

Small Group Sessions

Wednesday, October 22 - 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Conference Pre-Session #1

Increase Retention & Revolutionize Culture Using The Connection Codes with Maxwell DISC

Room - HK's Club Room

(Administrators, Board Members, Teachers)

Presenters: Bryan Rush & Joe Vigil, Team-Builders Academy, LLC

Learn how your district can increase retention, predict behavior, and build connections with the Connection Codes using Maxwell DISC. Bryan Rush of Team-Builders Academy will share how implementing this effective, fun, and easy to learn model created a culture of success and increased retention by 67%.

Conference Pre-Session #2

Ethical AI for Educators: Working Smarter, Leading Better

Room – Seville

(Board Members, Administrators, Teachers)

Presenters: Dr. Nikki Harding & Leighton Rudd, Inclusive Leadership Lab

Explore frameworks for intentional, ethical AI integration in schools, empowering teachers and leaders to streamline workflows, enhance decision-making, and foster human-centric learning. Learn practical strategies to maximize AI's potential while safeguarding equity, privacy, and professional agency.

Conference Pre-Session #3

Empowering Instructional Leadership: Systems & Strategies to Boost Achievement

Room – Lookout

(Board Members, Administrators, Teachers)

Presenters: Shauna Stephanchick & Jessica Gray, Step Up Consulting & Shaundra Ingram, Superintendent at Pleasant Hope R-VI School District

Leading instruction as a principal is a significant challenge, especially alongside numerous other responsibilities. This session will cover the essential systems, processes, and practices necessary for leading academic success.

Conference Pre-Session #4

CTE Certification with iCEV

Room – Valencia A

(Administrators, Teachers, Others)

Presenters: Dr. Calee McElwain, iCEV

Get the full certification experience when you sit for a certification exam at the MARE/MO K-8 Conference. Earn a free certification and digital badge. Join Dr. Calee McElwain with iCEV for this informative and hands-on session. Registration in advance preferred!

Small Group Sessions

Wednesday, October 22 - 2:10-2:50 p.m.

Where Does Our Money Come From & Where Does It Go?

Room - Granada A

(Administrators, Board Members)

Presenters: Dr. John Jungmann, Retired Superintendent, Dr. Paul Ziegler, Retired Superintendent & Dr. Jason Price, Superintendent at School of the Osage

Come and learn the basics of how the foundation formula and local operating and debt service levies work. We will also cover the other places where districts get their money from and typical trends in district expenditures. With so many shifts that have already taken place and more on the horizon, this is an important time to ensure you understand school finance basics.

Mountain View-Birch Tree – Journey into Long-Range Capital Planning

Room – Granada B

(Board Members, Administrators)

Presenters: Scott Downing, Joel Gundelfinger & Scott Archibald with Navitas & Ryan Chowning, Assistant Superintendent at Mountain View-Birch Tree R-III

MVBT R-III has actively embraced strategic capital planning to build on its mission of empowering students. With 1,200 students in four schools, the district began developing a multi-year facilities plan that balances aging infrastructure, projected enrollment, and evolving educational priorities. Learn how their disciplined approach ensures that MVBT can proactively address facility and technology requirements. By forecasting capital needs for the next 5-10 years, the district enhances resource optimization, secures timely funding, and sustains safe, modern learning environments for every student.

Bridging the Gap: Strengthening Recruitment, Retention, and Communication

Room – Granada C

(Administrators, Board Members, Teachers)

Presenters: Marci Orr, Communications Director at Mexico 59 & Kari Yeagy, Communications Director at Hallsville R-IV

Discover how school leaders can partner with each other and their staff to improve recruitment, retention, and communication. Using real feedback and district data, this session offers practical tools to align leadership efforts and foster collaboration. This session is presented by two school communications directors, including one with experience as a school board member.

Small Group Sessions

Wednesday, October 22 – 2:10-2:50 p.m. (Continued)

Recipe for Success: Checklist to Reduce Student Tobacco Use

Room – Valencia A

(Board Members, Administrators, Teachers)

Presenter: Christy Inskip, Youth Tobacco Use Prevention Specialist with MDHSS

Digital vapes and nicotine pouches are contributing to high youth tobacco use rates. The Tobacco and Vape-Free School Checklist can help schools identify policy strengths and gaps. This interactive session will cover how to use the tool to collaboratively leverage strengths and fill gaps to successfully reduce student tobacco use.

Kids Read Now! A Family Engagement Reading Success Model

Room – Valencia B

(Board Members, Administrators, Teachers)

Presenters: Kristen Walter & Glen Miller, Kids Read Now

In this session, book choice, discussion prompts, and momentums are used for home practice to close reading gaps. Participants will pair literacy with existing home activities, making this model adaptable. Participants will leave with a free family engagement tool and access to 200 book questions.

ADA Compliance – Leveraging AI to Beat the Deadline & Avoid the Lawsuits

Room – HK's Club Room

(Board Members, Administrators)

Presenters: Brock Fuemmeler, IMS Technology Group & Dr. Mark Penny, MASA Executive Director

The ADA Title II compliance deadline hits in April 2026. Learn how AI-powered tools can instantly make your district's digital documents accessible – saving time, avoiding lawsuits, and future-proofing your schools for long-term accessibility.

The Kummer Center for STEM Education at Missouri S&T

Room – Seville

(Administrators, Board Members, Teachers)

Presenters: Justin Sanders & Suzanne Otto, Missouri S&T

The Kummer Center for STEM Education at Missouri S&T was founded in 2021 with a mission to provide equal access and opportunity to quality STEM learning experiences for all students across Missouri, particularly those who may face barriers to STEM exploration. In just four short years, we have made significant gains in many areas such as teacher professional development, community outreach, and student engagement. We are eager to share information about our network of resources for K12 STEM educators and students.

Small Group Sessions

Wednesday, October 22 – 2:10-2:50 p.m. (Continued)

MASA First-Year Superintendent & Mentor Roundtable

Room – Lookout

(Administrators)

Presenter: Kelly Hinshaw, MASA Director of Leader Development

This roundtable discussion is for first-year Superintendents and any MASA mentors that are in attendance. The meeting will focus on current issues that first-year Superintendents are facing. The agenda will be based on input from those in attendance, as well as recent survey results. Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss best practices and possible solutions when attempting to address their concerns.

Wednesday, October 22 – 3:00-3:40 p.m.

Making School Finance Simpler & More Transparent

Room – Granada A

(Board Members, Administrators)

Presenters: John Larrick, balanceHQ & Mr. Nick Larson, Superintendent at Bowling Green R-I

School finance can be complex and scary, but it doesn't have to be. Learn how over 70 Missouri superintendents and boards are using BalanceHQ to better understand their budgets, quickly run levy and salary scenarios, communicate financial health clearly, and lead with greater transparency – without getting lost in spreadsheets!

Senate Bill 68 Update – School Facility Ramifications

Room – Granada B

(Board Members, Administrators, Others)

Presenters: Kyle Gorrell, MSPMA

The session will provide information on the many ramifications of SB 68 as it relates to school facilities: Lead Out of Drinking Water, Comprehensive Emergency Response Plans, Cardiac Emergency Response Plans, Stop the Bleed Act, School Safety Coordinators, Interior Building Anti-Intruder Locks, Electronic Personal Communication Devices (storage), Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, and Active Shooter Training.

Small Group Sessions

Wednesday, October 22 – 3:00-3:40 p.m. (Continued)

Strengthening Communication to Build Trust and Support

Room - Granada C

(Administrators, Board Members)

Presenters: Jill Filer, CESO Communications & Tennille Banner, Superintendent at Green City R-I

No matter your district's size, strong communication builds trust and connection. This session shares practical, easy-to-use strategies that fit into your busy schedule. Learn how to share updates, tell your district's story, and handle tough situations - reaching staff, families, and your community with clear, consistent messages that make an impact.

Beyond the Book: Unpacking the Volunteer Effect

Room – Valencia A

(Board Members, Administrators, Teachers)

Presenters: Mary Click & Mandy Plybon, Oasis Institute & Dr. Sarah Wisdom, Superintendent at New Bloomfield R-III

Community-based school volunteer programs boost student learning while building intergenerational bonds and strengthening communities. This session features leaders from New Bloomfield Elementary and Oasis Tutoring, sharing data and human-driven insights on the academic, emotional, and community-wide impact of meaningful volunteer engagement.

A Trusted and Positive Voice for Missouri Public Education

Room – Valencia B

(Board Members, Administrators)

Presenter: Dorothy Rohde-Collins, Executive Director of the Missouri Public Education Foundation

The Missouri Public Education Foundation (MPEF) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that promotes the importance of public education and highlights its positive effects while identifying research-based solutions to improve educational outcomes. Learn how school districts and boards can work with MPEF to create a united positive voice for students.

Federal Programs 2025 – Updates and Ideas

Room – HK's Club Room

(Board Members, Administrators, Teachers, Others)

Presenter: De Frink-Hedglin, DFH Consulting

The elements of an LEA's federal programs have been under review and change during this last year. Preparing for 2025 has required flexibility and innovation from federal programs leaders to stay current with changes and new requirements. This presentation will focus on

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Wednesday, October 22 – 3:00-3:40 p.m. (Continued)

necessary information and provide what is known as of this fall 2025. Topics will include incorporating and utilizing funding from available programs, the annual program requirements, the triennial tiered monitoring process, and yearly plans and actions to set the LEA program up for continued success.

Roundtable with DESE Area Supervisors

Room – Seville

(Administrators, Board Members, Teachers)

Presenters: DESE Area Supervisors

DESE Area Supervisors will lead round table discussions on a variety of topics. Bring your questions to engage directly with supervisors and peers in a shared exchange of ideas.

Small Schools Committee

Room – Lookout

(Small School Committee Members Only)

Presenters: Mike Lodewegen, MCSA & Scott Kimble, MASA

This session is set aside for the 2025-2026 members of the Small Schools Committee to hold their annual fall meeting to discuss committee concerns and develop a schedule for activities for the 2025-2026 school year. Members only are invited to attend.

Thursday, October 23 - 10:40-11:30 a.m.

Board Refresher Training

Room – Granada A

(Board Members)

Presenter: Emily Omohundro, Attorney, EdCounsel, LLC

This session provides "refresher training" for Board members including the training requirements as stipulated below mandated by RSMO 162.203.

Additional topics to be covered include relevant legal issues for this school year and Board member roles and responsibilities.

"Any school board member serving a term as of August 28, 2019, or elected or appointed after August 28, 2019, shall complete at least one hour of refresher training each year of any term in office; except that, the refresher training shall not be required in the year in which the member completes the initial orientation and training under subsection 1 of this section. The refresher training shall address concepts covered in the initial training including, but not limited to, the prevention of sexual abuse of children."

Small Group Sessions

Thursday, October 23 - 10:40-11:30 a.m. (Continued)

Roofing Systems – Restore, Maintain, or Replace?

Room – Granada B

(Administrators, Board Members)

Presenters: Tim Corry, SIC Midwest

The session will provide innovative ways to restore and maintain your roof to prevent costly replacement. Learn how to prolong roof life, and how to decide replacement versus restoration. Learn the advantages and disadvantages of various roofing systems.

Starting Strong: Communications Strategies for New Superintendents

Room – Granada C

(Board Members, Administrators)

Presenters: Jill Filer & Nicole Kirby with CESO Communications

Strong communication builds trust and credibility. However, communication can quickly become reactive with the demands of the job. This session equips new superintendents with essential strategies for proactively connecting with your board, staff, families, and the community while sharing your district's unique story.

Post-Secondary Transition is Coming to a Student Near You

Room – Valencia A

(Board Members, Administrators, Teachers)

Presenters: Mary Beth Scherer, Central RPDC Improvement Consultant & Marsha Campe, Assistant Director with the Office of Special Education at DESE

Post-Secondary Transition Plans have always been required for students receiving special education when they turn 16. A new provision will lower the age to 14, requiring many K-8 districts to address post-secondary transition planning for the first time. Find out more about how to address the new special education requirement.

Empowering School Leaders: Conflict as a Catalyst for Growth

Room – Valencia B

(Board Members, Administrators)

Presenters: Dr. Nikki Harding & Leighton Rudd, Inclusive Leadership Lab

This session equips school leaders with evidence-based conflict resolution strategies to transform disputes into opportunities for collaboration, enhancing team cohesion, fostering trust, and driving inclusive school cultures. Participants will learn adaptive leadership techniques grounded in research to navigate tensions and model constructive communication.

Small Group Sessions

Thursday, October 23 - 10:40-11:30 a.m. (Continued)

“Show Me the Video” – Responding to Requests to Review Records & “View the Video”

Room – HK’s Club Room

(Board Members, Administrators)

Presenters: Anthony McDaniel & Jessica Bernard, Guin Mundorf, LLC

Join us for a session on handling common forms of requests for records from beginning to end. We will discuss compliance obligations with requests under FERPA, Missouri’s Sunshine Law (emails included?), subpoenas and requests to “view the video” while avoiding common legal pitfalls.

Making School Finance Simpler & More Transparent (Repeat Session)

Room – Seville

(Board Members, Administrators)

Presenters: John Larrick, balanceHQ & Mr. Nick Larson, Superintendent at Bowling Green R-I

School finance can be complex and scary, but it doesn’t have to be. Learn how over 70 Missouri superintendents and boards are using BalanceHQ to better understand their budgets, quickly run levy and salary scenarios, communicate financial health clearly, and lead with greater transparency – without getting lost in spreadsheets!

Unlocking ESSA Success: Practical Strategies for Maximum Impact

Room – Lookout

(Administrators, Board Members, Teachers)

Presenters: Julia Cowell & Theresa Villmer, Federal Education Consulting Group

This session offers practical takeaways and inspires transformation within your ESSA program. From administration to budgets and plans, parent involvement and beyond, this session provides valuable insights to unlock your LEA’s potential and increase your confidence with ESSA programs.

Small Group Sessions

Thursday, October 23 - 1:20-2:10 p.m.

Board Meeting Jeopardy

Room – Granada A

(Board Members)

Presenter: Duane Martin, EdCounsel, LLC

Board meetings have many requirements and best practices can make things go much more smoothly, even with a variety of personalities around the table. In this session, Duane will host a game of jeopardy covering many topics related to the conduct of productive school board meetings.

Retrofitting Older Buildings for Modern Utilization

Room – Granada B

(Board Members, Administrators)

Presenters: Cory Bextermueller, Navigate Building Solutions

Often our current school buildings have good bones, and they can be updated for modern utilization. This session will present information on ways to extend the life of a facility, while giving it new purpose and life.

AI in Action: Two Years In, Strategic Vision for Year Three & Beyond

Room – Granada C

(Board Members, Administrators, Teachers)

Presenters: Susan Crooks & Cyndi Allen, Warrensburg R-VI School District

Join us as we recap our two-year journey of AI integration for students and staff. We'll share lessons learned, both successes and challenges, and outline our strategic plan for year three and beyond.

Opening Our Doors Wider: MSHSAA & Senate Bill 63

Room – Valencia A

(Board Members, Administrators)

Presenters: Dr. Jennifer Rukstad, MSHSAA Executive Director & Natalie Hoernschemeyer, Chair of Education Department with Mickes O'Toole, LLC

MSHSAA has changed our rules to accommodate opportunities for participation for home-school, FPE school, and full-time virtual school students in Missouri public and charter schools' activities. Learn about the details and the impact on our member schools.

Small Group Sessions

Thursday, October 23 - 1:20-2:10 p.m. (Continued)

Pathway to Proficiency: The Phases of Implementation for Standards-Based Grading Success

Room – Valencia B

(Board Members, Administrators, Teachers)

Presenters: Shauna Stephanchick & Jessica Gray, Step Up Consulting

Explore the phases of implementing Standards-Based Grading with actionable steps to guide your district's transition. This session breaks down SBG into manageable, practical strategies to support staff and ensure meaningful, effective implementation. Leave with tools to lead the work with clarity and confidence.

Avoiding (or at least defending) Due Process and Discrimination Claims

Room – HK's Club Room

(Administrators, Board Members, Teachers)

Presenter: Michelle Basi, Tueth Keeney Cooper Mohan & Jackstadt, P.C.

Special education due process complaints and student disability discrimination claims are on the rise in Missouri! In this presentation, we will review recent cases to identify common pitfalls for districts and provide guidance for avoiding them, including hints for IEP/504 team decision-making processes and proactive guidance for partnering with parents.

Growing Local Talent: Launching Registered Youth Apprenticeships in Rural Missouri

Room – Seville

(Board Members, Administrators, Teachers)

Presenters: Linda Stinson & Others, MO Career Pathways

Discover how Missouri's Registered Youth Apprenticeships empower rural schools to connect students with hands-on career training, credentials, and local opportunities. Learn how small districts can build employer partnerships, align instruction with real-world learning, and leverage funding to launch sustainable programs that boost engagement, graduation rates, and postsecondary success.

Creating a School District Farm

Room – Lookout

(Board Members, Administrators, Teachers)

Presenters: Tracey Bieri, Latham R-V School & Mary Beth Scherer, MASA Coach

Having a district farm on the school district grounds has many educational and career readiness benefits for students. At Latham Elementary, a K-8 district, students learn

Small Group Sessions

Thursday, October 23 - 1:20-2:10 p.m. (Continued)

problem-solving, responsibility, respect, empathy, and an appreciation for rural life. Academically, learning standards found in the ELA and Science curriculums are covered.

Thursday, October 23 - 2:20-3:10 p.m.

Jeopardy Beyond the Board Meeting

Room – Granada A

(Board Members)

Presenter: Duane Martin, EdCounsel, LLC

Lots of issues get raised for and with board members outside the board meeting context. In this session, Duane will host a game of jeopardy covering many topics related to the issues board members face away from the board table.

MSPMA's Preventative Maintenance Program

Room – Granada B

(Board Members, Administrators)

Presenters: Jim Rich, Retired Director of Operations & Facilities for Park Hall, now with MSPMA & Charley Branham, Executive Director of MSPMA

Preventative Maintenance (PM) is the only way to get the best performance from a school building and ensure that you are maximizing the community's investment. PM is a process and it takes commitment. MSPMA is offering member districts the opportunity to learn how to set up a PM program step-by-step alongside other districts. Come learn about our plan and your opportunity.

When Social Media Strikes: Supporting Staff in the Age of Online Criticism

Room - Granada C

(Board Members, Administrators, Teachers)

Presenter: Marci Orr, Mexico 59 School District & MOSPRA

Explore how misinformation, disinformation, and online attacks impact school staff and culture. Learn how to respond with empathy, shift conversations offline, and support mental health. Walk away with messaging tools, real-world strategies, and an action plan for navigating online criticism – whether it is based on fact or fiction.

Blueprints for Rural CTE Success

Room – Valencia A

(Board Members, Administrators, Teachers)

Presenters: Stephanie Nold, Ballard R-II & Dr. Calee McElwain, iCEV

Let's tackle the real-world challenges of running a great CTE program – like keeping students engaged, finding the right resources, and staying in sync with industry needs. This hands-on session is packed with practical tips and fresh ideas to help you build a stronger, smarter, and more future-ready CTE experience.

Small Group Sessions

Thursday, October 23 - 2:20-3:10 p.m. Continued

Increase Retention & Revolutionize Culture Using The Connection Codes with Maxwell DISC (Repeat Session)

Room – Valencia B

(Administrators, Board Members, Teachers)

Presenters: Bryan Rush & Joe Vigil, Team-Builders Academy, LLC

Learn how your district can increase retention, predict behavior, and build connections with the Connection Codes using Maxwell DISC. Bryan Rush of Team-Builders Academy will share how implementing this effective, fun, and easy to learn model created a culture of success and increased retention by 67%.

Turning a Credible Threat into a Credible Plan

Room – HK's Club Room

(Board Members, Administrators)

Presenters: Jessica Bernard & Anthony McDaniel, Guin Mundorf, LLC

Student threats, whether directed at other students, school staff members, and/or school facilities, are increasing at an alarming rate. The legislation's response in SB 68 has outlined additional reporting requirements for all schools. We will take a close look at Missouri's threat analysis, Safe Schools Act, and RSMo.160.664 and identify tools for administrators to use to act decisively.

MO K-8 Leadership Roundtable

Room – Seville

(Board Members, Administrators)

Presenters: MO K-8 Board Members

MO K-8 Board members will discuss a variety of topics specific to leading a Missouri K-8 school district. Finance, Legislation, Tuition, K-8 Leadership, Mentors, etc. will be covered.

Inside the MARE Superintendent Search Service

Room – Lookout

(Board Members, Administrators)

Presenters: Dr. Mike Jinks, Dr. Jerry Cochran, Mr. Darryl Pannier, Mrs. Mary Beth Scherer, & Dr. Maggie Anderson, MARE Search Consultants

Over 300 Missouri School Districts were in need of a superintendent from 2021-2025. Securing a suitable new superintendent for your district in the face of such dramatic turnover is a daunting task. Consultants will provide an overview of the MARE Superintendent Search Service for Board members, summarize key data associated with superintendent vacancies in Missouri, and offer suggestions on how to avoid missteps often made by applicants. Discussion and questions will be encouraged.