



Missouri Association of Rural Education

State Legislative Platform

2021-2022

School Finance:

MARE Supports:

1. Development of a comprehensive state plan to fully fund School Transportation (75% of allowable costs).
2. Continued full funding of the Foundation Formula, including funding for the Small Schools Grant.
3. Restoration of full categorical funding (Parents as Teachers, special programs, safe school grants, alternative education/instruction program options, etc).
4. Reformation of Missouri's tax credit programs by establishing caps on each tax credit, inserting sunset dates on all tax credits, subjecting tax credits to the budget process, and eliminating some tax credit programs.
5. Legislation removing school districts from prevailing wage requirements altogether.
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 added that removes WADA from Summer School hours in the calculation for the Small Schools Grant.
8. Legislation added that will permanently revise the rules on transfers between funds I and IV and vice-versa for specified, allowable reasons.
9. Continued flexible allocation of all federal relief funding (CARES Act, ESSER I, II & III) to assist public schools.
10. Legislation that provides for fair and equitable tuition and transportation rates for all K-8 and K-12 school districts.

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 Supports:

1. Legislation that reforms the current MOCAP statute to ensure greater oversight, stronger accountability and full transparency while allowing districts to maintain discretion to evaluate virtual education programs and make enrollment decisions that are in the best interest of their students.
2. Legislation added to Missouri State Statute 162.203 giving School Districts the authority by Board Policy to remove elected or appointed Board members who have not successfully completed the mandatory training within one year of election or appointment as provided in this statute.

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.