



MARE Focus

APRIL 10, 2024

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

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
- M.U.S.I.C.
- SOCS
- Veregy (CTS)

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 – MARE has been retained to conduct the following Superintendent Searches:

Golden City R-III Superintendent Search – Dr. Mike Jinks is the Search Consultant. He can be reached at (660) 441-7473 or 19mj46@charter.net. **Deadline is 4/12/2024!**

Ballard R-II Superintendent Search – Dr. Jamie Burkhart is the Search Consultant. She can be reached at (660) 525-0952 or jamiebeth.burkhart@gmail.com. **Deadline is 4/12/2024!**

Closed Searches – South Holt Co. R-I (Ms. Jean Meyer), Marion Co. R-II (Mrs. Savannah O'Bryan), North Andrew R-VI (Mr. Josh Barker), La Plata R-II (Dr. Lucas McKinnis), Sullivan (Assistants – Mr. Matt Peregoy & Mrs. Becky Jones), Spring Bluff R-XV (Mr. Brad Landwehr - AP), Scott City R-I (Mr. Lance Amick), Shelby Co. R-IV (Dr. Billy Daleske), Central R-III (Assistant – Mr. Zech Payne), Ralls Co. R-II (Mr. David Koogler), Spokane R-VII (Mr. Kent Doyle), Ash Grove R-IV (Dr. Shane Medlin), Kennett 39 (Dr. Richard Leeker), St. Clair R-XIII (Mrs. Melissa Husereau), Van Far R-I (Dr. Natalie Gibson), Chadwick R-I (Mr. Chris Gold), Kingston 42 (Ms. Kadee McMillan), Sherwood Cass R-VIII (Dr. Derrick Hartley), Otterville R-VI (Mr. Dan Kruse), North Shelby (Mr. Joshua Brummit), Craig R-III (Dr. Matt Copeland) & Adair Co. R-II (Mr. Cody Moore)!

All Vacancy Announcements & Applications – www.moare.com!

Livingston Co. R-II Administrator/Principal Search

PK-8 Administrator/Principal - The Livingston County R-III School District is taking applications for the position of PK-8 Administrator/Principal for the 2024-2025 school year. Qualifications include a Master's Degree in Elementary Administration, appropriate Missouri administrator certification, with a Specialist degree preferred. 12 month contract, duties begin July 1, 2024. Salary based on years of experience and education level. Applicants should download the Administrator application from the district's website, www.chulaschool.org. Interested applicants should submit a completed Administrator application, cover letter, resume, transcripts, evidence of appropriate certification, 2 letters of recommendation and any other pertinent information to Jeremy Bru, President, Livingston County R-III School Board, 205 Waite St., Chula, MO 64635. All information must be received by 12:00 pm April 15, 2024. Questions regarding this position may directed to the school office, 660-639-3135. The Livingston County R-III School District is an equal opportunity employer.

Rural Education Matters, Everyday!

MARE Scholarship Information – We will be awarding thirty-eight (38) \$750.00 scholarships this spring, many at area MASA meetings within the next six weeks. College applications will be reviewed soon. We will be awarding twenty-three (23) \$1,000.00 scholarships this summer at our MARE Board Meeting! Since 2017, we have awarded \$263,000 in scholarships through these two programs.

MARE/EdCounsel HS Senior Scholarship Recipients for 2024

Student

Alyson Alcantara
Isabella Baird
Autumn Bax
Avery Baxter
Madelyn Beetsma
Andi Belt
Tacey Blankenship
Addilyn Branson
Mackenzie Brown
Hannah Christian
Jaelynn Crowder
Ellyssa Denton
Gabriella Frey
Sommer Gill
Michaela Grannemann
Hayley Gruenewald
Lauren Homan
Britney Jeffries
Maggie Keim
Kenzie Kilpatrick
Larissa Larrick
Madison Lockhart
Jordan Long
Abigail Lootens
Sydney Marriott
Brooke Murphy
Autum Nichols
Vanessa Perona
Hannah Phillips
Malia Rodgers
KatiJo Schaefer
Bella Skibinski
Claire Stinson
Destiney Stokes
Lilly Westhues
Alexis Wildenhain
Ava Wolfe
Alicen Yant

District

Warsaw R-IX
Galena R-II
Blair Oaks R-II
Chillicothe R-II
Chillicothe R-II
North Shelby
Billings R-IV
Camdenton R-III
Mound City R-II
Lebanon R-III
Montrose R-XIV
Summersville R-II
Humansville R-IV
Shelby Co. R-IV
Gasconade Co. R-I
Silex R-I
Sedalia 200
Green City R-I
Palmyra R-I
Dixon R-I
Shelby Co. R-IV
Odessa R-VII
Southwest R-V
Shelby Co. R-IV
West Nodaway Co. R-I
Pilot Grove C-4
Lathrop R-II
St. James R-I
Marionville R-IX
Montgomery Co. R-II
Glasgow
Troy R-III
Ralls Co. R-II
Lebanon R-III
NE Randolph Co. R-IV
Hallsville R-IV
Climax Springs R-IV
East Prairie R-II

Hamlin Energy Program – MARE member school districts have received two or three email blasts within the past few weeks from Rhonda Hamlin with Hamlin Energy Group. As you may know, we have a partnership with Hamlin Energy Group to provide various services aimed at saving school districts money when it comes to energy costs, especially with natural gas. I would encourage you to review those emails carefully and reach out to Rhonda with your questions. It is very likely that she can save your district money and/or recoup some money by conducting an energy audit for your school district. More information regarding Hamlin Energy can be found at www.moare.com.

iCEV Rolls Out EduThings - Do you struggle to manage the data for your CTE programs? iCEV has a resource that can help! Eduthings is your command center for CTE data management and reporting. It can help track IRCs, CTSOs, Work-Based Learning, Advisory Boards, Inventory, and much more. We are offering a series of Eduthings webinars specific to Missouri schools like yours. Follow the link below to register!

Missouri Eduthings Demo Registration

Dr. Calee McElwain
Territory Manager - MO
Office | 800.922.9965
Cell | 660-200-5041
Email – calee.mcelwain@icevonline.com
Fax | 800.243.6398
www.icevonline.com

National Center for Rural Mental Health – MU Grant Opportunity

You are invited to participate in a study as part of our [National Center for Rural School Mental Health](#). Dr. Keith Herman of the University of Missouri and his team have created free resources for rural schools to use to support student mental health. The project would give you access to a brief, online student and teacher mental health risk screening, automated dashboard reports, [the Intervention Hub](#) mapped onto your school results, and technical assistance in how to use it. The screener only takes 10 min for a teacher to complete the entire class, and 5-10 min for students. It also caps the number of students identified as being most at risk compared to their peers in your building so as to not overwhelm staff. Participating schools receive \$1000 to accommodate for any inconveniences. Please contact Dr. Herman to learn more (hermanke@missouri.edu); he can also set up a demo of the system to show you and your staff.

Save the Date - The 14th Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, July 15th at Osage National Golf Course in Lake Ozark, Missouri. We will accept the first 36 paid teams for this event. Last year's event raised over \$34,300.00 to be earmarked for scholarships for students interested in teaching in rural Missouri schools.

MOCAAT – What Can You Do For Me?

MOCAAT is a full financial management resource for Missouri school districts. Established in 2020, MOCAAT® prides itself on bringing a new level of service and support of investment planning and deployment for Missouri schools. The MOCAAT team uses their decades of experience in Missouri school budget, finance and investments to manage more than \$3.0 billion in assets for over 215 districts across the state. For support with investments of your reserve funds, tax revenues, state revenues, and bond proceeds please reach out to John Jungmann, jjungmann@pmanetwork.com (417) 228-4148 or Jason Hoffman, jhoffman@pmanetwork.com (573) 212-6258.

NREA News

- For all of the latest news from our national affiliate, please click on these links: [March 29, 2024 NREA Weekly Update](#), [April 5, 2024 NREA Weekly Update](#)

Quote of the Week

"Many people measure their success by wealth, recognition, power and status. There's nothing wrong with those, but if that's all you're focused on, you're missing the boat...if you focus on significance -using your time and talent to serve others - that's when truly meaningful success can come your way." Ken Blanchard

MARE Welcomes New Associate Members

- MARE is pleased to welcome **Acrisure/Wallstreet Group, AirAnswers, Inc., Community Foundation of the Ozarks, Haddock Educational Technologies, PCC Sports, Pepco, Inc., Quality Network Solutions, Renaissance Learning, Inc. & Varsity Tutors as New Associate Members.** Check out our website at www.moare.com for more information!

2024 MARE/MO K-8 Conference - October 16th-18th

Make plans now to join us for our annual fall conference on **October 16th-18th** at the beautiful Lodge of the Four Seasons. This event has grown tremendously over the past few years thanks to your support and your willingness to encourage others to attend. We hope to make our 2024 (Education is the Key!) the biggest and best yet! District leaders and vendors are encouraged to put this on your calendars now! We want the MARE/MO K-8 Conference to be your choice event for team building, leadership development and professional growth. We look forward to seeing all of you at the lake!

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

[MARE/MO K-8 Exhibitor Registration Form 1](#)

[MARE/MO K-8 Exhibitor Registration Form 2](#)

[MARE/MO K-8 Outstanding Rural Education Awards Nomination Form](#)

[MARE/MO K-8 Call for Presentations Form](#)

Conference Theme – Education is the Key!

MU Grant Opportunity



Seeking participants for a Research Study

4th and 5th graders and their teachers take a **ONE-TIME** online survey to assess **self-regulation, school belongingness, prosocial behaviors, engagement, and behavior management**. Participants receive:

- A **free**, school-specific report on school climate, students' academic mindset, sense of belonging, and engagement. The data can help inform any programs schools want to enact.
- ***Designing a Prosocial Classroom***, a book written by Christi Bergin at Mizzou, which discusses how to create a more prosocial (i.e., respectful, cooperative, kind) school climate.
- Participating teachers will be eligible to receive a **\$25 Amazon gift card**.

Your participation will contribute to research on how to make schools a nurturing place for students and teachers.

To participate, email lbrockmeier@missouri.edu

MARE Board Training Opportunities - MARE will provide Board Training in 2024 for newly elected or appointed BOE members according to this schedule:

Southeast Missouri - Poplar Bluff, MO – Holiday Inn – (573) 712-9021

- Friday, May 31, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 1, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

West Central Missouri - Warrensburg, MO – Quality Inn - (660) 747-3000

- Friday, June 14, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 15, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Northeast Missouri - Kirksville, MO - Holiday Inn Express (660) 956-4682

- Friday, June 14, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 15, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

Southwest Missouri - Bolivar, MO - Comfort Inn - (417) 326-6169

- Friday, June 21, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 22, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Northwest Missouri - Maryville, MO - Holiday Inn Express (660) 562-9949

- Friday, July 12, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, July 13, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

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

- Wednesday, October 16, 2024 (11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- Thursday, October 17, 2024 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Lake Ozark, MO - The Lodge of the Four Seasons

- **Friday, December 6, 2024 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)**
- **Saturday, December 7, 2024 (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!**

To register, please complete the form found on our website and fax to (660) 747-8160, scan and email to ksandlin@moare.com, or go online (www.moare.com) and complete the electronic form found under Board Training.

National Center for Rural School Mental Health Opportunity

Exciting opportunity! Your school or co-op is invited to participate in a study focused on improving the capacity of rural schools to support student emotional and behavioral well-being. Participating schools will be randomly assigned to either receive data reports and consultation versus receiving reports in Spring and consultation the following year.

Project Description

Schools will be **randomly** assigned to two groups: intervention schools and control schools.

2024-2025 (Year 1)

Intervention schools (Get Now)	Control schools (Get Later)
\$1500 participation stipend School climate survey and reports Early Intervention System (EIS), a universal social emotional screener and reports EIS intervention hub and professional development Monthly consultation	\$1000 participation stipend School climate survey and reports Early Intervention System (EIS), a universal social emotional screener and reports (Spring)
Intervention schools	Control Schools
school climate survey and reports EIS screener and reports EIS intervention hub and professional development	\$500 participation stipend School climate survey and reports Early Intervention System (EIS), a universal social emotional screener and reports EIS intervention hub and professional development Monthly consultation

All participating schools will have free access to all materials and tools following participation in year 1.

Each building will have a liaison assigned who is compensated for work with the National Center.

School Data Collection Requirements

All participating schools:

- Complete a school climate survey in the fall and spring.
- Complete universal social emotional and behavioral screening in fall and spring (teacher and students)

Interested? For more information or questions contact:

Lou Ann Tanner-Jones, PhD, NCSP

Assistant Clinical Professor, Dept. of Educational, School & Counseling Psychology

Boone County Schools Mental Health Coalition (BSCMHC)

National Center for Rural School Mental Health (NCRSMH)

University of Missouri

Columbia, MO 65211

tannerjonesl@umsystem.edu

MARE Welcomes AirAnswers as New Associate Member

*"At AirAnswers, we pride ourselves on being the leader in cutting edge air sampling and testing technology. Our revolutionary, silent, and portable device is equipped with patented technology designed to capture a wide array of **airborne pathogens, including Beta Glucans, molds, allergens, bacteria, viruses, and biotoxins.**"*

Our platform is valued by a wide range of users including indoor air quality professionals, homeowners, physicians, and educational institutions. Our mission is to empower individuals and organizations with the ability to detect invisible ultrafine airborne biocontaminant particles that pose potential health risks and can cause property damage.

What sets AirAnswers apart is our commitment to transforming innovative air sampling technology into a comprehensive, user-friendly air testing detection and monitoring system that can be seamlessly deployed in any indoor environment, providing invaluable insights into the quality of the air you breathe."

For more information, contact:

Steve Kuemmerle

EVP for Operations

AirAnswers, Inc.

3333 Green Bay Rd., IRP Suite 400

North Chicago, IL 60064

Cell: 773-490-9035

skuemmerle@airanswers.com

<https://www.airanswers.com/>

The Question: Mental Health Resource Capacity in K12 – Is It a Growing Concern?

ATTN: MARE Members:

Our survey results are in. I want to thank the 50+ districts who responded.

It appears from the results that there may be some service-level gaps out there in the areas of mental health resources and student intervention management that we may need to think about or perhaps provide some viable partner resource options.

Should there be a district out there who has a team member that would like to have a high-level, no obligation exploratory needs gathering conversation please contact Kevin Sandlin at ksandlin@moare.com and I'll connect you to the right person. For example, possible interests might include, but not be limited to, finding a secure, efficient scheduling, proprietary tele-therapy-based counseling, and intervention documentation technology platform or perhaps seeking assistance with identifying additional contracted counselor resources as a lower cost alternative to hiring full time with benefits and pension.

At MARE, we always want to be a vehicle to help our members identify and address their ever-changing needs, so let me hear from you.

The Question: Mental Health Resource Capacity in K12 – Is It a Growing Concern?

The Assumption: There is an ongoing narrative across the country regarding the status of our student's mental health and the resources available to support their growing need. MARE has always been a champion for school districts and for students in need, so we want to make sure we are always aware of any developing issues that may be concerning to our members and if so, whether we need to develop a partnership that can provide assistance in some way. We have just (9) questions in our survey.

The Feedback: From more than (50) school districts.

1. Over the last 12 months has your district experienced an increase in students seeking mental health related services?

78.4% - Yes, we've experienced about a 15% - 30% increase.

2.0% - Yes, we've experienced an increase in excess of 50%.

9.8% - No, we have not experienced an increase.

9.8% - About the same as in years past.

2. If you experienced an increase of any size, would you have enough internal counseling capacity to sufficiently meet the needs of your students/parents?

10.0% - Yes, we have sufficient resources to meet current and future needs regardless of the increase.

18.0% - Yes, we have sufficient resources to handle up to a 30% increase, but nothing beyond.

46.0% - No, we only have so much capacity, our counselors are currently under-resourced.

26.0% - Not sure, it depends on the size of the increase, we might have to consider additional resources.

3. If growing student needs forced your district to consider expanding your mental health counseling resources, would you more likely:

12.0% - Hire an FTE. (full salary, benefits, and retirement).

48.0% - Request counseling services support from the State.

40.0% - Consider access to certified supplemental counseling resources, to be contracted at an hourly rate and only on an as-needed basis.

4. Do you believe "tele-therapy" can be an effective tool for helping students with mental health related needs while addressing counseling resource constraints?

39.2% - Yes, tele-therapy can be an effective tool in working with students in an environment where they are comfortable while also mitigating a student's privacy concern with confiding to local staff and allow working parents to participate.

27.5% - No, face-to-face counseling is the only way to effectively reach a student.

33.3% - Maybe, I would need to test it first on a small scale.

5. If so, do you currently use any of the following virtual meeting platforms to engage with students and/or their parents?

27.1% - Zoom.

6.3% - Microsoft Teams.

37.5% - Google Meet.

4.2% - Yes, but none of the above.

52.1% - No, our counselors have not tried any virtual platforms yet

6. If there was no money in the budget to hire a dedicated FTE, but there were clear counseling resource deficiencies, would you consider making hourly-based resources available to supplement your in-house staff's needs?

34.0% - Yes, only if our internal counseling staff maintains complete management oversight.

12.0% - No, I would ask our existing staff to do the best they could with the current resources they have available.

54.0% - Maybe, I would need to test it first on a small scale.

7. Does your District currently use an automated internal system to manage and document your existing student/counselor (or parent) sessions?

11.8% - Yes, each student counseling case is required to be logged into a specific area of our SIS system.

4.8% - Yes, we use a separate 3rd party case management software system that is separate from our SIS system.

47.1% - No, we currently use a paper-based system and keep confidential folders on every student.

31.4% - We currently use a combination of software and paper to manage student counseling cases.

4.8% - We are not currently documenting our student / counselor meetings but are considering implementing a more modern system.

8. What specific "administrative tasks" would you say take up the most of your counselor's time thereby affecting their overall ability to help even more students?

8.0% - Communication Tracking

20.0% - Support Referrals

18.0% - Documentation and Note-taking

2.0% - Appointment Scheduling

14.0% - Administrative Record Keeping

16.0% - Follow-up and Support Tracking

48.0% - All of these tasks have become an administrative burden affecting capacity to serve more students.

9. Do you believe technology could play a role in helping to streamline "administrative tasks" to allow for more time for student (or parent) sessions?

41.2% - Yes

9.8% - No

49.0% - Maybe

MARE Organization Staff

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