



SEPTEMBER 22, 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

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SOCs

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- LEGAL
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- 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)

Chaffee R-II Superintendent Search – Mrs. Mary Beth Scherer is the search consultant. She can be reached at (660) 282-7678 or mbscherer@ucmo.edu. (10/17/2025)

Maryville R-II Superintendent Search – Dr. Mike Jinks is the search consultant. He can be reached at (660) 441-7473 or 10mj46@charter.net. (10/17/2025)

Morgan Co. R-I Superintendent Search – Dr. Jamie Burkhart is the search consultant. She can be reached at (660) 525-0952 or jamiebeth.burkhart@gmail.com. (10/31/2025)

Northeast Randolph Co. R-IV Superintendent Search – Dr. Jerry Cochran is the search consultant. He can be reached at (660) 596-3184 or cochranj115@gmail.com. (11/3/2025)

Santa Fe R-X Superintendent Search – Dr. Margret Anderson is the search consultant. She can be reached at (816) 898-0005 or mg2.anderson@gmail.com. (10/17/2025)

Pettis Co. R-V Superintendent Search – Dr. Jamie Burkhart is the search consultant. She can be reached at (660) 525-0952 or jamiebeth.burkhart@gmail.com. (11/7/2025) - 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.travelclick.com/17336?groupID=4902386>

Foundation Formula Modernization Task Force – The School Modernization Task Force is now conducting Working Group meetings until early December. The meetings will be livestreamed. It is vitally important that school leaders, BOE members, community patrons and those who support public schools tune in to these meetings or listen to the recordings to stay informed. The group will reconvene with scheduled Task Force meetings in January. 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 Hedgpeth with GOCSO 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](#)

Welcome New Associate Members – Since July of 2025, the following organizations have been added as MARE 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, CESO Communications & Core360 Benefits Group.** Please watch for upcoming postings on the MARE website and in new MARE Focus articles. We greatly appreciate these businesses joining the MARE family!

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!**

Drone Academy Workshop

Also, here's the website: <https://topdroneacademy.weebly.com/>.



2025
November 17 & 18

Top Drone Academy Conference

Build Career Pathways with
Drone Technology

Explore high-demand career pathways with
professionals in drone piloting, commercial
operations, and industry applications.




Cost - \$110.00 for Both Days

Top Drone Academy
Held at Old Kinderhook Resort
Camdenton, MO

Open to Educators, Secondary & Postsecondary
Students, and Drone Enthusiasts

 **Missouri**
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY
EDUCATION


For More Information
Click Here

Aaron Paneck, Apanek@depcolle.com
Linda Stinson Linda.Stinson@dese.mo.gov
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Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
<https://topdroneacademy.weebly.com/>

Youth Tobacco Prevention – Alternatives to Suspension

FREE Webinar

Youth Tobacco Prevention

Alternatives to Suspension

Join us to learn about a recent collaboration between Rede Group, Tillamook County Community Health Centers, and local school districts that focused on youth tobacco prevention and alternatives to suspension! This hour long webinar will feature an overview of our comprehensive methodology, major findings and recommendations, and a description of the inception of this work and impact on the community from our partner, Sonal Chauhan.

**Thursday, September 25 from 11:00 am -
12:00 pm PST**



Are you a tobacco prevention and education coordinator
or a local public health authority with an interest in youth tobacco preven-
tion?

Are you an administrator or health educator in a school?

Do you have an interest in youth substance use and tobacco prevention?

[Register Here!](#)

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

Clear the Vapor Conversation

Parents Against Vaping is proud to present the next **2025 Clear the Vapor Conversations** event:

Listening to Students, Leading with Care: Restorative Practices & Policies in Action

 **Tuesday, September 23**

 **7:00 PM ET |  Zoom**

FREE!

As schools face the growing challenge of youth vaping, too many are still turning to ineffective and, in some cases, harmful discipline policies like suspension or expulsion. These punishments don't stop vaping and don't acknowledge the child's addiction—they isolate students, disrupt learning, and can push young people further from the support they need.

Join us for **Listening to Students, Leading with Care**, a timely conversation with restorative practice expert **Lee Anne Dodge, Program Director of [SoPo Unite: All Ages, All In](#)**. Lee Anne has led transformative policy changes in schools, replacing zero-tolerance approaches with restorative practices that keep students engaged, connected, and supported while addressing substance use head-on.

[Register Today!](#)

Quote of the Week

“There are men and women who make the world better just by being the kind of people they are. They have the gift of kindness or courage or loyalty or integrity. It really matters very little whether they are behind the wheel of a truck or running a business or bringing up a family. They teach the truth by living it.”

– James Garfield






Eduthings Platform

We're excited to offer access to **Eduthings** a powerful platform that transforms how you manage and report CTE data.

Eduthings eliminates the need for juggling multiple spreadsheets by automating key processes like **student CTE classification**, **data tracking**, and **report generation**. It takes your data from simple reporting to **meaningful analysis**, helping you make informed decisions with confidence.

As part of this opportunity, you'll receive **access to Eduthings until June 2027—for the price of just one year**. That's **two June Core data reports** plus streamlined reporting, real-time insights, and time-saving automation.

Eduthings Key Benefits:

-  No more spreadsheets—automated data management
-  Accurate student classification and reporting
-  Real-time insights for better planning
-  Compliance support for state and federal requirements
-  Time-saving tools that reduce manual entry and errors



Want to see it in action?

Email us by November 1 to schedule a personalized demo and discover how **Eduthings** can simplify your workflow and receive a free gift. Use the links below to schedule.

Dr. Calee McElwain

Territory Manager

Company | 800.922.9965

Direct | 660.200.5041

[**Schedule a Meeting »**](#)

2025-2026 Missouri School Directory - Each MARE member school district will receive one free copy. If you pre-ordered extra copies through MARE, we will have those to deliver as well. We will start delivering these in early October! We will also have these at the MARE/MO K-8 Conference, October 22nd through October 24th!

Learning Blade Corner

September Learning Blade Corner

School's Back, Make It Count!

With school back in session, now is the perfect time to put [Learning Blade](https://www.learningblade.com/states) into action!

Ways to Use Learning Blade:

- Whole-class lessons using interactive missions to introduce STEM, CS, and CTE careers.
- Independent student work for self-paced exploration and skill-building.
- Career exploration days with activities tied to career clusters and real-world problems.
- Cross-curricular projects that connect academic standards to career pathways.
- After-school or enrichment programs to extend learning beyond the school day.

With 500+ online student lessons and ready-to-use teacher plans, Learning Blade makes it simple to blend career-connected learning with your curriculum—right from the start of the school year.

Sign up for your FREE account:

www.LearningBlade.com/States

Schedule a demo to get expert tips and support for implementing Learning Blade in your school or classroom:

[Schedule Here](#)

Social:

School is back in session—now's the **perfect time** to bring career exploration to life!

[Learning Blade](#) helps grades 5–9 explore STEM, Computer Science, and CTE careers with:

- ✓ Whole-class lessons
- ✓ Independent student work
- ✓ Career exploration days
- ✓ Cross-curricular projects
- ✓ After-school programs

With **500+ interactive lessons** and ready-to-use teacher plans, Learning Blade makes it easy to connect learning to real-world careers from day one.

Sign Up Free: [LearningBlade.com/States](https://www.LearningBlade.com/States)

Schedule a Demo: <https://calendly.com/d/3xc-4s3-99n>



SCHOOL'S BACK-MAKE IT COUNT!

WITH **Learning Blade**
Powered by eDynamic Learning

WITH SCHOOL BACK IN SESSION, NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME TO PUT LEARNING BLADE INTO ACTION!

SIGN UP FOR FREE TODAY:
[LEARNINGBLADE.COM/STATES](https://www.LearningBlade.com/States)



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SIGN UP FOR FREE TODAY:
[LEARNINGBLADE.COM/STATES](https://www.LearningBlade.com/States)

Navigate Federal Programs with Confidence! - Are you overwhelmed by federal regulations and compliance deadlines? You're not alone. The Federal Education Consulting Group provides expert guidance to help local education agencies (LEAs) master all aspects of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorized in 2015 to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). We help you turn complex federal requirements into successful program implementation. Our services are designed for administrators and federal program coordinators who want to enhance compliance, boost program effectiveness, and serve their students with confidence.

With over 60 years of combined experience in education, Julie Cowell and Theresa Villmer founded the Federal Education Consulting Group to address the recognized critical need for expert guidance in ESEA law. Their extensive backgrounds in grant management, compliance oversight and equitable services has equipped them with the knowledge and skills necessary to support LEAs in navigating the complexities of ESEA federal programs. The group's mission is to provide LEAs with strategic, practical solutions that enhance compliance and efficiency while maximizing the impact of federal funding. By bridging the gap between policy and practice, they empower educators and administrators to make informed decisions that benefit students and communities. With a client-centered approach and a deep understanding of the ESEA law, the Federal Education Consulting Group continues to serve as a trusted partner for LEAs seeking expert guidance in program implementation, reporting, and compliance.

Discover how we can simplify your federal programs.

Contact Information: Website <https://www.federaleducationconsultinggroup.com> Email fededconsultinggroup@gmail.com Phone Julie - 573.690.2468 Theresa - 573.338.3851

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