to Read, are compensated for their time, and given up to 10 tablets, a tablet charging station, and 20 headsets for their classroom. Professional learning is provided by eMINTS National Center for Professional Learning, an affiliate of the University of Missouri College of Education and Human Development.

Spots are limited. To learn more, we invite you to explore our [website](#), attend a brief informational [webinar](#), or email the program facilitator, Maggie Bunten at [meenr9@missouri.edu](mailto:meenr9@missouri.edu).



**Hamlin Energy Program** – MARE member school districts have received two or three email blasts within the past few weeks from Rhonda Hamlin with Hamlin Energy Group. As you may know, we have a partnership with Hamlin Energy Group to provide various services aimed at saving school districts money when it comes to energy costs, especially with natural gas. I would encourage you to review those emails carefully and reach out to Rhonda with your questions. It is very likely that she can save your district money and/or recoup some money by conducting an energy audit for your school district. More information regarding Hamlin Energy can be found at [www.moare.com](http://www.moare.com).

**Calculate & Communicate** – We continue to hear that there is legislation being considered to create a three-year, state enhanced plan to provide districts with money to help fund new teacher minimum salary requirements. Once that three-year window is up, the new minimum salary requirements will remain in place, but districts will have to meet these requirements without any additional funding from the state at that point. (Ultimately, another unfunded state mandate!) **Because of this pending legislation, districts are encouraged to calculate how much of the grant money for the state minimum salary (\$38,000.00) they are drawing down and to communicate with your legislators what might happen should that grant program be phased out accompanied by a mandatory minimum teacher salary of \$38,000.00 or higher. It is important for your elected officials to understand what impact this would have on your district including possible program cuts, staffing reductions, delaying of facility improvements, unrealistic local tax levy burdens, etc. Now is the time to begin to prepare this information and have these conversations so that your legislators are informed and hopefully will look for ways to continue to fund an improved minimum teacher salary in our state.**

**MARE Scholarship Information** – MARE awarded a total of 52 scholarships last year including 22 - \$1,000.00 scholarships to college juniors/seniors, 29 - \$500.00 scholarships to graduating seniors from MARE member school districts and a \$2,500.00 scholarship in memory of Dr. Matt Bushey. Proceeds from the annual golf tournament are our primary source of funding for scholarships. Due to the generous support of many of our Associate Members and other donors, we will be awarding additional scholarships and increasing the HS Scholarship Awards to \$750.00 during 2024! **(\$211,500.00 awarded!)**  
**HS Senior Scholarship Deadline – Wednesday, March 13, 2024**  
**College Scholarship Deadline – Friday, March 29, 2024**  
[2023 HS Senior Scholarship Guidelines & Application](#)  
[2023 MARE College Scholarship Guidelines & Application](#)

### **National Center for Rural Mental Health – MU Grant Opportunity**

You are invited to participate in a study as part of our [National Center for Rural School Mental Health](#). Dr. Keith Herman of the University of Missouri and his team have created free resources for rural schools to use to support student mental health. The project would give you access to a brief, online student and teacher mental health risk screening, automated dashboard reports, [the Intervention Hub](#) mapped onto your school results, and technical assistance in how to use it. The screener only takes 10 min for a teacher to complete the entire class, and 5-10 min for students. It also caps the number of students identified as being most at risk compared to their peers in your building so as to not overwhelm staff. Participating schools receive \$1000 to accommodate for any inconveniences. Please contact Dr. Herman to learn more ([hermanke@missouri.edu](mailto:hermanke@missouri.edu)); he can also set up a demo of the system to show you and your staff.

**Save the Date** - The 14th Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, July 15th at Osage National Golf Course in Lake Ozark, Missouri. We will accept the first 36 paid teams for this event. Last year's event raised over \$34,300.00 to be earmarked for scholarships for students interested in teaching in rural Missouri schools.

## MOCAAT – What Can You Do For Me?

MOCAAT is a full financial management resource for Missouri school districts. Established in 2020, MOCAAT® prides itself on bringing a new level of service and support of investment planning and deployment for Missouri schools. The MOCAAT team uses their decades of experience in Missouri school budget, finance and investments to manage more than \$3.0 billion in assets for over 205 districts across the state. For support with investments of your reserve funds, tax revenues, state revenues, and bond proceeds please reach out to John Jungmann, [jjungmann@pmanetwork.com](mailto:jjungmann@pmanetwork.com) (417) 228-4148 or Jason Hoffman, [jhoffman@pmanetwork.com](mailto:jhoffman@pmanetwork.com) (573) 212-6258.

**NREA News** - For all of the latest news from our national affiliate, please click on these links: [February 23, 2024 NREA Weekly Update](#), [March 1, 2024 NREA Weekly Update](#), [March 8, 2024 NREA Weekly Update](#)

## Quote of the Week

“Don’t Give Up! Don’t Ever Give Up! – Jim Valvano

## MU Grant Opportunity



### Seeking participants for a Research Study

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders and their teachers take a **ONE-TIME** online survey to assess **self-regulation, school belongingness, prosocial behaviors, engagement, and behavior management**. Participants receive:

- A **free**, school-specific report on school climate, students' academic mindset, sense of belonging, and engagement. The data can help inform any programs schools want to enact.
- *Designing a Prosocial Classroom*, a book written by Christi Bergin at Mizzou, which discusses how to create a more prosocial (i.e., respectful, cooperative, kind) school climate.
- Participating teachers will be eligible to receive a **\$25 Amazon gift card**.

Your participation will contribute to research on how to make schools a nurturing place for students and teachers.

To participate, email [lbrockmeier@missouri.edu](mailto:lbrockmeier@missouri.edu)

## 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 Board Training Opportunities** - MARE will provide Board Training in 2024 for newly elected or appointed BOE members according to this schedule:

**Southeast Missouri - Poplar Bluff, MO – Holiday Inn – (573) 712-9021**

- Friday, May 31, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 1, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

**West Central Missouri - Warrensburg, MO – Quality Inn - (660) 747-3000**

- Friday, June 14, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 15, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

**Northeast Missouri - Kirksville, MO - Holiday Inn Express (660) 956-4682**

- Friday, June 14, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 15, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

**Southwest Missouri - Bolivar, MO - Comfort Inn - (417) 326-6169**

- Friday, June 21, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 22, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

**Northwest Missouri - Maryville, MO - Holiday Inn Express (660) 562-9949**

- Friday, July 12, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, July 13, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

**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](mailto:ksandlin@moare.com), or go online ([www.moare.com](http://www.moare.com)) and complete the electronic form found under Board Training.**

**National Center for Rural School Mental Health Opportunity**

Exciting opportunity! Your school or co-op is invited to participate in a study focused on improving the capacity of rural schools to support student emotional and behavioral well-being. Participating schools will be randomly assigned to either receive data reports and consultation versus receiving reports in Spring and consultation the following year.

**Project Description**

Schools will be **randomly** assigned to two groups: intervention schools and control schools.

**2024-2025 (Year 1)**

<b>Intervention schools (Get Now)</b>	<b>Control schools (Get Later)</b>
\$1500 participation stipend School climate survey and reports Early Intervention System (EIS), a universal social emotional screen-	\$1000 participation stipend School climate survey and Early Intervention System sal social emotional scree

er and reports EIS intervention hub and professional development Monthly consultation	Spring)
<b>Intervention schools</b>	<b>Control Schools</b>
school climate survey and reports EIS screener and reports EIS intervention hub and professional development	\$500 participation stipend School climate survey and re Early Intervention System (E versal social emotional scree reports EIS intervention hub and pro development Monthly consultation

**All participating schools will have free access to all materials and tools following participation in year 1.**

**Each building will have a liaison assigned who is compensated for work with the National Center.**

**School Data Collection Requirements**

All participating schools:

Complete a school climate survey in the fall and spring.

Complete universal social emotional and behavioral screening in fall and spring (teacher and students)

**Interested?** For more information or questions contact:

**Lou Ann Tanner-Jones, PhD, NCSP**

Assistant Clinical Professor, Dept. of Educational, School & Counseling Psychology

*Boone County Schools Mental Health Coalition (BSCMHC)*

*National Center for Rural School Mental Health (NCRSMH)*

**University of Missouri**

Columbia, MO 65211

[tannerjonesl@umsystem.edu](mailto:tannerjonesl@umsystem.edu)

**MARE Welcomes New Associate Members** – MARE is pleased to welcome **Acrisure/Wallstreet Group, AirAnswers, Inc., Community Foundation of the Ozarks, Haddock Educational Technologies, PCC Sports, Pepco, Inc., Quality Network Solutions, Renaissance Learning, Inc. & Varsity Tutors as New Associate Members.** More information will be shared on each of these in future MARE Focus articles!

**MARE Board Elections for 2024** – MARE will be electing Regional Executive Board Members in Regions B, D, F, H and J this year. In addition, one member from a MARE member school district’s BOE and a MO K-8 Representative will be appointed by the current MARE Board. More information on this will be shared soon!  
**Due to retirements, we are looking for a Region B and Region H MARE Board Representative.** If interested, please let Dr. Cochran or myself know.

**Representative Regions by Counties**

**Region B:** Counties of – Gasconade, Franklin, Crawford, Washington, Iron, Reynolds, St. Francis, Ste. Genevieve, Jefferson, Perry and St. Louis. **(Dr. Kruse retiring!)**

**Region D:** Counties of – Laclede, Camden, Miller, Cole, Osage, Maries, Phelps, Pulaski and Dent. **(Dr. Price wants to continue to serve!)**

**Region F:** Counties of – Jackson, Cass, Lafayette, Johnson, Henry, Saline, Pettis, Cooper, Moniteau and Morgan. **(Dr. Marnholtz wants to continue to serve!)**

**Region H:** Counties of – Scotland, Knox, Shelby, Monroe, Audrain, Callaway, Clark, Lewis, Marion, Ralls, Pike, Montgomery, Lincoln, Warren and St. Charles.  
**(Mr. Troy Clawson is retiring!)**

**Region J:** Counties of – Atchinson, Holt, Nodaway, Andrew, Buchanan, Platte, Clay, Worth, DeKalb, Clinton, Ray, Caldwell, Daviess, Gentry and Harrison.  
**(Dr. Brian Robinson wants to continue to serve!)**

## Rural Education Matters, Everyday!

### **MARE Organization Staff**

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