



# MARE Focus

SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

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

## ENDORSEMENTS

American Fidelity Assurance Co.

Claim Care, Inc.

CTS Group

Forrest T. Jones & Co.

IMS

L.J. Hart & Company

MASA MTS

MEUHP

Mike Keith Insurance

M.U.S.I.C.

MO. Consultants for Ed.

Patron Insight

Pro Solutions, LLC

Show-me-State Virtual Ed., LLC

SOCS

## MARE PARTNERSHIPS

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

**MARE Board Training Program Update** - As most of you are aware, one of the provisions of HB 604 added additional training requirements for school board members who serve in Missouri. MARE's new Board Training Program will now consist of eighteen hours and thirty minutes of training including two hours and thirty minutes **"that provides up-to-date and reliable information on identifying signs of sexual abuse in children and danger signals of potentially abusive relationships between children and adults"**. Additionally, the law now requires those currently serving as school board members to participate in one hour of annual refresher training that **shall address concepts covered in the initial training including, but not limited to, the prevention of sexual abuse of children**. We are currently working on creating these additional training materials (Presentations, Videos, etc.) and will make these available in the near future. The MARE Board Training scheduled on October 23rd and October 24th as part of the Annual MARE/MO K-8 Conference will include the 2.5 hours of additional training for new board members. It is likely that we will schedule some area training events or workshops to help provide this new content during this upcoming school year! Please stay tuned for more information on this training.

**\*The Board Training Program offered by MARE has been approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.**

**MARE Superintendent Search Services** - One of the services that MARE provides is a professional, yet affordable Superintendent or Building Administrator Search Service Program. Our team of Search Consultants includes Dr. Mike Jinks, Dr. Paul Ricker and Dr. Craig Eaton. If you are retiring or moving to another location, we would welcome the opportunity to put together a search proposal for your school district. More information regarding this program can be found on our website at [www.moare.com](http://www.moare.com). We will be posting two vacancies within the next month. Stay tuned!

## **Top Eight (8) Reasons You Should Attend the Conference**

It is hard to believe that we are just six (6) weeks away from the annual MARE/MO K-8 Conference. The 2019 MARE/MO K-8 Annual Conference will be held Wednesday, October 23rd (12:00 noon - Pre-Conference Session) through Friday, October 25th (11:00 a.m. - Closing Session) at the beautiful Lodge of Four Seasons in Lake Ozark, Missouri. The theme of this year's joint conference is "Working Together Toward Tomorrow." Click [here 2019 Conference Planner at a Glance](#) to see the conference schedule! **So, why should you and/or Board members from your school district take time out of busy schedules to attend this year's event! Here are the Top 8 Reasons Why You Should Attend:**

1. The conference is focused on the following topics - DESE Presentations (Data and Finance), Legal Topics, School Showcase Topics, Legislative News, Technology and Student Safety Topics. Every "Small Group Session" round features both a legal topic and a DESE presentation. The information presented in each session is up-to-date and pertinent for Missouri school district leaders.
2. The conference kicks off at 12:00 noon with a 45 minute presentation by Learning Blade. This company was awarded a contract with DESE to offer middle school students more opportunities for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and Computer Science (CS) career awareness at no cost to the school district. Come and see how this

program may be of great benefit to your school district!

3. The conference officially kicks off at 1:00 p.m. with "A Conversation with the Commissioner." Dr. Margie Vandeven, Missouri Commissioner of Education, will spend time with those in attendance providing updates on current state education activities. She will also answer questions and engage in casual conversation with attendees.

4. As part of our conference this year, we will be offering "Refresher Board Training" for Board members who have previously completed the required 16 hours of Board Training. This "Refresher Training" will include training required under HB 604 regarding the prevention of sexual abuse of children. We will also be providing the 18.5 hours of training required for newly elected or appointed Board members that also includes the 2.5 hours required under HB 604 regarding the prevention of sexual abuse of children.

5. The conference is structured to provide numerous opportunities to visit with colleagues and collaborate during sessions, between sessions and during receptions and meals in a more relaxed environment.

6. During the luncheon on Thursday, October 24th, Missouri Teacher of the Year for 2018-2019, Shelly Parks, will share a message. This will be followed by the presentation of several "Outstanding Rural Education Awards", including Rural Teacher, Rural Administrator, Rural Support Staff Member and Rural School District. There will also be a presentation of a "Friend of Rural Education" award!

7. Many of the rural DESE Area Supervisors will be our guests during the conference thus providing you an opportunity to visit with them in a more relaxed, informal setting.

8. In addition to all of the above, the conference will provide you with great food, great fun and the opportunity to visit with numerous business organizations that provide products and services for and strongly support rural education. You will also have the opportunity to register for a number of prize drawings to be held throughout the conference!

[2019 Conference Registration Form](#)

[2019 Conference Exhibitor and Sponsor Registration Form - page 1](#)

[2019 Conference Exhibitor and Sponsor Registration Form - page 2](#)

[2019 Board Training Registration Form](#)

[Outstanding Rural Education Nomination Form & Information](#)

If you have questions regarding the conference, please do not hesitate to call (660) 747-8050 or email at [ksandlin@moare.com](mailto:ksandlin@moare.com). See you in October!

## **MARE Welcomes Moberly as New School District Member**

MARE is pleased to welcome Moberly School District as our newest MARE member school district. Moberly is located in Randolph County in North Central Missouri. Dr. Matt Miller serves as the Superintendent there. The district has a student enrollment of 2,309 in grades K-12.

## **MARE Welcomes ExcellenceK12 as New Associate Member**

Just about every school district seems to be interested in improving communications and finding out how to best engage its community in discussions on school improvement, facility upgrades or improving support for its schools. ExcellenceK12 can provide the support and guidance needed by Superintendents and Boards of Education to make progress on any, or all, of these goals.

ExcellenceK12 offers a wide range of products and services for public school districts such as Pre-Election Research, Culture Studies, Communications Audits, Spend Audits, State-of-the-District Surveys, to name a few. The company was formed by Rick Nobles, the co-founder and former President of Patron Insight. Rick's experience and success is built on having worked with 150 districts in Missouri and Kansas and across the region.

The ExcellenceK12 team has subject matter experts who also have extensive backgrounds in education and particularly in K-12 education - from strategic planning, qualitative research, strategically sourcing products and services to helping districts pass bond elections and communicate more effectively.

Please check us out at <https://excellencek12.com/>, email us at [rick@excellencek12.com](mailto:rick@excellencek12.com) or call us at (913) 484-0920.

Our experience in school research helps you make better decisions!

## **MARE Welcomes Thrive Nutrition Services as New Associate Member**

Thrive Nutrition Services is excited about what we do with school food service programs. We are passionate about giving you the best quality program while being financially responsible and financially accountable.

Thrive will build our program to be unique to the needs of your school while creating a strong partnership with your community. We are proud to be the best value for your school.

Thrive is a national leader in food service management. We are proud of our 20 years of service and know that our clients appreciate the way we do business. Our experience with K-12 school nutrition over the years has led to a distinguished and responsive food service program that can keep up with the changing government regulations and requirements in the industry.

We know you have other choices to choose from when it comes to food service companies but you will never regret giving us an opportunity to show you what a partnership can do for your school.

For more information about this company, please contact Mr. Scott Murphy, Sales Director, at (636) 236-2005 or by email at [scott.murphy@got-thrive.com](mailto:scott.murphy@got-thrive.com).

## **News from NREA - The Rural Educator**

### **I. Policy Intelligence and Education News**

- **Senate subcommittee to mark up FY 2020 Labor-HHS-Education bill tomorrow –**  
The Senate's fiscal year (FY) 2020 appropriations process goes public on Tuesday morning with the first two Appropriations subcommittee markups: the Defense Subcommittee marks up its bill at 10am and the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee marks up at 11:30am in 124 Dirksen Senate Office Building (both markups will be webcast with only audio). In an effort to get as much done as possible before the October 1 start of FY 2020, the Senate Appropriations Committee is setting an ambitious and unusual schedule that will bypass subcommittee markups for both the State-Foreign Operations bill and the Energy and Water bills. Those two bills and the Defense and Labor-HHS-Education bill are scheduled to be marked up in full Committee on Thursday at 10:30am. The Committee is also slated to vote then on the "302(b)" allocations that give each of the 12 subcommittee the total they can spend. We expect this will be a contentious markup because we anticipate that Democrats will not be satisfied with the allocation of non-defense discretionary (NDD) funding. Although the allocations are not yet public, we're hearing that Labor-HHS-Education and Transportation-HUD may not get as much as Democrats want, while Homeland Security may have a significant increase for building a border wall. Last year the bills had bipartisan support, and neither side offered "poison pill" policy riders during committee debate. That may not be the case this year, although when Congress negotiated the budget agreement this summer that raised the discretionary caps, there was an

informal agreement reached not to push such policy riders on the appropriations bills.

- We expect the Senate Labor-HHS-Education bill to have significantly less funding than the House version because the total amount of NDD funding for all twelve bills is less than the total the House assumed this spring, the Senate is reportedly preparing to use a significant chunk of the NDD increase for a border wall, and the new agreement on the caps provided less funding for the biennial census outside the caps, which may mean more capped NDD funding is needed for the census than the House assumed.
- **What we'll know on Tuesday about the Senate's education funding levels** – We do not expect the Subcommittee to release the bill text or report language explaining the funding levels for each program. What we'll likely see is a press release from Chairman Blunt that hits what he considers to be the high points of the bill, which will probably include some program-specific and account-specific totals. We will update and share with you our funding table with as much information as we can confirm, and fill in the rest as soon as we see funding levels for each program.
- **What will happen next with appropriations** – Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Shelby (R-AL) has talked of packaging the Defense, Labor-HHS-Education, and possibly other bills together for Senate floor consideration. Based on Thursday's announced markup, it's likely that he plans to bring a package of all four bills to the Senate floor the week of September 16. That will only occur if there is support from 60 Senators – something that might not happen if the funding levels in the Labor-HHS-Education bill are lower than what Democrats support. The House has passed 10 of the 12 appropriations bills, and is now planning to debate an extension of current funding – a continuing resolution, or "CR" – the week of September 16. That is an acknowledgement that Congress will not have passed final versions of all government funding bills by the September 30<sup>th</sup> expiration of current funding. But even passing a CR may not be easy or straightforward; the Administration has reportedly submitted of "anomalies" for additional funding that it wants in the bill that includes language allowing construction of a southern border wall beyond the area currently authorized and funded, among many other items. The Administration is assuming a CR runs through mid-December but Democratic House leaders have suggested a CR that ends before Thanksgiving.
- **Administration plan to transfer \$3.6 billion of military construction funding to build a border wall** – Last week, the Administration announced plans to use \$3.6 billion appropriated for 127 Department of Defense (DOD) military construction projects – including DOD schools and child care centers – to instead construct 175 miles of new or reconstructed border wall. The Administration is using its authority under the national emergency the President previously announced to divert already appropriated defense spending. The Administration has said the projects Congress had supported will be delayed and not canceled – as long as Congress provides new funding for them with FY 2020 funding. Democratic Congressional leaders strongly opposed the Administration's decision to transfer funding that Congress had appropriated for specific military construction projects, among them half a billion dollars for renovating and building schools and child care centers on military installations in the U.S. and abroad.
- **Information on Public Charge rule's potential effects on immigrant students** – CEF member the National Association of School Psychologists has a new webpage with information about the final rule on Public Charge – referring to individuals who rely on the government for their main source of support – and how it might affect immigrant children and schools.

**Outstanding Rural Education Awards** - MARE is accepting nominations for the following awards to be presented as part of the MARE/MO K-8 Conference on Thursday, October 24th:

- Outstanding Rural Support Staff Member Award

- Outstanding Rural Teacher Award
- Outstanding Rural Administrator Award
- Outstanding Rural School District Award

For more information on these awards, please access the [Nomination Form](#) or go to the MARE website at [www.moare.com](http://www.moare.com). **The deadline is 10/4/2019!**

**MARE Associate Members** - Our organization simply could not do the work that we do or provide the services and programs that we offer without the generous support of our Associate Members. Please click here to access a list: [..\Associate Members\2019-2020 Associate Members.docx](#)

**School Board Training Dates** - MARE will provide trainings as follows:

**Central Missouri - The Lodge of the Four Seasons - Lake Ozark, Missouri (573-365-3000)**

- Wednesday, October 23, 2019 (12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)
- Thursday, October 24, 2019 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

To register, go online (<http://www.moare.com/>) and complete the electronic form found under Board Training or contact Kevin Sandlin at [ksandlin@moare.com](mailto:ksandlin@moare.com).

**Legal Articles** – Check out the various legal articles posted on our website at [www.moare.com](http://www.moare.com). Special thanks to our partners at EdCounsel, Mickes O’Toole, Guin Mundorf, and Tueth Keeney for providing these articles

**Quote of the Week**

Teaching is an instinctual art, mindful of potential, craving of realizations, a pausing, seamless process.

— A. Bartlett Giamatti

**MARE Organization Staff**

Kevin F. Sandlin -- Cell Phone: (660) 351-0596 -- Email: [ksandlin@moare.com](mailto:ksandlin@moare.com)  
Executive Director

Jerry L Cochran, EdD. -- Cell Phone: (660) 596-3184 -- Email: [jcochran@moare.com](mailto:jcochran@moare.com)  
Assistant Executive Director

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

Missouri Association of Rural Education  
710 N College, Suite C  
Warrensburg, Missouri 64093  
(660) 747-8050  
Fax: (660) 747-8160  
Website: [www.moare.com](http://www.moare.com)

**If you are the intended recipient but do not wish to receive communication through this medium, please notify the sender immediately.**