



# MARE Focus

JANUARY 30, 2023

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

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## Open Enrollment – The Momentum of Opposition is Growing!

As many of you are aware, the open enrollment bills (HB 253 and SB 5) are quickly making their way through the legislative process in both the House and Senate. Each bill received a hearing this past week and are expected to be voted on in their respective committees this week. We expect them to be on the floor very soon.

I *strongly* encourage everyone to view this [video recap](#) of the committee hearing on HB 253 that was put together by our friends at the Missouri State Teachers Association. As you can see, the fear of consolidation of our schools is very real.

Please consider sharing this video with your communities and staff.

You can also find the video on the MSTA Twitter and Facebook pages if you would like to share in your social media networks.

[MSTA Twitter](#)

[MSTA Facebook](#)

The outcome of these bills is far from certain.

For the past two years, the open enrollment bill has narrowly passed the Missouri House. Given the outcome of the most recent elections, several lawmakers that voted in favor of previous bills are no longer serving in the Missouri House and have been replaced by lawmakers that may take a different position.

Every day, we are hearing more and more districts are adopting resolutions opposing open enrollment. Currently, we are aware of 90 districts that have taken this action. If you have not yet taken this action, to keep our momentum moving forward, I would ask you to consider that action in your upcoming board meetings. I have attached a draft resolution for your consideration.

Additionally, the opposition to this bill is growing as stakeholders and communities understand the true impact on public education. Just this past week, we received word that the Jefferson City News Tribune has taken a position against open enrollment.

I would encourage you to read that op-ed here:

<https://www.newstribune.com/news/2023/jan/27/our-opinion-open-enrollment-who-ultimately-pays/>

As a result of what we are seeing in some communities, if you have already passed a resolution opposing open enrollment or if you take that action in the coming weeks, please make sure you are sharing information about that action with your local media. The best way for us to be effective is to ensure that the public is paying attention to the true impact this policy and are weighing in on their opinion the policy will have on students, schools, and communities.

**If your district has passed a resolution in opposition, please share that with your respective legislators and share a copy of this with your local or regional newspaper!**

[HB 253 - Open Enrollment](#)

[Open Enrollment - Board Resolution in Opposition](#)

[Open Enrollment - Talking Points](#)

[House Education Hearing on Open Enrollment - Complete Recording](#)

Additional talking points to consider:

1. There are Two Sides to Open Enrollment: Proponents like to point to the benefits that open enrollment provides to the students who transfer. And while there may be a benefit to the students that take advantage of this option, there are additional students policymakers need to keep in mind: the students who remain in the resident district. A student leaving their district of residence, means those state resources leave as well, and the students who remain have fewer resources available for their educational experience.

1. Reasons Why Kids Might Transfer: Proponents of open enrollment like to point to the creation of competition in education to improve outcomes. While that may be true, it assumes that parents if given the option will decide based on the quality of their resident district. It is likely that convenience may be the most likely factor in a parent's decision to send a student to another district. For example, if the parent works in a neighboring district, it might make more sense to enroll your child in that district. As a result, resources that would have come to your district are sent to the neighboring district and the students that remain in your high performing district are left with less.

1. Loss of Community Support: If parents are allowed to send their students to another district in which they do not pay property taxes, school districts should expect for less community support and involvement. If individuals are living within their resident district but sending their children to a non-resident district, those individuals will be less likely to support ballot measures to increase their taxes in the resident district.

1. School Consolidation: Open enrollment will lead to school consolidation. Many associate school consolidation with smaller schools. However, school consolidation is not limited to just small, rural districts. Urban/suburban districts that are also financially fragile will have significant difficulties with the passage of this bill and it may result in their consolidation as well.

1. Elimination of Programs: If students leave a district, it will very likely be spread across multiple age groups and grade levels, meaning a district will not always be able to eliminate staff. This means that a district will instead be forced to look at cutting programs meaning the students that remain in the district could see fewer opportunities in their resident district. (e.g., loss of programs such as choir, band, scholar/debate teams, FFA, DECA, and athletic programs).

1. Voluntary Participation?: Advocates for open enrollment have stated that the bill is "voluntary" in that no district is required to accept open enrollment students. While true, districts should be aware that the bill does not prohibit students from leaving a school district if another public school is accepting students. Thus, even if District A decides not to participate in the open enrollment program, students from District A can still leave to attend a public school in District B that is accepting open enrollment students. Further, if this policy passes, our membership should expect for school reform advocates to remove the voluntary status in the future, thus, requiring districts to participate.

1. Diverting Resources for Marketing & Advertising: Unfortunately, open enrollment will pit public schools against one another. School districts will compete for students and large sums of money that should be uti-

lized for the education of children will instead be used for marketing and other recruitment materials. Schools will also be forced to “one up” one another for the best facilities and best sports programs which will further deplete money going into the classroom.

1. **Financial Planning Nightmare:** Open enrollment will create further uncertainty in school districts. School districts will likely be forced to hold larger sums of money in reserve in case swings in student population occur. This may result in teacher salaries remaining stagnant or place valuable educational programs on hold.
1. **Special Education:** The current bills permit districts to deny students based on special education status if the district determines that they cannot meet the special education student’s needs. While this may be something a district that participating in the open enrollment program may seek, it puts districts in a challenging position to take that action against a special education student. This approach is also fraught with possible legal problems down the road as federal special education laws change and courts make decisions on the litigation that is common within special education policy.
1. **Transportation Concerns:** The current versions of open enrollment create inequities for students regarding transportation. Transferring students (except for those students who qualify for free and reduced lunch as discussed below) or their parents, are responsible for the transportation of the student. However, the parents and the nonresident district may enter into an agreement that allows the parents to transport the student to an existing bus stop if there is capacity available on the bus. Students who qualify for a free and reduced lunch and transfer to a bordering district school shall have transportation costs reimbursed by the Parent Public School Choice Fund. This approach fails to consider those families that lack any form of transportation (especially in rural areas where no public transportation exists). It also fails to consider the homeless student population. As such, these students will lack the ability to participate in open enrollment further creating “haves” and “have nots.”

**Quote of the Week** - *“The fact is that given the challenges we face, education doesn’t need to be reformed – it needs to be transformed. The key to this transformation is not to standardize education, but to personalize it, to build achievement on discovering the individual talents of each child, to put students in an environment where they want to learn and where they can naturally discover their true passions.” – Ken Robinson*

**NREA News** - For all of the latest news from our national affiliate, please click on these links: [January 20, 2023 NREA Weekly Update](#), [January 27, 2023 NREA Weekly Update](#)

**MARE Board Training Opportunities** - MARE will provide Board Training in 2023 for newly elected or appointed BOE members according to this schedule

## **MARE Board Training Dates – 2023**

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

- Friday, May 19, 2023 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, May 20, 2023 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

### **West Central Missouri - Warrensburg, MO – Best Western - (660) 747-3000**

- Friday, June 09, 2023 - (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 10, 2023 - (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

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

- Friday, June 16, 2023- (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 17, 2023 (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

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

- Friday, June 23, 2023 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 24, 2023 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

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

- Friday, July 14, 2023 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, July 15, 2023 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

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

- Wednesday, October 18, 2023 (11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- Thursday, October 19, 2023 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

### **Lake Ozark, MO - The Lodge of the Four Seasons (Deadline to register – 11/19/23**

- **Friday, December 08, 2023 (12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.)**
- **Saturday, December 09, 2023 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)**

To register, please complete the form found on our website and fax to (660) 747-8160, scan and email to [ksandlin@moare.com](mailto:ksandlin@moare.com), or go online ([www.moare.com](http://www.moare.com)).

**MARE Scholarship Information** – MARE awarded a total of 53 scholarships last year including 23 - \$1,000.00 scholarships to college juniors/seniors and 30 - \$500.00 scholarships to graduating seniors from MARE member school districts. Proceeds from the annual golf tournament are our primary source of funding for scholarships. Due to the generous support of many of our Associate Members and other donors, we will be awarding additional scholarships during 2023! Information has been sent out & posted for both scholarships!

**HS Senior Applications – Deadline 3/10/23, College Applications – Deadline 3/31/23!**

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

**South Iron Co. R-I Acting Superintendent Search** – Mr. Darryl Pannier is the Search Consultant. He can be reached by phone at (573) 803-9008 or at [darrylpannier@yahoo.com](mailto:darrylpannier@yahoo.com). **Deadline is 2/10/2023!**

**Newburg R-II Superintendent Search** – Dr. Paul Ricker is the Search Consultant. He can be reached by phone at (573) 365-4703 or at [paulricker1@charter.net](mailto:paulricker1@charter.net). **Deadline is 2/24/2023!**

**Fairfax R-III Superintendent Search** – Mrs. Mary Beth Scherer is the Search Consultant. She can be reached by phone at (660) 281-7678 or at [mbscherer@ucmo.edu](mailto:mbscherer@ucmo.edu). **Deadline is 2/24/2023!**

*Closed Searches – Lathrop R-II, North Mercer Co. R-III, North Harrison R-III, Brookfield R-III, Farmington R-7, Johnson Co. R-VII, Rock Port R-II, Green Ridge R-VIII, North Callaway Co. R-I, Nodaway-Holt R-VII, East Prairie R-II, Crawford Co. R-I & Glenwood R-VIII*

## **13<sup>th</sup> Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament**

The 13th Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, July 17th at Osage National Golf Course in Lake Ozark, Missouri. **Registration deadline is 7/7/2023!**

Over the past three years, MARE, with support from the key sponsors who support the Annual MARE Scholarship Golf Tournament (Veregy (Formerly CTS Group), StepUP Consulting, UMB Bank, L.J. Hart & Company, MEUHP, Missouri Propane Gas Association, SIC Roofing, Performance Services, Mickes O'Toole, LLC, Missouri Educators Health Group, Forrest T. Jones & Company, Guin Mundorf, LLC, American Fidelity, Tueth Keeney Cooper Mohan & Jackstadt, P.C., LearnSafe & MOCAAT; Hole Sponsors (EdCounsel, LLC, MRTA, MUSIC, Tueth Keeney, P.C., GRP WEGMAN Company, NREA, Hamlin Energy, Reynolds Construction & Commercial Roofing, Central States Bus, Gilmore Bell, Apple Bus, Navitas, Universal Construction, K12itc, Sunshine Dental Associates, Audio Enhancement, MET/Gallagher, Wagner Portrait Group, Bukaty Companies (Jeff Walstrom), Gator Graphics, Integrated Facility Services, Missouri Goodwill Excel) and those who provided prizes and played, has provided fifty-four (54) \$1,000.00 scholarships. We plan to present 20-25 \$1,000.00 scholarships this year alone!

Registration is now open and we will accept the first thirty-six (36) paid teams and commit slots to them. **Our format is different this year, with registration slated from 9:30-11:45 a.m., lunch from 10:45-11:45 a.m. and a shotgun start of 12:00 noon. Flight winners and the prize giveaway will immediately follow the event at approximately 5:00 p.m.** Please access the appropriate forms below to complete and send in to secure your slot. If you cannot support this as a Corporate Sponsor, Team Sponsor or Hole Sponsor but would like to help out, please consider donating gift cards or golf related items (hats, golfballs, tees, gloves, clubs, etc.) so that we can hold down our costs and award more in scholarship prizes. For more information, please contact Kevin Sandlin at (660) 747-8050 or by email at [ksandlin@moare.com](mailto:ksandlin@moare.com).

[2023 Golf Tournament Flyer](#)

[2023 MARE Golf Tournament Sponsorship Information](#)

[2023 Golf Tournament Registration Form](#)

## **TEACH Missouri Task Force Information**

I hope this email finds you all well! I reach out to share a few resources from our partner, [TeachMO](#), that can aid your institution in the recruitment of future teachers.

### **Upcoming Events**

- **Teach on Purpose Webinar:** TeachMO is excited to announce an upcoming Future Black Teachers' free virtual event for aspiring Black educators. The **Teach on Purpose Webinar**, on **January 31st at 1 pm CST**, will provide participants with the opportunity to learn how they can discover and live out their purpose in the classroom. Additionally, they will hear from a panel of 4 nationally-recognized Black educators who will share how they live out their purpose in the classroom and in the education field. This event is perfect for high school, college students, and even professionals considering becoming a teacher! Use this toolkit to promote to your prospective applicants that identify as Black: [Teach on Purpose Promotion Toolkit](#).
- **Q&A Sessions with TeachMO:** LEA officials that work to recruit future teachers are invited to meet with Tim Holman, TeachMO Sr. Program Manager, to have any questions answered about what TeachMO resources are available for their use and how to implement such resources. The Q & A sessions will take place via Zoom on February 16th and March 2nd. You may join at your convenience!
  - **Q&A with TeachMO on Thursday, February 16th** from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86249767274>
  - **Q&A with TeachMO on Thursday, March 2nd** from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87364377644>

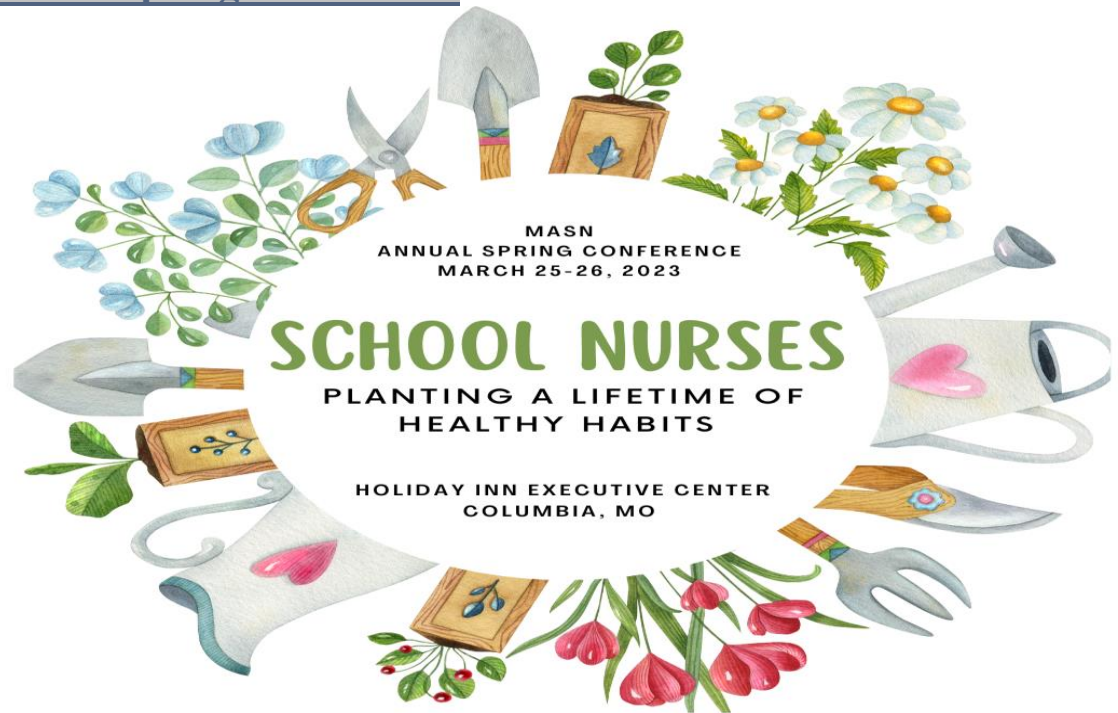
### **For Your Use**

- **TeachMO Outreach Toolkits** for non-certified personnel and high school students. These toolkits feature communication resources that assist you in connecting members of your talent pool with TeachMO resources that will support them on their routes to becoming certified teachers. Check out the [Talent Pool Recruitment Toolkit](#) and [High School Student Toolkit](#) to incorporate these resources into your recruitment system.
- **Alternative Certification Guide:** TeachMO has rolled out a guide on alternative certification. This resource includes an article and downloadable guide with step-by-step instructions to pursue alternative certification with a provisional certificate, plus a list of EPPs that offer alternative certification and answers to some frequently asked questions. This resource can aid you in your work to fill vacancies at your LEA. Check out the [alternative certification toolkit](#) they've provided.
- **TeachMO Scholarship Toolkit:** Recognizing the financial barriers facing some candidates pursuing certification, TeachMO provides scholarships to help aspiring educators fulfill their dream. TeachMO is excited to provide you with a toolkit to help you connect prospective teachers in your talent pool with TeachMO tools and resources that can increase their likelihood of applying to an educator preparation program. These scholarships are exclusive to those considering applying to programs or in the application process, rather than those who are already accepted/enrolled. [TeachMO Scholarship Promotional Toolkit](#).

If you have any questions about these resources, please contact Tim Holman, Program Manager of TeachMO at [tholman@teach.org](mailto:tholman@teach.org) or [Calendly - Timothy Holman](#).

**Winter School Facilities Academy** – Join Navitas, Stifel, McKownGordon & Hollis Miller on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> for their School Facilities Academy. Contact Mary Robertson [mrobertson@navitas.us.com](mailto:mrobertson@navitas.us.com) to register for this event!

## MASN Spring Conference



MASN 2023 Spring Conference We are so excited for this year's conference speaker lineup and topics of interest for every School Nurse. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Chris Winter, MD, FAASM, DABSM, DABPN, will present "The Hidden Epidemic of Sleep Disorders in Children". A neurologist and sleep medicine researcher since 1993, Dr. Winter is the author of "The Sleep Solution: Why Your Sleep Is Broken and How to Fix It" as well as The Rested Child: Why Your Tired, Wired or Irritable Child May Have a Sleep Disorder... And How to Help". Dr. Winter presented at the 2022 NASN Conference and school nurses across the nation gave amazing reviews. The Conference will be a weekend filled with learning, networking, and lots of FUN that will help every school nurse help "Plant a Lifetime of Health Habits" for Missouri Students! We hope to see you there. To see the brochure and register, go to [missourischoolnurses.org](http://missourischoolnurses.org) and choose the Conference Tab.

# Sports Concussions: Facts, Fallacies and New Frontiers

Attendance is Free, but Registration is Required.

**Register Now**

## Seminar Options

### Western Missouri - Monday, February 27, 2023

7:30 am - 1:30 pm  
Kansas City First Church of the Nazarene  
11811 State Line Road, Kansas City, MO 64114

### Central Missouri - Thursday, March 2, 2023

7:30 am - 1:30 pm  
Missouri State High School Activities Association  
1 N. Keene St., Columbia, MO 65201

### Eastern Missouri - Friday, March 3, 2023

7:30 am - 1:30 pm  
SSM Health St. Clare Hospital  
1015 Bowles Ave., Fenton, MO 63026

### Online

**Friday, March 3, 2023**, live presentations of Eastern Missouri Seminar, 7:30 am - 1:30 pm

**March 15 - May 15, 2023**, archive recordings of Eastern Missouri Seminar Sessions



## Attendees

- School, Community, and Recreational Sports Team Personnel
- Coaches - All sports, all ages, paid or volunteer
- Athletic Program Administrators
- Licensed Athletic Trainers
- Game Officials
- Classroom Teachers
- School Nurses
- PE Teachers
- School Counselors
- School Administrators
- School Board

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## Seminar Sessions

Concussion Signs and Symptoms

Myth Busters

Research Update

Awareness For All: Teaching Others About Concussions



Concussion Care Continuum Know the Roles  
Know When to Advocate for Concussed Youth

**FREE ADMISSION  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**[Register Online Now!](#)**

Download a [Registration Form](#) and  
fax to (314) 426-3290.

Register by phone at (314) 426-4024 or  
(800) 444-6443.

### **Sponsorship Opportunities**

Your Sponsorship for the BIA-MO *Sports Concussions: Facts, Fallacies and New Frontiers* education will help keep this program free-of-charge for coaches, athletic program administrators, school nurses, PE teachers and others instrumental in concussion care for young athletes.

It will also showcase your commitment for proper concussion management to protect student athletes.

#### **To discuss your Sponsorship, contact:**

Maureen Cunningham, Executive Director  
Brain Injury Association of Missouri

at

MCunningham@biamo.org  
(314) 426-4024

Members

### **Statewide Program Partners**

- Brain Injury Association of Missouri
- Department of Health and Senior Services
- Missouri Association of Rural Education
- Missouri Association of School Nurses
- Missouri Athletic Trainers' Association
- Missouri State High School Activities Association
- UMKC Institute for Human Development

### **Co-Host Sponsor**



This project was supported, in part by grant number 90TBSG0061-02-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.



## **Increase Literacy with the Learning Blade Cross-Curricular Lessons!**

Looking for ready-to-use informational text-based lessons? Try Learning Blade's standards-aligned STEM/CS/CTE lessons! Encourage your students to read across the disciplinary silos while exposing them to STEM technologies and careers.

Each Learning Blade online lesson is a bite-sized 10–15-minute reading activity. The informational text passages are designed to challenge students while exposing them to real-world problem solvers. There is a machine reader audio track on every page to support your students learning STEM-rich disciplinary vocabulary. Sign up for your free account – [here](#). Request a FREE professional development session by scheduling with Calendly. Click [here](#) to schedule!

### **MARE Organization Staff**

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