



DECEMBER 8, 2025

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

ENDORSEMENTS

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IMS Technology

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- GIRLS STATE

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ADMIN. JOB
POSTING

MARE Focus

Superintendent Search Program

– One of the many services that MARE provides is a quality, yet affordable Superintendent Search Program. If you are retiring this year or making plans to move, we would welcome the opportunity to work with your district to find the next leader. Contact Kevin Sandlin, MARE Executive Director, at (660) 747-8050 or by email at ksandlin@moare.com for more information.

Prairie Home R-V Superintendent Search

– Dr. Jamie Burkhart is the search consultant. She can be reached at (660) 525-0952 or jamiebeth.burkhart@gmail.com. (01/06/2026)

Madison C-3 Superintendent Search

– Dr. Jerry Cochran is the search consultant. He can be reached at (660) 596-3184 or cochranj115@gmail.com. (01/05/2026)

North Harrison R-III Superintendent Search

– Mrs. Mary Beth Scherer is the search consultant. She can be reached at (660) 281-7678 or mbscherer@ucmo.edu. (01/02/2026)

La Monte R-IV Superintendent Search

– Dr. Jamie Burkhart is the lead search consultant. She can be reached at (660) 525-0952 or jamiebeth.burkhart@gmail.com. (01/09/2026)

Closed Searches - Altenburg #48, Kirbyville R-VI, Maryville R-II, Chaffee R-II, Santa Fe R-X, Morgan Co. R-I, NE Randolph Co. R-IV, Pettis Co. R-V, Archie R-V & Linn Co. R-I

More Searches Posting Soon!

Foundation Formula Modernization Task Force

– The School Modernization Task Force is now conducting Working Group meetings until mid-December. The meetings will be livestreamed. It is vitally important that school leaders, BOE members, community patrons and those who support public schools tune in to these meetings or listen to the recordings to stay informed. The group will reconvene with scheduled Task Force meetings in January. For more information on this work, please check out the website at this link: [Missouri School Funding Modernization Task Force](#).

**** Please look for a recent email that I sent with information on how some of the funding proposals may impact your district!**

Quote of the Week

"The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things." Ronald Reagan

Save the Date

– 16th Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament – Monday, July 20th, 2026 at Osage National Golf Course. \$90.00 per person or \$360 per team!






Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from MARE!

Eduthings Platform – Get Your Data Right!

Are you tired of spending hours on June Core Data reporting? We'd like to tell you about Eduthings, a powerful platform that transforms how you manage and report CTE data.

Eduthings eliminates the need for juggling multiple spreadsheets and combing through your SIS data by automating key processes like **student CTE classification, data tracking, and report generation**. It takes your data from simple reporting to **meaningful analysis**, helping you make informed decisions with confidence.

Eduthings Key Benefits:

-  No more spreadsheets—automated data management
-  Accurate student classification and reporting
-  CTE Data Tracking – WBL, CTSO, RYA, IRC, Advisory Board
-  Compliance support for state and federal requirements
-  Time-saving tools that reduce manual entry and errors



Want to see it in action?

Email us to schedule a personalized demo and discover how **Eduthings** can simplify your workflow.

**** Please share this with your person responsible for CCR data tracking and June Core Data Submission!**

Dr. Calee McElwain

Territory Manager

Company | 800.922.9965

Direct | 660.200.5041

[**Schedule a Meeting »**](#)

2025-2026 MARE Scholarship Program Information

The Missouri Association of Rural Education offers two scholarship programs for students interested in becoming teachers and returning to rural school districts to teach. The first program is the MARE Rural Missouri Scholarship Fund. This program is open to only junior and senior level students attending Missouri colleges or universities that offer degrees in education. Applicants must have completed 60 or more credit hours and have declared a major in education. Last year, MARE provided twenty-two (22) \$1,000.00 scholarships. We plan to present 20-25 \$1,000.00 scholarships this year alone! Information for this program is available below. This information is in the mail to all Missouri colleges and universities that offer teacher education programs and certifications. The deadline to apply for this scholarship is Friday, March 13, 2026.

Materials must be received by this date!

[**2025-2026 College Scholarship Guidelines & Application**](#)

[**2025-2026 College Scholarship Guidelines in Word**](#)

The second scholarship program offered by MARE is open to graduating high school seniors of MARE member school districts. Applicants must have indicated plans to pursue a degree in education. Only senior students from MARE member school districts are eligible to apply. This includes HS students from tuition paying MO K-8 MARE member school

districts. Last year, MARE, with support from EdCounsel, LLC provided forty-three (43) \$750.00 scholarships to graduating high school seniors from all over the state. The deadline to apply for this scholarship is Friday, March 13, 2026.

Materials must be received by this date!

[2025-2026 HS Senior Scholarship Guidelines & Application](#)

[2025-2026 HS Senior Scholarship Guidelines & Application in Word](#)

If you have any questions regarding these Scholarship Programs, please contact Kevin Sandlin, Executive Director, at (660) 747-8050 or ksandlin@moare.com. Since 2017, MARE has provided a total of **\$316,250.00** in scholarships through these two programs.

CESO Communications Partnership/Opportunity

MARE members now have access to free communications support through a new partnership with CESO Communications. Each member district can benefit from one free phone call/video consultation (up to one hour) during the 2025-26 school year.

CESO Communications is a team of school communication professionals from across the country with a combined experience of more than 300 years. CESO provides services to school districts of all sizes focusing on their communications needs. Our main point of contact for CESO is Jill Filer, who spent 32 years working in Harrisonville Schools. She has been recognized for her leadership and service specifically for mentoring and supporting both school communications professionals and superintendents from around Missouri and the United States.

The focus for your free hour-long appointment is completely up to you and your district's communication needs. Topics could include any of the following:

Internal Communications
Social Media
Website
Communications Training
Superintendent Transition
Bond/Levy Campaigns
Community Engagement
Communications Planning

Even though Jill will be the person responding initially, she will be supported by the entire 19-member CESO team.

To access this free service, call Jill at (816) 738-1055 or email her at jill.filer@theceso.com to schedule an appointment.

iCEV Seeking Input - We're gathering insights on how districts are navigating the new IRC list so we can share best practices and provide better support. Could you take a moment to answer these four quick questions?

1. **Which IRCs is your district prioritizing this year?**
2. **How are you approaching the new IRC list?**
3. **What has been your biggest challenge so far?**
4. **What support or resources would help most?**

You can reply your answers to either Calee McElwain calee.mcelwain@icevonline.com or Marilyn Allen, marilyn.allen@icevonline.com.
Thank you for your time and partnership!

Dr. Calee McElwain
Territory Manager

Company | 800.922.9965
Direct | 660.200.5041
[Schedule a Meeting »](#)

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, has managed a high-water mark of nearly \$4 billion in assets, with over 280 Participants.

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 john.jungmann@ptma.com	(573) 212-6258 jason.hoffman@ptma.com	(417) 387-6005 paul.ziegler@ptma.com

Amy Herrman – CESN Planner for DESE

My name is **Amy Herrman**, and I serve as the **Career Education Special Needs (CESN) Planner** for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

In my role, I support administrators, special education staff, counselors, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) instructors with strategies to help students with special needs successfully access and participate in CTE programs.

I'd be happy to assist the **Missouri Association of Rural Education** by presenting at professional development events or sharing resources with your districts. Please feel free to pass along my information to those who may benefit. I've attached a **CESN brochure** and a few examples of presentations I can provide or customize to meet your needs:

Facilitating Equitable Access: Special Needs Students in CTE

Enhancing Career Opportunities: Accommodations and Modifications in CTE

I've also included an article on **Pathways to Skilled and Technical Sciences**, a DESE initiative to help high schools introduce CTE opportunities earlier, as well as the **Missouri High School CTE Admissions Best Practices** document. Please review the attached materials and let me know if I can be of assistance. I'd also appreciate your help sharing this information with your members through your newsletter or email groups.

I look forward to connecting!

Best regards,

Amy

Dr. Amy Herrman

Career Education Special Needs Planner, South Central RPDC

Missouri University of Science and Technology

Career Education Special Needs (CESN)

aherrman@mst.edu | cell: 573-578-0542

Board Training Schedule for 2026 – See dates/locations below!

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

- Friday, May 29, 2026 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, May 30, 2026 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

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

- Friday, June 12, 2026 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 13, 2026 (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

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

- Friday, June 19, 2026 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 20, 2026 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

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

- Friday, June 26, 2026 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 27, 2026 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

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

- Friday, July 10, 2026 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, July 11, 2026 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

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

- Wednesday, October 21, 2026 (11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- Thursday, October 22, 2026 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Lake Ozark, MO - The Lodge of the Four Seasons

- Friday, December 4, 2026 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, December 5, 2026 (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, scan and email to

ksandlin@moare.com

Missouri Educator Job Board

I'm writing to share some very exciting news with you. DESE has been awarded a three-year grant to continue to offer the Missouri Educator Job Board as we did this past year. This grant will also allow us to expand our supports for current and emerging teachers seeking jobs in MO through our partnership with [Nimble](#). We are very excited to continue to offer this resource to MO teachers and school districts. We are asking for your assistance in helping to promote these resources to educators across the state. This might include you helping to spread the word among your members or posting links on your organization's webpage.

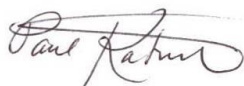
As a reminder, the MO Educator Job Board was launched in January 2025 as a part of a pilot project to provide a one-stop-shop for current and rising educators seeking jobs they'll love in Missouri. Teachers can use the platform to see an up-to-date directory of all teaching job openings statewide in one place, with the ability to filter for jobs that meet their preferences. They can see critical information like commute time, salary scales, and where to apply. The platform also allows qualified teachers to connect with principals, to see if they might be a fit for their openings. Principals looking for support in filling vacancies can use the free resources to connect with teachers who express interest in their schools. The evaluation data from the pilot was extremely positive

In addition to the job board, Principals will have access to a Talent Matching Service, which will provide a weekly shortlist of qualified teacher candidates who matched their school's needs. Districts will also have access to a free Applicant Tracking System (ATS) that integrates the state job board and posts their jobs to major platforms like Indeed and ZipRecruiter.

We very much appreciate our partnership with you and look forward to working with you on this over the next several years.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions!

Sincerely,



Paul Katnik, Assistant Commissioner
Office of Educator Quality

Learning Blade Corner

Celebrate Computer Science Education Week with Learning Blade

Inspire students to explore the world of computer science during **Computer Science Education Week (Dec 8–14)** without the stress of planning. Learning Blade has already created a complete CS Ed Week plan for you, making it easy to bring real-world coding and technology lessons into any classroom.

Your CS Ed Week plan is ready to go: [Learning Blade at CS Ed Week 2025](#)



Learning Blade
Powered by eDynamic Learning

Celebrate Computer Science Education Week!

December 8-14th, 2025



Ready-to-Use Lessons & Activities for CS Ed Week:

- What is Artificial Intelligence?
- AI and Machine Learning
- Getting Creative with Generative AI
- AI Ethics
- Building Submarines: Robots at Work



LearningBlade.com/States

MARE Organization Staff

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Assistant Executive Director

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Associate Director

Missouri Association of Rural Education

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Fax: (660) 747-8160

Website: www.moare.com

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