



Missouri Association of Rural Education

Legislative Platform

2019-2020

State Issues

School Finance:

MARE Supports:

1. Continued full funding of the Foundation Formula, including funding for the Small Schools Grant.
2. The DESE recommended plan to fully fund Transportation (75% of allowable costs) with increases of \$65 million each year for the next three years.
3. Restoration of categorical funding (Parents as Teachers, special programs, safe school grants, alternative education/instruction program options, etc).
4. Reformation of Missouri tax credits to at a minimum allow for the establishment of caps on programs where feasible, identify sunset dates on all tax credits, not subject tax credits to appropriations, and the elimination of some tax credit programs.
5. Legislation removing school districts from prevailing wage requirements.
6. Increasing a school district's bonding capacity to 20% and allowing district voters to approve bond issues with a simple majority vote.
7. Legislation that would provide for fair and equitable tuition and transportation rates for all schools statewide for K-8 and K-12.

MARE Opposes:

1. Mandating new programs without appropriate funding for maintaining such programs.
2. Tax reform or any tax modification (reduction) legislation that reduces the funding available to provide for state programs/services.

School Governance:

MARE Opposes:

1. The restriction/removal of the Board of Education's local control of public school districts.
2. Forced consolidation of any school district.
3. Forced open enrollment, vouchers, tuition tax credits, any expansion of charter schools without equitable accountability standards and use of public funds for non-public schools.

Specific MARE Issues:

1. MARE will support legislation/amendments that will continue to provide funding to MARE (state budget line item) for mandated school board training services to rural Missouri school districts.