



APRIL 30, 2024

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

M.U.S.I.C.

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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

Letters to the Governor – Requesting Veto of SB 727

MASA and other educational associations are rallying to encourage Missouri public school districts to reach out to Governor Mike Parsons and ask him to veto SB 727. I would implore you to make this happen before the end of this week. The goal is to get at least 350 Missouri public school districts to send letters to MASA so that they can then deliver these directly to the Governor's Office on Friday of this week. We are hopeful that this strong show of concern on behalf of Missouri school leaders, BOE members, Community Patrons, Business Leaders, etc. will have an impact on the Governor's decision regarding this legislation.

A detailed email was provided by MASA to area leadership with sample letter language and such to make this process quick and painless. Please commit the time now to make this happen and encourage your BOE members, community leaders, business leaders and others to reach out.

Superintendent Search Program – Below is a listing of leaders placed through MARE facilitated searches this year. Please join me in welcoming these individuals to their various new roles!

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), Golden City R-III (Mr. Dennis Kimzey) & Ballard R-II (Mr. David Andrade)!

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.

Rural Education Matters, Everyday!

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
Somer 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

NREA News - For all of the latest news from our national affiliate, please click on these links: [April 12, 2024 NREA Weekly Update](#) , [April 19, 2024 NREA Weekly Update](#), [April 26, 2024 NREA Weekly Update](#)

Education Plus – Elevate Conference

The ELevate conference on June 5 & 6 at St. Charles West High School is designed for K-12 educators to learn best practices and gain new strategies for creating inclusive and effective learning environments, and network with other educators throughout the region and state who have experience working with English Learners. This conference is for leaders, EL educators, and content teachers who have EL students within their classroom. All can gain valuable learning experiences and practical strategies that can be applied to the classroom and their school communities.

This two-day event will feature keynote address and breakout sessions by author, Beth Skelton, and Laura Gardner and Alba Morales from Immigrant Connections. It will also include over 35 breakout sessions presented by EL educators from around the region. Attendees of the conference will receive a copy of Beth Skelton's best-selling book, *Long-Term Success for Experienced Multilinguals*.

Learn more about the conference and breakout sessions on the conference [website](#) and register [here](#) for the conference. Attached is a flyer with additional information.

Christine Stanek McDonald

Director of Communications

EducationPlus

1460 Craig Road | St. Louis, MO 63146

o: 314.692.1233 | c: 314.443.6990



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.

Varsity Tutors for Schools – Upcoming Webinar Opportunity

Overview – Panelists will discuss how schools can leverage their remaining ESSER III funding to purchase high-dosage tutoring for multiple years. The US Department of Education has clearly stated that ESSER III funds can be utilized to pay for services aimed at combating learning loss – which continues for several years. **Topics** – How to Use ESSER III funds along with state and local funds & Varsity Tutors for Schools Three Implementation

Please check out the MARE website at www.moare.com soon for a feature article regarding this webinar opportunity!

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 over \$3 billion in assets for 205 Missouri Participants, including school districts (as of February 7, 2024).

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	Jason Hoffman Vice-President Investment Services	Paul Ziegler Coordinator, Sales & Relationship Manager
(417) 228-4148 jjungmann@pmanetwork.com	(573) 212-6258 jhoffman@pmanetwork.com	(417) 387-6005 pziegler@pmanetwork.com

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.

Quote of the Week

Leaders aren't born, they are made. And they are made just like anything else—through hard work." — Vince Lombardi

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, Heartland Business System, Kansas City Audio Visual & Smith Paper & Janitor Supply** as New Associate Members. Check out our website at www.moare.com for more information!

MCE Policy Updates – The April 2024 updates are currently available on the MCE website located at www.moconed.com.

We wish you all the very best as you wrap up the 2023-2024 school year! You are making the difference!

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!

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.

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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