



# MARE Focus

SEPTEMBER 4, 2023

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

## ENDORSEMENTS

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Forrest T. Jones & Co.

Hamlin Energy

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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** – For the third consecutive year, MARE has completed more Superintendent Searches for Missouri public schools than any other agency that provides such in the state. We are proud of this fact and committed to providing a quality, yet affordable search process for your school district. If you plan to retire or leave your district next year, we would be honored to assist in finding your replacement. We appreciate all of those who have given us this opportunity in the past!

**We will be posting a number of Superintendent Searches over the course of the next few months. Please stay tuned for specific openings!**

**Member School Districts** – MARE will soon list 417 (80%) of the public-school districts in the state as member school districts. **We are thrilled to welcome as new member districts - Kingston K-14, Sarcoxie R-II, Lebanon R-III, Fulton 58, Perry Co. 32, Marshall, Ozark R-VI, Crawford Co. R-II & Mountain View-Birch Tree R-III.** If you are not a MARE member school district, I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you the benefits and the value for your annual \$400.00 or \$500.00 membership dues. To learn more about MARE, please contact me at (660) 747-8050!

## 2023 MARE/MO K-8 Conference – You Don't Want to Miss It!

The 2023 MARE/MO K-8 Annual Conference will be held on Wednesday, October 18th through Friday, October 20th at the Lodge of Four Seasons in Lake Ozark, Missouri. We are making plans now to have a great conference. Our conference has grown tremendously over the past five years and we are doing our part to continue to grow this event by providing informative Pre-Conference Sessions, great Small Group Sessions, powerful General Sessions, awesome food and prizes and an Exhibit Hall full of Associate Members and others who support Missouri rural education. Linked below are various forms for this year's event including registration for both individuals and exhibitors, Call for Presentations application and the form to submit a nomination for our Outstanding Rural Education Awards. Please mark your calendars now and make plans to join us for this event! I assure you that you will learn a lot, have a good time and most likely walk away with some lasting memories and possibly a prize or two. **Cost to attend is only \$165.00!**

[2023 Conference Planner at a Glance](#)

[2023 MARE/MO K-8 Conference Registration](#)

[2023 Exhibitor & Sponsor Registration - Page 1](#)

[2023 Exhibitor & Sponsor Registration - Page 2](#)

[2023 Outstanding Rural Education Awards Nomination Form](#)

**Please click on the 2023 Conference Planner at a Glance document above to see the program lineup. We are planning a number of new sessions at this year's event, including Board Leadership Training (3 sessions), MOSIS/Core Data Training, District Bookkeeper Training (2 sessions), Facility & Capital Planning, Bond Issues & Tax Rates, and a CSIP Panel Discussion as well as others. Please make plans now to join us! I promise you will have a good time and learn a lot!**

## **Rural Education Achievement Program – Survey Available**

In last week's ASE newsletter, we flagged for you that we're currently running our REAP survey and encouraged you to share with your members. REAP is the rural education achievement program, and important in supporting our nation's small and rural schools. The survey is designed to gather data on how the investments of this program support rural schools and students. The data from this project will provide critical insight into the value of this program and support our advocacy on Capitol Hill to protect its funding. Please share the survey with your members and encourage them to participate before September 7. Here is the link to the survey: [Survey Participation](#)

## **MOCAAT – What Can You Do For Me?**

**MOCAAT®** | Local Values. Trusted Advantage.

**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 over \$2.5 billion in assets across 170+ member districts (as of June 30, 2023). 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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## **DESE School Safety Grants**

DESE has released the application process for the \$50 million in school safety grants. This round does include nonpublic schools. Here is the link with all the information needed:

<https://dese.mo.gov/financial-admin-services/school-governance/safety>

## **NREA News**

– For all of the latest news from our national affiliate, please click on these links: [NREA Weekly Update - August 25, 2023](#), [NREA Weekly Update - September 1, 2023](#)

## **New Associate Members**

– MARE is pleased to welcome Renaissance Learning, Inc. back as an Associate Member. We are also thrilled to welcome Acrisure-Wallstreet Group as a new Associate Member. We will be welcoming other new Associate Members soon. Please keep an eye on the website and future MARE Focus articles for more details on these companies and what they can provide for your schools!

**Rest assured that each day, you are making a difference in the lives of your students and their families! (Thank You!)**

## **Mental Health First Aid Missouri**

### **Funding Opportunity: Bring teen Mental Health First Aid to your school or organization**

Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Department of Mental Health in partnership with the Missouri Institute of Mental Health are pleased to provide grant funding to bring teen Mental Health First Aid (tMHFA) to your school or organization this upcoming spring 2024.

This means schools or youth serving organizations in your community can take part in tMHFA at no cost!

Please help us spread the word about this opportunity.

**[Click here](#) to learn more about the program, application process, and timeline.**

To qualify for the spring 2024 grant funding, applicants must attend **a 1-hour information session** (held via Zoom) then apply no later than **September 22** to take part in the program.

**[Click here to register](#)**

tMHFA is an internationally-recognized, evidence-based training program for teens in partnership with the National Council for Mental Wellbeing. Through the program teens in grades 10-12 (or ages 15-18) will learn to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges in their friends and peers.

## **ProSocial Classrooms Opportunity**



The University of Missouri is offering free professional development as part of a research study to help teachers develop strategies to promote kind, cooperative behavior among students and a positive classroom climate without adding to curriculum or teachers' workload. PD sessions are once-a-month for 90 minutes after school from September-May (9 sessions), remote via Zoom. Teachers meet with a peer support group and content experts. Teachers will need to complete and administer brief surveys, for which they'll be compensated \$200.

**We are currently recruiting 6th-8th grade teachers to participate during the 2023-24 or 2024-25 school year!**

If you're interested in participating in this study, please join us for a brief information session on Zoom to learn more and ask questions. A recording of this session can also be emailed.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/prosocial-echo-2023> to sign up and receive more information!

For questions, contact Katie Greer, the project coordinator, at [MUProsocial-lab@missouri.edu](mailto:MUProsocial-lab@missouri.edu).

## **MARE Board Training Opportunities**

- MARE will provide Board Training in 2023 for newly elected or appointed BOE members according to this schedule

### **MARE Board Training Dates – 2023**

#### **Lake Ozark, MO – The Lodge of the Four Seasons (Conference)**

- **Wednesday, October 18, 2023 (11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)**
- **Thursday, October 19, 2023 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)**

#### **Lake Ozark, MO - The Lodge of the Four Seasons (Deadline to register – 11/19/23)**

- **Friday, December 08, 2023 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)**
- **Saturday, December 09, 2023 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)**

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)).

## **Quote of the Week**

**“What You Do Has Far Greater Impact Than What You Say.”**  
- **Stephen R. Covey**

## **Suicide Safer Schools PD Opportunity**

### ***Conversations for Suicide Safer Schools***

Empowers educators to ask about suicide risk effectively, identify each staff member's role & responsibility, and practice skills to help parents create suicide-safer environments when there is a potential risk for suicide.

Upon training completion, participants will be able to:

1. Ask more effective questions to ask a student in crisis to determine at risk for suicide.
2. Understand their role in response to a crisis in the school setting.
3. Identify lethal means safety strategies to make an environment suicide safer.
4. Practice skills to help parents create suicide-safer environments to prevent, delay, or deter a suicide attempt.
5. Demonstrate increased comfort, confidence, and willingness to have a conversation about suicide risk and lethal means safety.

Not only is this training free of charge, but attendees will also receive an MIMH Continuing Education Credit for licensure renewal and a \$25 Amazon gift card for their participation.

Further information on ***Conversations for Suicide Safer Schools***, including training dates/times and a registration link can be found on the attached flier. Registration inquiries and further questions about the training can be directed to: [conferences@mimh.edu](mailto:conferences@mimh.edu).

If you are a school professional, or a member of school-affiliated professional agency we sincerely hope that you are able to attend. And regardless of your affiliation with schools and school professional organizations, we ask that you take a moment to share this email with your contacts to help us spread the word of this training series statewide.

#### **Wendy Ell, OTR/L**

*Pronouns She/Her/Hers*

MO-CPAP Executive Director

Missouri Child Psychiatry Access Project

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## **American Heart Association Information & Opportunity**

The American Heart Association is actively working to secure additional host sites for their great work. Please read on below and access the linked articles at the bottom of the article for additional information. Share with anyone in your circle who might be interested.

Now we're looking at Year 2 starting in September and are wanting to identify some additional host sites in Missouri and I wanted to see if groups or organizations came to mind for you that would be ideal for this. The attached FAQ has more details, but in brief:

- HeartCorps sites must be a non-profit or government entity that needs to be able to:
  - Help with Member recruitment in their local area.
  - Provide a physical workspace, a day-to-day supervisor, and an opportunity for 40 hrs of service/wk, directly and/or with partners.
- AHA's funding covers the costs of the Member so there is no direct financial cost for host sites.

- Per AmeriCorps regulations, Members are not able to replace/displace current staff (or volunteer positions) but are designed to expand capacity in addressing high blood pressure, nutrition, tobacco, cardiac readiness, and more.
- Sites in the smallest communities have faced challenges in recruitment so, as a matter of practicality, sites (while still rural) would ideally have populations of at least 10,000 to draw from and/or be close to colleges/universities.
- In exchange for their 1700 hrs of service, Members receive the equivalent of a \$15/hr living allowance, a \$6800 educational stipend, access to insurance and fantastic opportunities for professional development.

Around the country sites have included local public health, hospitals/clinics, community action agencies, libraries, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCAs, Salvation Army's and more. It could theoretically include school districts if they were particularly focused on health.

### **Tim Nikolai**

Sr. Rural Health Director, Midwest

**American Heart Association**

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

M 414.502.8780

[/vimages/shared/vnews/stories/64b1492617f08/HeartCorps Host Site FAQs 2023.pdf](#)

[/vimages/shared/vnews/stories/64b1492617f08/Host a HeartCorps Member .pdf](#)

## **SB 190 – Property Tax Credit Information – Provided by Kim Cranston, Executive Director of MOASBO**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **SB 190 – Property Tax Credit**

(This is a compilation of information from a variety of mass media sources and professional school associations. It is not an exhaustive or comprehensive summary or explanation of the property tax credit in SB 190.)

#### **What is SB 190?**

SB 190, was sponsored by Senator Tony Luetkemeyer. This bill, which Gov. Parson signed earlier in July, modifies provisions relating to the taxation of seniors. It has two main provisions, one related to property tax credits and one that deals with retirement benefits from income tax deduction.

#### **What does the property tax credit do?**

It allows counties to provide a tax credit to seniors:

- Who are eligible for Social Security
- Own their home, use it as their primary resident and are required to make tax payments on that home.

Eligible seniors would be exempt from increases in the amount of property taxes they owe.

#### **What about taxpayers who don't pay into Social Security? Are they eligible for the property tax credit?**

Good question.

- The language of the bill states "Eligible taxpayers are defined as residents who are eligible for Social Security retirement benefits." Some people interpret this to mean that people such as full-time teachers and railroad workers, who are exempt from Social Security, are not eligible.
- Others interpret the language to mean taxpayers are eligible if they meet the minimum

age requirement (62) for Social Security benefits.

### **What is the process for taxpayers to follow to know if they're eligible for the property tax credit?**

It is up to the counties to determine the process they will use.

### **How do taxpayers get the property tax credit?**

It depends on how their county chooses to deliver the benefit. Counties will control how the credit is provided.

Counties could choose to:

- Apply it upfront to a tax bill
- Apply the credit the follow year
- Have the taxpayer pay the full amount and send them a check later

### **How will this be put into place?**

The plan can be put into place by a county in one of two ways:

- An ordinance passed by the county council
- By voter approval. Approval from a simple majority of voters would enact the measure. To get the measure on the ballot, supporters must:

Gather 5% of the votes cast in 2020 gubernatorial election; 5% of the votes each one of the county's districts  
Deliver the signatures to the election authority at least 60 days before the general election date, which can fall in April, August or November. Signatures would have to be verified.

### **Are there other programs in Missouri that give tax breaks to senior citizens?**

The "circuit breaker" program is designed to help seniors and people with disabilities afford property tax or rent. However, the eligibility requirements are strict and haven't been updated since 2008.

### **Can taxpayers still appeal their assessments under the new law?**

Yes. The law doesn't change the way the county assessor values or calculate real estate. The county assessor would assess the value according to Missouri law and taxpayers would still receive the same assessment notices. The county Collector of Revenue would factor in the freeze and calculate the amount of taxes an eligible homeowner must pay.

### **What about the Hancock Amendment? How does it work with property tax credit?**

This amendment provides for local governments to recoup decreased revenue by increasing tax levies. BUT, with SB 190, counties would have to report the tax credit as revenue collected, meaning they couldn't roll up their tax levies to make up for the lost revenue.

While school districts will still be able to roll up their levies according to the latest CPI or 5%, whichever is less, that increase likely won't cover the full amount of lost revenue.

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#### **SB 190 PROPERTY TAX CREDIT**

This act authorizes a county to grant a property tax credit to eligible taxpayers residing in such county, provided such county has adopted an ordinance authorizing such credit, or a petition in support of such credit is delivered to the governing body of the county and is subsequently submitted to and approved by the voters, as described in the act.

Eligible taxpayers are defined as residents who: 1) are eligible for Social Security retirement benefits; 2) are the owner of record of or have a legal or equitable interest in a homestead;



and 3) are liable for the payment of real property taxes on such homestead.

The amount of the property tax credit shall be equal to the difference between the real property tax liability on the homestead in a given year minus the real property tax liability on such homestead in the year in which the taxpayer became an eligible taxpayer.

A credit granted pursuant to this act shall be applied when calculating the eligible taxpayer's property tax liability for the tax year. The amount of the credit shall be noted on the statement of tax due sent to the eligible taxpayer by the county collector.

The amount of property tax credits authorized by a county pursuant to this act shall be considered tax revenue actually received by the county for the purposes of calculating property tax levies. (Section 137.1050)

This provision is identical to a provision in HCS/SB 247 (2023) and is substantially similar to SB 715 (2022) and to a provision in SS/SCS/SB 133 (2023), as amended, SS/SB 540 (2023), as amended, and SS#2/SCS/SB 649 (2022).

#### RETIREMENT BENEFITS INCOME TAX DEDUCTION

Current law allows taxpayers with certain filing status and adjusted gross income below certain thresholds to deduct 100% of certain retirement and Social Security benefits from the taxpayer's Missouri adjusted gross income, with a reduced deduction as the taxpayer's adjusted gross income increases. For all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, this act allows the maximum deduction to all taxpayers regardless of filing status or adjusted gross income. (Sections 143.124 and 143.125)

These provisions are identical to SB 448 (2023), SB 241 (2023), HB 662 (2023), HB 1206 (2023), SB 871 (2022), HB 2853 (2022), SB 157 (2021), SB 847 (2020), and HB 1725 (2020), and to provisions in HCS/SB 247 (2023), and are substantially similar to SB 585 (2023), HB 156 (2023), and HB 456 (2023), and to provisions in HCS/SS#3/SCS/SB 131 (2023).

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