



SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

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

MARE Focus

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

Veregy

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 – One of the many services that MARE provides is a quality, yet affordable Superintendent Search Program. If you are retiring this year or making plans to move, we would welcome the opportunity to work with your district to find the next leader. Contact Kevin Sandlin, MARE Executive Director, at (660) 747-8050 or by email at ksandlin@moare.com for more information.

Altenburg District #48 Principal/Superintendent Search – Mr. Darryl Pannier is the search consultant. He can be reached at (573) 803-9008 or darrylpannier@yahoo.com.
(09/30/2025)

Kirbyville R-VI Superintendent Search – Mr. Darryl Pannier is the search consultant. He can be reached at (573) 803-9008 or darrylpannier@yahoo.com. (10/03/2025)

Six (6) additional searches posting soon!

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! Our goal this year is 325 in attendance! Click on the links below for additional, detailed information:

[2025 Conference Registration Form](#)

[2025 Outstanding Rural Education Awards Nomination Form](#)

[2025 Conference Planner at a Glance](#)

[2025 Conference General Session Descriptions](#)

[2025 Conference Small Group Session Descriptions](#)

[iCEV Flyer & Link for Conference Pre-Session on CTE Certification](#)

Here is the booking link for conference room reservations.

- **Group Direct Booking Link- No login/Attendee Code needed:**
Booking Engine 4.0 URL: <https://reservations.trav-elclick.com/17336?groupID=4902386>

Conference Vendors Encouraged to Join Us – Associates and Vendors are encouraged to sign up to join us at our upcoming MARE/MO K-8 Conference, slated for October 22nd through October 24th at the Lodge of Four Seasons. Our conference continues to grow each year! We invite you to join us and get to know our rural leaders from all across our great state!

[Exhibitor/Sponsor Registration Page 1](#)

[Exhibitor/Sponsor Registration Page 2](#)

Foundation Formula Modernization Task Force – The School Modernization Task Force will be meeting on **Tuesday, September 9th at 3:00 p.m.** at the Special Olympics office at 305 Special Olympics Drive in Jefferson City. It is beyond important that school leaders, BOE members and community patrons continue to attend these meetings to hear the discussion and let the committee members know how important their recommendations to the Governor are for all schools, but especially rural schools. Please consider joining us at the next meeting! The meetings will be livestreamed. For more information on this work, please check out the website at this link: [Missouri School Funding Modernization Task Force](#).

Open Enrollment Appeal – Open Enrollment was held at bay again this past session. We are thankful for all of those districts who have passed a BOE Resolution in opposition to Open Enrollment. The list has grown (attached) and now sits at 259 school districts opposed, impacting 454,600 student lives in Missouri. The list has been noticed by various legislators and it has had an impact! We are appealing to the other 257 or so public-school districts to take action and pass the attached resolution in opposition. Our hope is that if the number continues to grow, legislators will have to seriously consider the issue before casting a vote when the issue comes up again in the 2026 session. Thanks to Dr. Chris Gaines at EdPlus, Dr. Kenny Southwick with CSDGKC, and Dr. Pam Hedgpath with GOCSD for their efforts in spreading the word. Thanks also to our many educational associations for their support in this endeavor and for sharing information with their respective memberships. **Let's do our part to keep this issue as a focused priority so that we can defeat it again in 2026!** If you have questions, please reach out to me at ksandlin@moare.com or (660) 747-8050!
[List of Districts Opposed to Open Enrollment](#)
[Open Enrollment Board Resolution](#)

Missouri School Directories – Core Data is the Key – The new 2025-2026 Missouri School Directories will be made available in October this year. The delivery date has been pushed back to allow and to encourage districts to double check all core data submissions this summer and to make needed updates, changes, and corrections. Be sure to include Assessed Valuations (most recent), and you most recent approved tax levy on the appropriate screens so that this information can be included in the new directory. We will be delivering these as we attend meetings in October and beyond. We will also have these available at the MARE/MO K-8 Conference on October 22nd - October 24th.

Welcome New District Members - MARE is pleased to welcome Moberly, Malta Bend R-V, and Breckenridge R-I as district members! Welcome to the MARE family of 425 districts!

Welcome New Associate Members – MARE is excited to welcome the following New Associate Members – **balanceHQ, Hoener Architects, LLC, Inclusive Leadership Lab, Oasis Intergenerational Tutoring, Kummer Center for STEM, Sonus Benefits, Denovo Construction Solutions, Kids Read Now, Federal Education Consulting Group, Interpres Building Solutions & Navigate Building Solutions** . Please watch for upcoming postings on the MARE website and in new MARE Focus articles. We greatly appreciate these businesses joining the MARE family!

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:



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

T Mobile's Friday Night 5G Lights

The 2025 application window is now open and runs through **September 12th**. I'd love your help again in getting the word out to Missouri schools. It would be incredible to see even more participation—and hopefully, another Missouri school in the spotlight this year.

If you or anyone in your network needs more information or assistance with the application, please don't hesitate to have them reach out to me directly. I'm happy to help.

Thanks again for your continued partnership and advocacy for our schools.

Here's the link to apply: [5GFNL](#)

Kimberly Spence M.Ed.

Account Executive

K-12 Education

Mobile: 314-598-0323

Office: 314-332-1284

T-Mobile for Education



Quote of the Week

**"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn." Benjamin Franklin**

Missouri School Plant Managers Association — MSPMA is offering scholarships for district leaders to attend their Fall Conference on September 28-30, 2025 in Branson! For more information, visit the Missouri School Plant Managers Association website.

Suicide Prevention & 988 Guide for Schools

We are pleased to share that the 2025 edition of the [Suicide Prevention & 988 Guide for Missouri Schools](#) is now complete and available for use. This resource is intended to support schools in their ongoing efforts to prevent youth suicide, respond effectively and navigate a suicide crisis, and understand how to engage with Missouri's behavioral health crisis services.

This updated edition includes:

- Strategies and resources available to help strengthen school or district-wide suicide prevention efforts and promote safe, supportive environments for students
- Information on how schools can utilize 988, mobile crisis response, and behavioral health crisis center services
- Updated, evidence-based suicide prevention programming
- New resources for parents and guardians explaining 988 and available supports
- Immediate steps schools can take in the aftermath of a suicide death

This guide complements the recently updated [DESE Model School Policy on Suicide Prevention](#) and is intended to be used alongside it to strengthen school preparedness and response efforts.

Thank you to everyone who shared feedback and contributed content to help strengthen this resource. Please take a moment to review the guide and feel free to share it widely with your networks.

- *The Suicide Prevention in Schools Committee, Missouri Suicide Prevention Network*

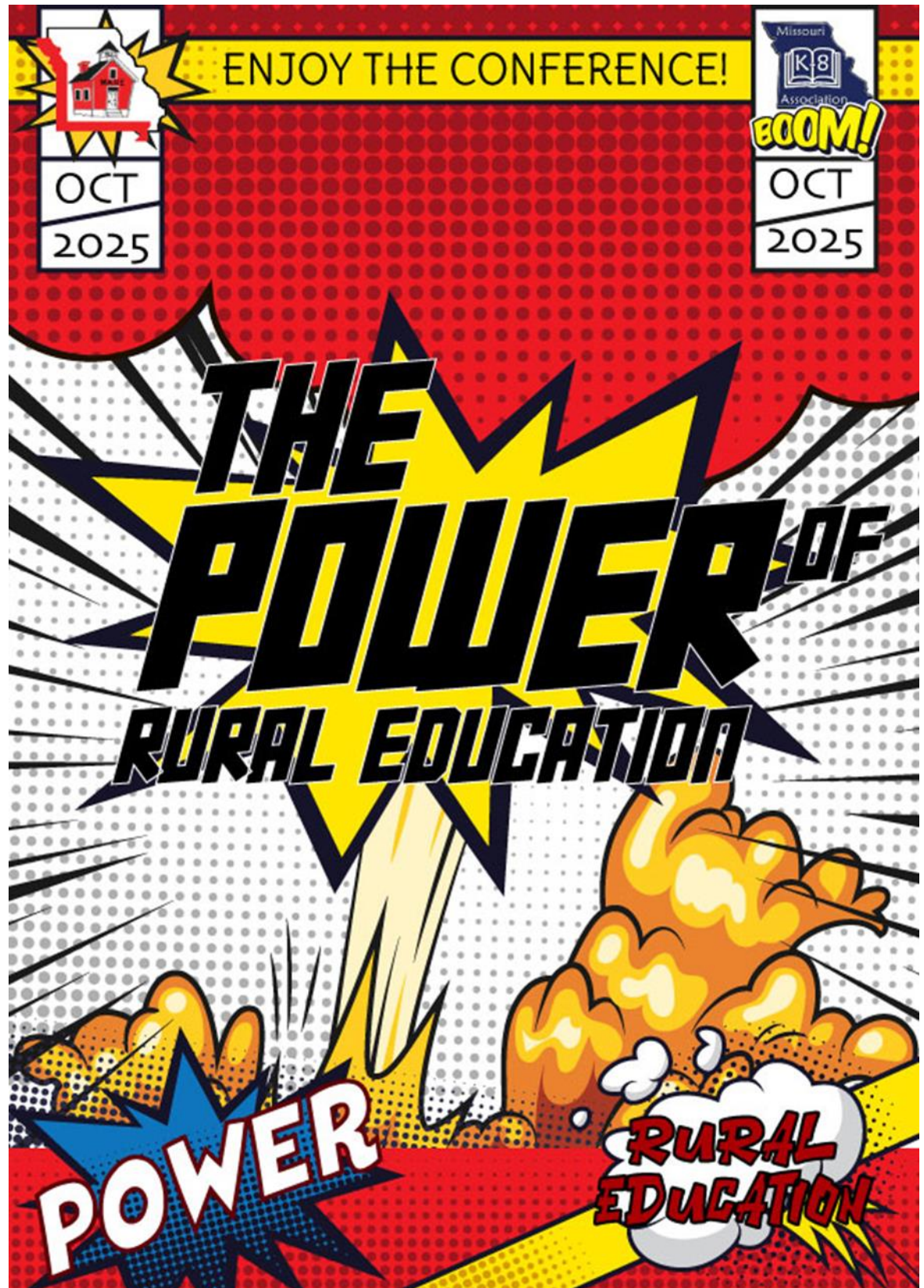
Missouri Suicide Prevention Network

2401 E. McCarty, Jefferson City, MO 65101
(573) 634.4626
admin@mospn.org
www.mospn.org

**MISSOURI
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
NETWORK**



MARE/MO K-8 Conference – October 22nd through October 24th!



Please join us at the Lodge of Four Seasons!

Note from Claim Care

Important Update for Missouri School Districts: Declining MO HealthNet Eligibility Rates Could Impact Services and Reimbursement

As Missouri School Districts begin the 2025-2026 school year, many are experiencing a significant decline in student eligibility for MO HealthNet. Claim Care has observed this ongoing trend across the majority of our districts, with the most substantial drop occurring during the spring and summer of 2025.

Why This Matters for Your District

Reduced MO HealthNet eligibility rates can directly reduce reimbursement through several state programs including Direct IEP Therapy, Cost-Based Settlement, and SDAC. More critically, it can jeopardize access to essential medical services for students who rely on them.

What's Causing the Drop in Eligibility?

The Missouri Family Support Division (FSD) has resumed its annual review process for all MO HealthNet participants. As a result, more than 1.5 million Missourians are undergoing eligibility redetermination—many of whom may lose coverage simply due to outdated contact information or missed renewal notices.

What Can Districts Do?

District staff play a vital role in helping families maintain coverage. Please encourage parents and guardians to:

- Watch for a yellow MO HealthNet annual renewal form in the mail.
- Update their contact information and report any changes by one of the following:
 - Visiting mydss.mo.gov and selecting "Report a Change"
 - Calling (855) 373-4636
 - Visiting their local Family Support Division Resource Center

For Claim Care Clients

If you notice students missing from your MO HealthNet eligibility roster who you believe should still have coverage, please contact Claim Care staff at 660-327-5308 or claim@claimcareonline.com.

What is MO HealthNet?

MO HealthNet is Missouri's Medicaid program, providing health insurance coverage for eligible children, families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. The program supports school-based services such as therapy, nursing, and transportation when included in a student's IEP.

Kummer Center – Introductory Letter & Flyer

Access the link below for an introductory letter and flyer from Justin Sanders with Kummer Center for STEM Education. Plan to meet up with Justin at the MARE/MO K-8 Conference on October 22nd-October 24th!

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x_jmZAD-19RJEBs_dLtDB1XRmX5TdDFb/view?usp=sharing

MDHSS – Tobacco Prevention Update

Thank you for being a loyal partner of the [Tobacco Is Changing statewide media campaign](#). This campaign aims to educate parents on the use of electronic cigarettes and other tobacco products by youth.

We are writing to share the exciting results from the recently re-run campaign, which launched on April 1, 2025 and ended June 30th, 2025. Results **exceeded our expectations, delivering 44,406,138 impressions** compared to 33,486,296 impressions from the 2023 campaign flight. The campaign website and media kit were updated to include new video assets. All of the campaign materials, including the videos, social media content, post copy and fact sheets, are available to download for partner and public use from the [media toolkit page](#).

Partners are represented through the video end slates and at the base of the [campaign web-site](#). Users can visit partner websites by clicking on their logo located at the bottom of the website. Since the previous campaign, youth cessation services have been updated from Live Vape Free to [My Life My Quit](#).

The Department of Health and Senior Services thanks and encourages all partners to continue leveraging the campaign and share campaign information with their partners. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Kind regards,

Nicole Sinderman

Tobacco Prevention and Control Program Manager

Bureau of Community Health and Wellness

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

P.O. Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570

573-522-5029 | Nicole.Sinderman@health.mo.gov

Health.Mo.Gov

August 2025 MCE Policy Updates

The August 2025 updates are currently available on the MCE website located at www.mo-coned.com. For your convenience, access to the updates is located on the homepage under the "Updates" section on the left-hand side of the page. Simply select "View All Updates" to view or download current and past updates.

For those Districts utilizing MCE's webhosting services, the updates are now available on your District's portal, which can be accessed by visiting the [MCE District Portal](#).

If you have any questions concerning these revisions or their implementation, please feel free to contact Tom Mickes or Nicole Boyles-Taylor.

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KIDS Read Now Information

Missouri's new House Bill 2 allocates funding for qualified at-home reading programs. The Kids Read Now program fully qualifies by mailing self-selected books directly to student homes.

Choice matters. Independent research shows our program results in 2-3 months of reading gains.

Why schools choose Kids Read Now:

- Students are twice as likely to read books they choose
- Books are mailed home
- Every book includes Discovery Sheet questions to guide family engagement. Want to see how it works?

We've all heard about the ongoing reading crisis, but without proper funding, solutions have been hard to implement.

Thanks to Missouri's recently passed House Bill 2 (HB2), your school now has access to funding for qualifying at-home reading programs.

Kids Read Now has supported over 468,000 students with 3 million+ books mailed home since 2010. With a 94% educator approval rating, our program stands out by letting students choose eight books, which are mailed home one at a time. Each book includes family engagement tools and discovery questions. As the program runs, each student's reading progress is reported back to you.

Independent studies show our program helps students gain 2–3 months of reading ability over the summer. Literacy improvements are critical to sustaining school-year reading gains.

Schedule a Call

Funds will soon become available through DESE. I'd be happy to send more details on the HB2 requirements and how we meet them.

Looking forward to connecting,

Glen Miller

Outreach Director, Missouri

Kids Read Now

New Superintendent Boot Camps 2025 – The 2025 Superintendent Boot Camps will be held on Wednesday, September 3rd at the Mickes O'Toole Offices in St. Louis and on Friday, September 19th at Springfield Public Schools. Please go to their website at seminars@mickestoole.com to find more information and register.

MARE Board Training Calendar for 2025

MARE Board Training Dates – 2025

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!**

MARE Organization Staff

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