



# MARE Focus

MAY 18, 2020

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

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## Special Edition - Grant Opportunities

Good Wednesday morning to all of you! I hope that this message finds you doing well! I want to personally thank you for all that your district has done to continue to take care of our public school children during this unprecedented time. I hope that one of the bright spots that comes out of our experience with the COVID 19 pandemic is a greater sense of appreciation and awareness for everything that we do in our public schools to take care of our kids.

I have been sharing in the past few MARE Focus articles that information would be coming soon on a couple of grant opportunities. The primary objective of this Special Edition of the MARE Focus is to provide you with detailed information on a DOJ Grant Opportunity and the CCU Plus SMARTS Grant Opportunity. I would strongly encourage you to review the materials included to help you decide if your district wants to be included. Time is of the essence with both of these grants as final submission dates are set for early June. Initial commitment on the part of the district is minimal. **Preference for inclusion in both grant opportunities will be afforded to MARE member school districts, however, non-member districts are also encouraged to share their interest so that if slots are available, your district can be considered for participation.** Please reach out to the individuals listed with each grant to get answers to your questions and to share pertinent district information so that your school district can be included.

## DOJ Grant Opportunity

### Background by Kevin Sandlin, MARE Exec. Director

Most of you know Mr. Tom Mickes. Earlier this year Tom spoke highly of an organization that helps improve student/school safety and satisfies a requirement from The Children's Internet Protection Act that content filters don't commonly address. Tom connected me with the team at SlateXP who is now not only an Associate Member of MARE but has agreed to help our members with an incredibly timely grant submission.

This "**no match required**" DOJ (Department of Justice) Grant Opportunity that MARE, the University of Missouri at Columbia and our technology partner SlateXP are teaming up to submit will be **due on June 5th**. We are collectively very excited to include your district on a first come, first serve basis (first 100,000 students) to join MARE member school districts across the state in our Grant submission. The proposed grant will provide 100% funding for the LearnSafe platform for three years for all of your school-issued computers. With the University of Missouri's participation, we will be able to offer various online interventions and resources specifically for threats of harm to self and threats of harm to others. In my opinion, this is a perfect partnership to address some of the myriad of behavioral issues that we are facing in the K12 setting.

**How to Opt In:** *Time is of the essence* and all you simply need to do is to send and email to me saying I want my district to be a part of the grant. [Send Opt-In Email Now \(Click\)](#)

**Questions:** Please contact me or our friend Kevin Hendrix at SlateXP at 205-259-2689 / [khendrix@slatexp.com](mailto:khendrix@slatexp.com).

I strongly encourage you to review the DOJ Grant Opportunity section below for more details and I am confident that your district will benefit greatly from this effort as will those students who may be in need of additional interventions or resources.

## **DOJ Grant Opportunity**

MARE is pursuing a “**No Match Federal Grant**” focused on one of the greatest concerns facing K12 leadership; student violence and student threats to oneself and to others. I’m writing to inquire about your interest to be part of a 3 year proposal that if awarded will not require any financial contribution from your district. We have engaged a grant writer to respond to a grant offered by the DOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance, entitled Preventing (STOP) School Violence Grant Program (Solicitation #BJA-2020-17312) which funds projects to address threat assessment and intervention needs of schools and districts.

As Missouri district leaders, we are committed to improve school safety and reduce school violence. Likewise, we are open to leveraging tools and using data to recognize, prevent, and respond quickly to potential violence and behavioral concerns. We need to know when threats are made or when child is being cyber-bullied, contemplating suicide, in possession of drugs/weapons, or even considering violent behaviors. Recognizing and responding allows us to prevent potentially catastrophic actions that endanger students’ lives.

We know that rural schools and districts across the state have limited resources. To help address those needs, the grant provides funding for schools to take on a variety of interventions to assess threats and prevent school violence. We have identified two strategic partners to provide the technology and services to help keep students safe and to ensure a compelling submission. Our partners will be:

- *The University of Missouri’s Missouri Prevention Science Institute*, providing support and training for schools and districts to implement robust, evidence-based threat assessment and response programs to address concerns that may otherwise lead to self-harm or harm to others.
- *SlateXP*, providing *LearnSafe*, an innovative school-owned monitoring platform that provides school leaders with evidence-based data to proactively identify those students who may have potential behavioral concerns and/or exhibiting a propensity to harm themselves or others. ([Learn more](#))

Please let me know if you would like to participate. We aim to partner with schools and districts with some level of existing threat assessment team or process and the means and desire to implement solutions to protect students.

Our objective is to quickly confirm enough Districts to cover up to 100,000 students for a meaningful response, so **let me know if you want to participate by sending an email with the words “I’M IN” to [ksandlin@moare.com](mailto:ksandlin@moare.com) (Click to reply now)** and we’ll follow-up later and collect an electronic signature on a Participation Letter. If I can answer any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## **CCU Plus SMARTS Grant Opportunity**

The University of Missouri is collaborating again with MARE to offer the following Grant Opportunity. This Education Innovation and Research grant is intended to disseminate two evidence-based programs to rural elementary schools throughout the state. The Classroom Check-Up (CCU) and the Self-Monitoring and Regulation Training Strategy (SMARTS). First, the CCU is a brief universal web-based classroom management coaching approach, SMARTS is a Tier 2 support program for students with aggressive or disruptive behaviors. I have included the link to the CCU website below for your reference. Additionally, I provided links to a few documents at the end of this paragraph, including a very detailed description of the SMARTS program and a few research studies which provide evidence of the effectiveness of this program. Schools that opt to participate in this grant will be asked to provide modest in-kind efforts towards a grant match (i.e., travel costs for teachers or allocating PD days for selected district staff members). Ample supports for district participation will also be built into the grant for dissemination purposes (i.e., technology, hardware and software, coaching, etc.). **Please note the letter of support is non-binding; it simply indicates your interest and openness to being part of the project should it be funded. Should district priorities change prior to the study, you have the option to opt-out.**

[CCU Description](#)

[CCU Website](#)

[Research Study – Reinke, Lewis-Palmer, & Merrell](#)

[Research Study—Bradshaw et al.](#)

[SMARTS Description](#)

[Research Study--SMARTS - Thompson & Webber](#)

[Research Study SMARTS - Thompson](#)

[Research Study - Thompson, Wiedermann, Herman, Reinke](#)

## **CCU Plus SMARTS Grant - Participation Letter**

I have recently become aware of a new funding opportunity, and I'm writing to inquire about your willingness to be part of a proposal to implement a behavior support program in your district. The funding opportunity is being submitted by researchers the University of Missouri, Missouri Prevention Science Institute to the US Department of Education, Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Grant Program. The purpose of the proposal is to broadly disseminate and conduct a program evaluation of a combined classroom management coaching model, the *Classroom Check-Up (CCU)*, with a behavior support intervention called the *Self-Management And Regulation Training Strategy (SMARTS)*.

As rural Missouri school district leaders, we are committed to efforts that improve school safety, help students learn key life skills for success, and improve classroom and school behavior. Likewise, we are open to leveraging tools and using data to recognize, prevent, and respond quickly to behavioral concerns. My understanding of the CCU is that it is an evidence-based universal classroom management coaching model available in an online format. SMARTS is a tier 2, data driven intervention aimed at promoting social, emotional, and behavioral health among students in school settings. That SMARTS includes brief training for students in goal setting as well as skills for monitoring progress

towards goals, and self-management and regulation skills as well. These are valuable goals that educators work every day to help students achieve, and SMARTS provides a research-based instructional approach to not only impart these important skills to students but also provide opportunities for these students to practice these skills daily. For more details, please see the brief description of the SMARTS intervention materials that accompany this notice.

We know the limited resources that rural schools and districts across the state contend with. To help address these needs, the grant proposal will include funding for partnering districts in the form of professional development training, computers and materials, and coaching and guidance for school counselors, teachers, and other school personnel to implement the CCU Plus SMARTS intervention to support teachers and students struggling with behavioral health concerns. We understand that the EIR grant requires a 10% match component, and we are open to working with the research team to allow trainings to happen on professional development days supported by our district.

Our objective is to quickly confirm 20 to 30 partnering districts to submit the proposal to the US Department of Education in early June. All that is needed is a simple letter confirming your district's willingness to partner with researchers at the University of Missouri, Missouri Prevention Science Institute if the study is funded. In the case that the study is funded and your priorities change—your letter is nonbinding and you will not have to commit to participating unless you want to. If I can ask any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### **MARE Organization Staff**

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**If you are the intended recipient but do not wish to receive communication through this medium, please notify the sender immediately.**