



MAY 12, 2025

# MARE Focus

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

## ENDORSEMENTS

American Fidelity Assurance Co.

Claim Care, Inc.

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Hamlin Energy

IMS Technology

L.J. Hart & Company

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MEUHP

Mike Keith Insurance

MO. Consult. For Ed.

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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

**Superintendent Search Program** – MARE has facilitated sixteen (16) Superintendent Searches this year. Noted below are the various searches and the selected Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent for 2025-2026.

**Closed Searches – Maysville R-I (Christopher Hodge), Northeast Nodaway Co. R-V (Chaim Jenkins, Asst. Supt. for 25-26), Franklin Co. R-II (Erica Freitag), Osage Co. R-III (John Kitchens), Putnam Co. R-I (Jonnie Beavers), Lakeland R-III (Dr. Deanna Jurkowski), Green Ridge R-VIII (Jonathan Peterson), Sullivan (Matthew Peregoy), Orrick R-XI (Chris Russo), Jamestown C-1 (Amber Bouse), Bucklin R-II (Michael Kahn), Lonedell R-XIV (Dr. Monica Hiatt), Eminence R-I (Stephanie Barbagiovanni), Spring Bluff R-XV (Tina Wnuk), Fair Play R-II (Buck Shockley) & Iberia R-V (Amanda Mace).**

**Please join me in welcoming these new leaders to the leadership family!**

## Learning Blade Corner

### May 2025 LB Corner

Launch into Learning for the 2025-2026 School Year!

Get a head start on Fall 2025! Now's the time to prep your STEM, Computer Science, and CTE curriculum with Learning Blade's 400+ standards-aligned lessons for grades 5–9.

**Plan Ahead:** Book your **FREE Summer or Back to School PD** and explore how Learning Blade brings real-world careers and hands-on learning to life.

### Why Learning Blade?

- 400+ interactive STEM, CS, and CTE lessons
- Ready-to-use plans for busy teachers
- Career exploration to motivate students
- Engaging, team-based projects with 3D printing, design & more

**See how professional development empowered our educators:**

**Launch into Learning for the 2025-2026 School Year!**

STEM | CS  
| CTE |  
CAREER  
EXPLORATION

Learning Blade  
Powered by eDynamic Learning

400+ LESSONS   HANDS-ON PROJECTS   CAREER EXPLORATION   TEACHER PD AVAILABLE

**SCHEDULE YOUR SUMMER OR BACK TO SCHOOL PD TODAY**

***"Our middle school STEAM team is so excited for Learning Blade. After our training, the team has been lesson planning and has found so many wonderful resources for our program."*** Middle School Math Teacher

Don't wait—[\*\*schedule your summer or back to school PD session today!\*\*](#) Sign up for your FREE Learning Blade account: [LearningBlade.com/States](https://LearningBlade.com/States)

## **Missouri Job Board for Educators**

Please access the newly created DESE-sponsored Missouri Educator Job Board at this link [www.hirenimble.com/connect/missouri](https://www.hirenimble.com/connect/missouri)

Share this information with those looking for teaching positions in our great state!

**MARE Scholarship Information** – MARE will award a total of 65 (up from 61 last year) scholarships this year including 22 - \$1,000.00 scholarships to college juniors/seniors & 43 - \$750.00 scholarships to graduating seniors from MARE member school districts = **Total of \$54,250.00 (up from \$51,500 last year)**. Since 2017, MARE has awarded \$316,250.00 in scholarships to students interested in becoming teachers! **(Articles on website soon!)**

## **Elevate Conference Dates**

**Re: E**Levate your impact at the **E**Levate Conference - now at two locations!

Get ready to be inspired! EducationPlus is hosting the **ELevate Conference in both St. Louis and Kansas City this year!** **E**Levate St. Louis will be June 3 & 4 at Ft. Zumwalt West High School and **E**Levate Kansas City will be held on Thursday, June 5 at the Kauffman Foundation Conference Center.

Experience dynamic keynote speakers, innovative breakout sessions and networking opportunities that will ignite new ideas and elevate your impact in the classroom. Learn best practices and gain new strategies for creating inclusive and effective learning environments. Learn more about St. Louis on the [\*\*E\*\*Levate St. Louis conference website](#) and Kansas City on it's [conference website](#).

This conference is for leaders, EL educators and content teachers who have EL students within their classroom. All can gain valuable learning experiences and practical strategies that can be applied to the classroom and their school communities. Attached are flyers with additional information for both conferences.

Don't miss this chance to collaborate, learn and grow with fellow educators. Reserve your spot today for [\*\*E\*\*Levate St. Louis](#) or [\*\*E\*\*Levate Kansas City](#).

Christine McDonald, o: 314.692.1233 | c: 314.443.6990

**2025 MARE/EdCounsel HS Senior Scholarships** – MARE is pleased to announce and recognize the following scholarship award recipients. Scholarship recipients must be graduating seniors from MARE member school districts and have plans to become teachers. Special thanks to our partners, EdCounsel, LLC!

***2025 MARE/EdCounsel HS Senior Scholarship Recipients***

**Student**  
Clara Akers  
Kalli Barnett  
Zoe Bentley  
Afomiya Bess  
Brock Boatwright  
Sadie Burtch  
Kenzi Cheek  
Matthew Cook  
Addison Cotton  
Ashley Daly  
Breahna Dennison  
Luke Dierker  
Kacie Edwards  
Riley Essenpries  
Hailey Golian  
Ryah Hardin  
Elizabeth Havens  
Sienna Heckemeyer  
Kylie Ingram  
Lyndsey King  
Cailyn Kite  
Brylee Martin  
Emily McCammon  
Trevor Miller  
Shalynn Norris  
Gavin Painter  
Brody Pratt  
Jalea Price  
Ava Rakers  
Kenzie Reynolds  
Kendall Rhorer  
Garrison Richards  
Ashlyn Russell  
Owen Schellman  
Madilynn Schubert  
Natalie Shively  
Evan Simmons  
Maleena Sims  
Grace Smith  
Lauren Tucker  
Reese Wells  
Dalton Wheeler  
Reeve Woodall

**District**  
Bucklin R-II  
Marceline R-V  
Chaffee R-II  
Marion C. Early R-V  
Fair Grove R-X  
Chillicothe R-II  
Hickory Co. R-I  
Lincoln R-II  
Southwest R-V  
West County R-IV  
Gideon #37  
St. Clair R-XIII  
School of the Osage  
Adrian R-III  
Ralls Co. R-II  
Crane R-III  
Summersville R-II  
St. Elizabeth R-IV  
Oran R-III  
Gallatin R-V  
Reeds Spring Schools  
Polo R-VII  
Adrian R-III  
Clearwater R-I  
Glasgow  
Brunswick R-II  
Hickory Co. R-I  
Maryville R-II  
Montgomery Co. R-II  
Chillicothe R-II  
Pilot Grove C-4  
Hale R-I  
Cole Camp R-I  
Blair Oaks R-II  
Mt. Vernon R-V  
Monroe City R-I  
Scott City R-I  
Brunswick R-II  
Odessa R-VII  
Clinton  
Fair Grove R-X  
Osborn R-O  
Van Far R-I

## **Wastewater Testing Initiative in Missouri High Schools**

**Subject:** Wastewater Testing Initiative in Missouri High Schools

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) is launching a statewide initiative involving wastewater testing for opioids including fentanyl in Missouri high schools. Your school is invited to participate in this important program aimed at assessing the feasibility of a statewide initiative for opioid testing. Please refer to the attached fact sheet for additional details.

If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please reach out directly to Blake Clark at Mighty Good Solutions (MGS) via email: [blake@mightygoodsolutions.com](mailto:blake@mightygoodsolutions.com).

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to student health and community well-being.

For more information on this initiative, please access the link below.

[..\Opioid Testing Fact Sheet.pdf](#)

**Save the Date** – The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup> 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!](#)

**Boys State & Girls State 2025** – MARE will be sponsoring two young men and two young women to attend their respective State gatherings this year. We are proud to be a part of these amazing programs and opportunities for our students. More to follow in an upcoming MARE Focus!

**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! More information will be posted on the website and appear in an upcoming MARE Focus. Our goal this year is 325 in attendance!

## **Tobacco-Free School Policy Survey**

**Need Help with Student Vaping or Tobacco Use? Speak Up for Your Schools!**

More youth are vaping than ever before! Speak up about your schools' needs and challenges with student vaping and tobacco use by completing the highly recommended Tobacco-Free School Policy Survey! The results will inform the creation of resources to better support schools statewide. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Tobacco Prevention and Control Program (TPCP) and Missouri State University (MSU) Ozarks Public Health Institute (OPHI) created the voluntary survey to identify the needs of schools in implementing tobacco-free policies and addressing student tobacco use. MSU OPHI emailed the confidential survey to superintendents. It can also be completed by clicking [this survey link](#) or scanning the QR code below. Please have the person who can most easily answer the questions complete the survey. If you have any questions, contact DHSS TPCP at [motobaccoprogram@health.mo.gov](mailto:motobaccoprogram@health.mo.gov) or 573-522-2820. Thank you for taking the time to complete this crucial survey for the health of Missouri's students and schools!

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

### **Quote of the Week – Walter Lippmann**

**“The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on.”**

**Walter Lippmann**

**Welcome Moberly School District** – MARE is thrilled to welcome Moberly back as a school district member! With Moberly in the fold, our membership stands at 424.



## 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 nearly \$4 billion in assets for over 260 Missouri Participants, including school districts (as of March 31, 2025).

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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Vice-President  
Investment Services

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**Jason Hoffman**  
Vice-President  
Investment Services

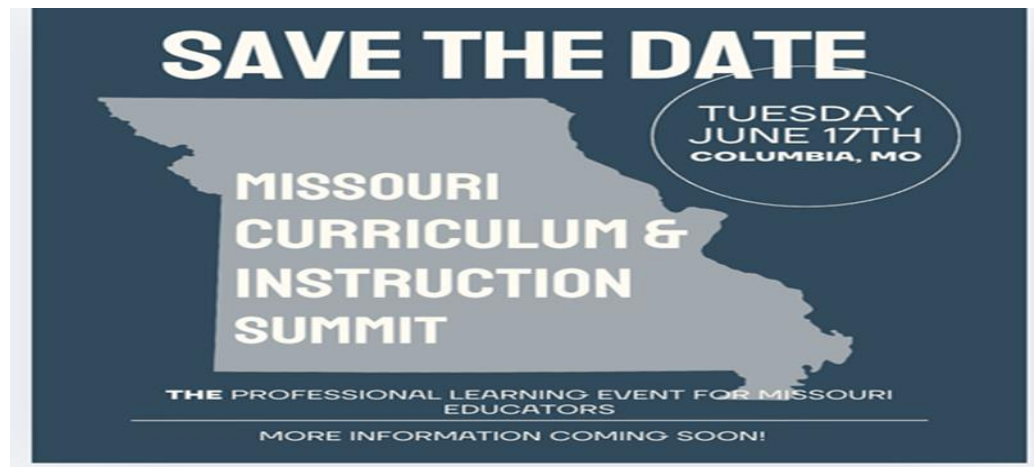
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## STEPUp Missouri Curriculum & Instruction Summit



I wanted to reach out because we believe members of MARE would greatly benefit from attending the **Missouri Curriculum & Instruction Summit**, happening on June 17, 2025 in Columbia, MO.

This event is designed to support Missouri's instructional leaders with innovative learning opportunities. Right now, **Early Bird registration is open**, and we'd love your help in spreading the word to rural educators who could take advantage of this opportunity.

You can find more information and register here: <https://sites.google.com/stepupconsultingservices.com/mocis/home>

Valorie Montgomery, Senior Director of Marketing & Operation

## **Missouri Arts Council Professional Development**

As the arts education program specialist for Missouri Arts Council [MAC], I have been developing a new program of arts-centered schools called A+ Schools Missouri—it's part of a national consortium called A+ Schools Network. This model is focused on whole-school arts integration and transformation. MAC will provide the funding and personnel to train Missouri schools that meet the requirements through an application process.

Briefly, this is ongoing and intense professional development that builds competencies in 8 areas (the A+ Essentials): arts, infrastructure, curriculum, climate, collaboration, multiple learning pathways, experiential learning, and enriched assessment. The result [over 30 years in established network states] is higher levels of engagement, achievement, and overall satisfaction of both learners and teachers.

I have information sessions this spring: Wednesday, April 23, at 4 PM, and Thursday, April 24, at 8:30 AM. Please share this registration link with school leaders in your region:

[A+ Schools Information Meeting](#)

And please reach out with any questions/forward this email to interested or curious folks in your sphere.

Thank you so much.

*Jenni Ryan* (she/her/hers)

Arts Education Program Specialist

Missouri Arts Council

815 Olive Street, Suite 16

St. Louis MO 63101

314.340.6857

[jenni.ryan@ltgov.mo.gov](mailto:jenni.ryan@ltgov.mo.gov)

**MU's National Center for Rural School Mental Health** - We are actively recruiting 35 more rural MO schools to join us in this randomized control trial research project this fall. Check out the link below to learn more!



<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/nvyI1UPzGaH1fD4t?ref=email&loc=play>

## **MARE Organization Staff**

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**Ray V. Patrick, EdD. -- Cell Phone: (660) 909 – 5118 – Email: [rpatrick@moare.com](mailto:rpatrick@moare.com)**

**Associate Director**

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**Website: [www.moare.com](http://www.moare.com)**

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