



# MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION

HELPING SCHOOL BOARDS ENSURE ALL STUDENTS SUCCEED



BE AN ADVOCATE FOR MISSOURI'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Delegate Assembly HANDBOOK

NOVEMBER 2023



MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION  
2023 Fall Delegate Assembly

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Delegate Assembly & Business Meeting Agenda	4
Rules of Order	5
Budget Letter	7
2023-2024 Annual Budget	8
2023 Advocacy Position Proposals	9
MSBA Regional Structure	16
MSBA Board of Directors	17
MSBA Advocacy Committee Members	18
MSBA Regional Executive Committee Chairs	19
Appendix	
MSBA Advocacy Positions Document	

## **Agenda**

November 3, 2023

Presiding: Ruth Johnson, MSBA President

- I. Report of the Credentials Committee
- II. Adoption of Rules of Order
- III. Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Explanation of Voting Process
- VI. Consideration of Proposed MSBA Advocacy Positions
- VII. Closing Remarks
- VIII. Adjournment

# MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION

## 2023 Fall Delegate Assembly

# Rules of Order

*Article III, Section 5 of the Bylaws of the Missouri School Boards' Association states: The Board of Directors shall promulgate rules for conducting business of the annual meetings. Such rules shall be subject to approval by the Delegate Assembly. Where these rules are inadequate, the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall prevail.*

In accordance with this provision, the following rules for the conduct of the Delegate Assembly business meetings have been adopted by the Board of Directors and are recommended to the Delegate Assembly for approval:

1. The meeting will begin promptly at the hour announced and order must be maintained at all times.
2. Voting delegates will be certified by the Credentials Committee and seated in the section reserved for delegates. The district's alternate delegate may sit with the other delegate(s) from the district.
3. Only a member of the Board of Directors, the Advocacy Committee or a delegate (or an alternate delegate in the delegate's absence) may address the chair. The speaker must give his or her name and school district before speaking.
4. A person may not speak for more than three minutes on any question under discussion, and no more than twice on the same question. Speakers shall conform to the ruling of the timekeeper.
5. All amendments or substitutes shall be presented to the chair clearly written and signed by a delegate, with his or her school district noted, as soon as they have been moved. The amendment or substitute must be seconded by a delegate from a school district other than that of the maker.
6. At the fall Annual Conference, the Delegate Assembly shall adopt a comprehensive position document. Changes or additions to this comprehensive position document may be made at the fall Annual Conference each year. The changes will be presented in gross, that is, as a whole. Upon the request of any delegate, any change or addition to the comprehensive position document shall be separated from those remaining for the purpose of its consideration. The remaining amendments in a section shall be considered prior to those previously separated.
  - A. Changes or additions to the MSBA Advocacy Positions or any resolution on another topic proposed by school districts must be postmarked or submitted electronically 60 days prior to the Delegate Assembly meeting. The district delegate should submit the proposal with his or her school district noted. No new additions or changes may be introduced from the floor that have not been submitted to the MSBA office 60 days prior to the Delegate Assembly meeting.
  - B. The Advocacy Committee shall review all changes, additions or resolutions submitted by member districts. The Advocacy Committee may modify any submitted change or addition or may also make recommendations as a committee for change, addition or deletion to the Advocacy Position document. The Advocacy Committee will submit these recommendations to the Board of Directors.

# MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION

## 2023 Fall Delegate Assembly

### Rules of Order

- C. Consistent with MSBA's Bylaws, the Board of Directors will distribute the proposed comprehensive Advocacy Positions document to the Delegate Assembly at least 30 days prior to the Annual Conference.
  - D. The Board of Directors shall be allowed to present items of new business from the floor during the Delegate Assembly meeting.
  - E. The written rationale provided for any change or addition to the comprehensive position document or any resolution on another topic is not part of the position document or resolution and is provided only to help inform the delegates.
  - F. MSBA staff shall be authorized to correct article and section designations, punctuation, and cross-references, and to make such other technical and non-substantive conforming changes in the Advocacy Positions as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the Delegate Assembly.
7. At the June Delegate Assembly, the Nominating Committee shall place in nomination a slate for the offices of president-elect and vice president in nomination before the Delegate Assembly. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. Persons who wish to run from the floor may do so upon presentation to the MSBA Headquarters office letters of support submitted by five member school boards located in no fewer than three MSBA regions. These nominating letters of support must be submitted to the MSBA Headquarters office at least 30 days before the Delegate Assembly meeting at the Annual Leadership Summit.
- A. There may be a nominating speech for each nominee not to exceed two minutes.
  - B. Persons nominated by the Nominating Committee or from the floor shall have three minutes to address the Delegate Assembly. Nominees of the Nominating Committee shall address the Delegate Assembly in the order they appear on the ballot. Floor nominees shall address the Delegate Assembly in the order nominated.
  - C. Candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee shall be voted upon first in an order determined by random drawing. Candidates nominated from the floor will be voted on next in the order in which they were nominated. The person receiving the highest number of votes of the certified delegates voting will be elected to each office. In the event of a tie vote, another vote will be taken.
  - D. Nominating speeches and voting will be the first items of business attended to at the June Delegate Assembly. Election results will be announced at the end of regular business.
8. Proposed amendments to the MSBA Bylaws shall be submitted by member boards to the Board of Directors 30 days in advance of the June Delegate Assembly.
9. All cell phones shall be silenced during the business meeting.
10. These rules may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the Delegate Assembly.

*Pending Approval by the MSBA Board of Directors, October 6 meeting.*



November 2023

Dear MSBA Delegates,

I am pleased to provide you with an overview of the 2023-2024 MSBA budget proposal that has been approved by the Missouri School Boards' Association's Board of Directors.

The primary objective of this budget is to align with and enable the implementation of MSBA's strategic plan for the coming year. It has been designed with a commitment to advancing sound public policy, enhancing our member engagement, expanding cost-saving initiatives for members, and introducing programs that aim to bolster student achievement.

We look forward to collaborating with each of you and dedicated volunteer leaders within the MSBA community as we work together to fulfill our mission: "Helping School Boards Ensure All Students Succeed." Your involvement and partnership are instrumental in realizing this vision, and we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

Should you require further details or have any questions regarding the budget proposal, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your time and dedication to the nearly 900,000 children who are students in Missouri's public schools.

Sincerely,

Melissa K. Randol  
Executive Director

MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION  
2023 Fall Delegate Assembly



**MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION  
2023-2024 BUDGET**

	Revenue	Expense	Net Income
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>			
Operations	\$ 2,424,000	\$ 707,200	\$ 1,716,800
Fixed Operations	\$ -	\$ 5,077,000	\$ (5,077,000)
Service Agreements	\$ 45,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 41,000
Governance	\$ -	\$ 77,419	\$ (77,419)
Professional Development		\$ 149,000	\$ (149,000)
<b>TOTAL: ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>\$ 2,469,000</b>	<b>\$ 6,014,619</b>	<b>\$ (3,545,619)</b>
<b>PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL</b>	<b>20.47%</b>	<b>50.83%</b>	
<b>MEMBER RELATIONS</b>			
Regional Outreach	\$ -	\$ 18,500	\$ (18,500)
Superintendent Placement	\$ 85,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 35,000
<b>TOTAL: MEMBER RELATIONS</b>	<b>\$ 85,000</b>	<b>\$ 68,500</b>	<b>\$ 16,500</b>
<b>PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL</b>	<b>0.70%</b>	<b>0.58%</b>	
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>			
Communications	\$ -	\$ 82,000	\$ (82,000)
Technology & Media Productions	\$ 24,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 6,000
<b>TOTAL: COMMUNICATIONS</b>	<b>\$ 24,000</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>	<b>\$ (76,000)</b>
<b>PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL</b>	<b>0.20%</b>	<b>0.85%</b>	
<b>LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Education & Training	\$ 69,260	\$ 94,904	\$ (25,644)
Events	\$ 1,087,500	\$ 761,330	\$ 326,170
<b>TOTAL: LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>\$ 1,156,760</b>	<b>\$ 856,234</b>	<b>\$ 300,526.00</b>
<b>PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL</b>	<b>9.59%</b>	<b>7.24%</b>	
<b>RESOURCES</b>			
School Resources	\$ 836,425	\$ 64,500	\$ 771,925
Special Services	\$ 4,595,000	\$ 3,217,500	\$ 1,377,500
Board Policy	\$ 986,784	\$ 126,390	\$ 860,394
Labor Relations	\$ 8,800	\$ 2,505	\$ 6,295
<b>TOTAL: RESOURCES</b>	<b>\$ 6,427,009</b>	<b>\$ 3,410,895</b>	<b>\$ 3,016,114</b>
<b>PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL</b>	<b>53.29%</b>	<b>28.82%</b>	
<b>ADVOCACY</b>			
Governmental Relations	\$ 44,000	\$ 78,112	\$ (34,112)
Strategic Relations	\$ 1,853,953	\$ 1,305,553	\$ 548,400
<b>TOTAL: ADVOCACY</b>	<b>\$ 1,897,953</b>	<b>\$ 1,383,665</b>	<b>\$ 514,288</b>
<b>PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL</b>	<b>15.74%</b>	<b>11.69%</b>	
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 12,059,722</b>	<b>\$ 11,833,913</b>	<b>\$ 225,809</b>
	100%	100%	



# 2023 Advocacy Position Proposals

## RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

**Key:** All language that is to be deleted is ~~struck out~~ and all new language is in **red, bold**, and underlined.

### Proposal #1

#### Section I. Finance

##### A. Adequate and Equitable Public School Funding

10. MSBA supports increasing state revenues available to adequately fund public education by bringing certain taxes on tobacco, e-cigarettes, imitation tobacco or cigarette products, **recreational marijuana**, alcohol and alcohol-related products, and internet sales to a level consistent with the national average.

*Explanation: This amendment was submitted by the Wright City R-II Board of Education.*

*Explanation from Wright City: We believe that adequate funding is necessary for public education. Missouri should consider funding sources used for education by other states, including taxing recreational marijuana at the average rate used by other states where it is legalized. Missouri's current tax rate of recreational marijuana is 6%, which is one of the lowest in the country.*

*MSBA Advocacy Committee Note: The recreational marijuana-specific tax rate is not currently used to fund public schools. The Missouri Constitution specifies that the taxes are used for a) administration costs, b) the costs of expunging criminal records for marijuana-related offenses, c) costs of health care and other services to military veterans and their families, d) to increase access to drug addiction treatment, overdose prevention education, and job placement, housing and counseling for those with substance use disorders, and e) to provide legal assistance for low-income Missourians through the Missouri public defender system.*

*Additional information on other states' tax rates can be found here: <https://taxfoundation.org/data/all/state/state-recreational-marijuana-taxes-2023/>*

**Advocacy Committee Recommendation:** *The MSBA Advocacy Committee **supports** the REVISION of this position.*

**Board of Directors Executive Committee Recommendation:** *The MSBA Board of Directors Executive Committee **supports** the REVISION of this position.*

MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION  
2023 Fall Delegate Assembly

**Proposal #2**

**Section III. Personnel  
NEW Position:**

**MSBA supports funding and programs to encourage Missourians to enter the field of public education through Missouri's postsecondary teacher preparation programs especially in certification areas of critical or persistent shortage.**

*Explanation: This NEW advocacy position was submitted by the North Kansas City #74 School District.*

*Explanation from North Kansas City: Once again we are heading into the fall semester in school districts with an inadequate supply of teachers. If we are going to successfully educate our children, then there must be highly qualified teachers in each and every classroom. The state has a responsibility for the education of the youth in the state. They need to recognize the shortage of teachers and increase their support in order to increase that supply. This could be done by increasing endowments or funding at those Missouri institutions that prepare teachers for the classroom, through scholarships for individuals pursuing a teaching career, loans and loan forgiveness for students pursuing a teaching career, or other means that may be developed in the legislature. However, it is important that MSBA take a position in support of increasing the supply.*

**Advocacy Committee Recommendation:** *The MSBA Advocacy Committee supports the adoption of this NEW position.*

**Board of Directors Executive Committee Recommendation:** *The MSBA Board of Directors Executive Committee supports the adoption of this NEW position.*

# MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION

## 2023 Fall Delegate Assembly

### Proposal #3

#### Section V. School Board Governance and Operations O. School Board Elections

MSBA believes that school board elections should be held **annually** on the **April** Municipal Election Day and **School board elections should** remain nonpartisan so the school board members may focus solely on what is best for the students and the school district ~~and are not distracted by partisan politics~~. Further, MSBA opposes the use of cumulative voting in the election of school directors.

*Explanation: Mehlville R-IX and Liberty Public School District both submitted proposed amendments to this position. This position written by the Advocacy Committee combines elements of both proposals.*

*Mehlville stated that annual elections were necessary to preserve the three-year term for school board. There have been legislative efforts to move the election to November of every other year, which would require school board terms to be extended to four years.*

*Liberty stated that it was important for the elections to remain in April, to maintain the nonpartisan nature of school board service. Liberty was also concerned that holding elections in November would push school board elections to the bottom of the ballot and would receive less attention.*

**Advocacy Committee Recommendation:** *The MSBA Advocacy Committee supports the REVISION of this position.*

**Board of Directors Executive Committee Recommendation:** *The MSBA Board of Directors Executive Committee supports the REVISION of this position.*

MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION

2023 Fall Delegate Assembly

**Proposal #4**

**V. School Board Governance and Operations**

**New Position: Artificial Intelligence**

**MSBA recognizes there is an increase in the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in all sectors of society. MSBA supports efforts to protect academic integrity and the privacy of students, faculty and staff as it relates to the use of AI.**

*Explanation: This NEW advocacy position was suggested by the Wright City R-II School District and written by the Advocacy Committee.*

*Explanation from Wright City: Our board believes MSBA's advocacy positions should also include guidance on the impact of Artificial Intelligence as it involves instruction. The larger context of the board's discussion on this matter included AI's use by students and teachers, both positive and negative.*

*Our board is concerned about the impact on education if students are able to use AI as an alternative to doing the work, yet we also see the benefit for our educators and the time it may save them as their list of tasks grows.*

**Advocacy Committee Recommendation:** *The MSBA Advocacy Committee supports the adoption of this NEW position.*

**Board of Directors Executive Committee Recommendation:** *The MSBA Board of Directors Executive Committee supports the adoption of this NEW position.*

MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION

2023 Fall Delegate Assembly

**Proposal #5**

**Section V. School Board Governance and Operations**

**New Position: Location of Candidate Filing**

**MSBA opposes legislation that would require school board filing to occur at any location other than the district's central office.**

*Explanation: This NEW advocacy position was submitted by Mehlville R-IX and edited by the Advocacy Committee.*

*Mehlville noted that most school board candidate filing currently occurs at the central office of the school district in which the candidate seeks a position, and is the most efficient process. However, there has been legislation proposed to move filing responsibilities to the county clerks or county election authorities. We are concerned that for many districts this could be inconvenient for candidates and increase the workload of the county clerks or election authority personnel.*

**Advocacy Committee Recommendation:** *The MSBA Advocacy Committee supports the adoption of this NEW position.*

**Board of Directors Executive Committee Recommendation:** *The MSBA Board of Directors Executive Committee supports the adoption of this NEW position.*

MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION

2023 Fall Delegate Assembly

**Proposal #6**

**Section V. School Board Governance and Operations**

**New Position: Candidate Filing Dates**

**MSBA supports a filing window for school board elections that is convenient, open, and safe for citizens and district staff.**

*Explanation: This NEW advocacy position was submitted by Mehlville R-IX and edited by the Advocacy Committee.*

*In 2021 the legislature amended state statute to change the dates for candidate filing from six weeks to three weeks, and the final date of filing now occurs between Christmas and New Year's Day, when schools are closed and families are celebrating the holidays. This is not convenient for candidates or district staff. Candidate filing is the first step a person takes towards holding public office and should be convenient for potential candidates. Mehlville also noted that reducing the current filing window would make it more difficult for candidates to file to run for office.*

**Advocacy Committee Recommendation:** *The MSBA Advocacy Committee supports the adoption of this NEW position.*

**Board of Directors Executive Committee Recommendation:** *The MSBA Board of Directors Executive Committee supports the adoption of this NEW position.*

MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION

2023 Fall Delegate Assembly

**Proposal #7**

**Section V. School Board Governance and Operations**

**New Position: Candidate Disclosures**

**MSBA supports legislation and efforts to clarify and simplify Missouri Ethics Commission requirements for school board candidates and to improve notification and assistance from the Commission in complying with these requirements to avoid candidate ineligibility.**

*Explanation: This NEW advocacy position was submitted by the Mehlville R-IX School District and edited by the Advocacy Committee.*

*The original position submission from Mehlville related to specific timeframes for paperwork submission by districts and candidates. Their explanation stated that the MEC has no enforcement mechanism in place to require the submittal of completed school board candidate paperwork in a timely manner after the end of the candidate filing period. Having a stated timeframe for when candidate paperwork is required to be submitted ensures that the MEC knows about all the candidates for the upcoming Municipal Election, as well as if they have a completed Personal Financial Disclosure (PFD) that is required to run as a candidate in an election. This also verifies that if a PFD is not filed with election paperwork, such as if the candidate would want to file it electronically, there is enough time for the MEC to send notice of the candidate of a deficiency in that paperwork being filed before the candidate would be ineligible to run in the election.*

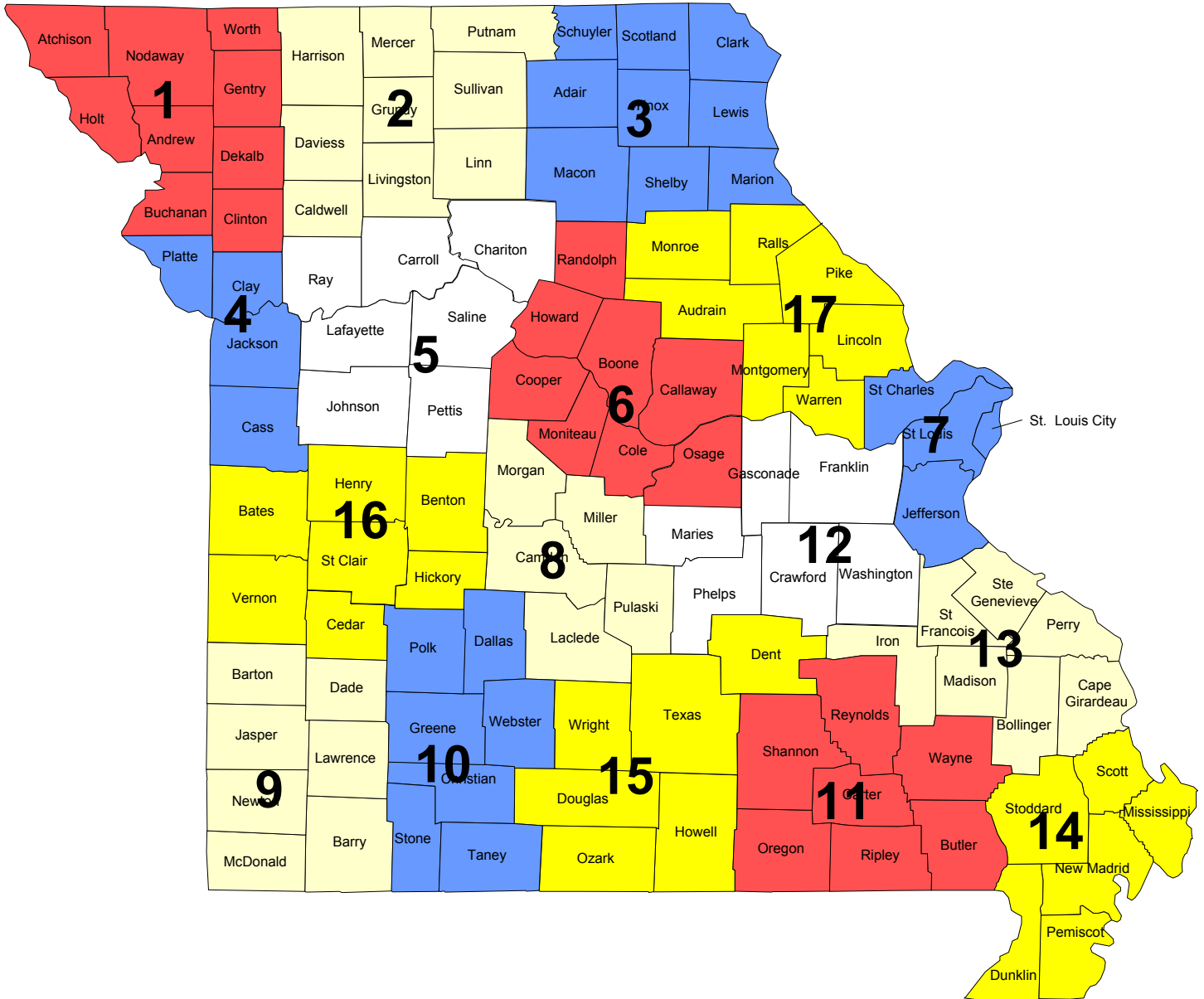
**Advocacy Committee Recommendation:** *The MSBA Advocacy Committee supports the adoption of this NEW position.*

**Board of Directors Executive Committee Recommendation:** *The MSBA Board of Directors Executive Committee supports the adoption of this NEW position.*

MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION

2023 Fall Delegate Assembly

# MSBA Regional Structure





# MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION

## 2023 Fall Delegate Assembly

### 2023-2024 Officers

**Ruth Johnson, Raymore-Peculiar R-II**  
President

**Jonathan Russell, Neosho**  
Vice President

**Patty Quessenberry, Ozark R-VI**  
President-Elect

**Ray Murphy, Richards R-V**  
Immediate Past President

### 2023-2024 Board of Directors

**LaTonya Williams, St. Joseph**  
Region 1

**Cheri Schuette, Crawford Co. R-II**  
Region 12

**Cindi Black-Rodgers, Marceline R-V**  
Region 2

**Martha Resinger, Ste. Genevieve R-II**  
Region 13

**J'Nelle Lee, Hannibal 60**  
Region 3

**Carolyn Cornman, Malden R-I**  
Region 14

**Jerry Miller, Belton 124**  
Region 4

**Shelly Mantel, Mtn. View-Birch Tree R-III**  
Region 15

**Georgia Jarman, Holden R-III**  
Region 5

**Joy Hawks, Nevada R-V**  
Region 16

**Andy Bonderer, Fulton 58**  
Region 6

**Mary Groeper, Wright City R-II**  
Region 17

**Keith Rabenberg, Brentwood**  
Region 7

**Tanesha Ford, Kansas City 33**  
Kansas City 33 District Representative

**Matt McCray, Dixon R-I**  
Region 8

**Natalie Vowell, St. Louis**  
St. Louis City District Representative

**Rylee Hartwell, Joplin**  
Region 9

**Scott Crise, Springfield**  
Springfield District Representative

**Paula Hubbert, Bolivar R-I**  
Region 10

**Joel Renfro, Richwoods R-VIII**  
K-8 Board Representative

**Tim Gaebler, Poplar Bluff R-I**  
Region 11

MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION

2023 Fall Delegate Assembly

2023-2024 Advocacy Committee Members & Delegate Coordinators\*

**Patty Quessenberry, Ozark R-VI**  
Chair

**Vacant**  
Region 1

**Kalsey McCall, South Harrison R-II**  
Region 2

**Vacant**  
Region 3

**Sharon Dankenbring, Fort Osage R-I | Angela Reed, Liberty 53\***  
Region 4

**Scott Gardner, Sedalia 200 | Gary Grigsby, Warrensburg R-VI\***  
Region 5

**Craig Stevenson, Hallsville R-IV**  
Region 6

**Kisha Lee, Ladue | Janet Stiglich, Francis Howell\***  
Region 7

**Vacant**  
Region 8

**Tracy Danner, Diamond R-IV | Matt Stewart, Seneca R-VII\***  
Region 9

**Jeana Scroggins, Ash Grove R-IV**  
Region 10

**Vacant**  
Region 11

**John Freitag, Washington | Jason Evans, Steelville R-III\***  
Region 12

**Kyle McDonald, Cape Girardeau 63 | Jamie Robinson, Perry Co. #32\***  
Region 13

**Matthew Drake, Sikeston R- 6**  
Region 14

**Jeff Gettys, Houston R-I**  
Region 15

**Joshua Jones, Osceola**  
Region 16

**Vacant**  
Region 17

MISSOURI SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION

**2023 Fall Delegate Assembly**

**2023-2024 Regional Executive Committee Chairs**

**Rachelle Motsinger, Stewartville C-2**

Region 1

**Vacant**

Region 2

**Nan Davis, Kirksville R-III**

Region 3

**Janice Bolin, Park Hill**

Region 4

**Jason Brown, Smithton R-VI**

Region 5

**Barrett Glascock, Southern Boone Co. R-I**

Region 6

**Veronica Morrow-Reel, Riverview Gardens**

Region 7

**Barbara Page, School of the Osage**

Region 8

**Vacant**

Region 9

**Roger Frieze, Branson R-IV**

Region 10

**Thomas Smith, Couch R-I**

Region 11

**Jason Gobin, Crawford Co. R-I**

Region 12

**Jennifer Hale, Fredericktown R-I**

Region 13

**Kay Rebstock, New Madrid Co. R-I**

Region 14

**Ricky Vonallman, Richards R-V**

Region 15

**Alicia Mason Collins, Miami R-I**

Region 16

**Karl Finke, Montgomery Co. R-II**

Region 17



*Save the date!*

## **2024 SPRING ADVOCACY SERIES**

**Spring Virtual Meeting** | Wednesday, March 13

**Lunch and Learns** | Fridays on March 15, March 22, April 5

**Advocacy Day in Jefferson City** | April 9

*This all-day event includes a morning program, lunch at the Millbottom and afternoon visits with legislators and Student Showcase at the Capitol.*



**MISSOURI SCHOOL  
BOARDS' ASSOCIATION**

HELPING SCHOOL BOARDS ENSURE ALL STUDENTS SUCCEED



# MSBA ADVOCACY POSITIONS

REVISED NOVEMBER 2022

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HELPING SCHOOL BOARDS  
ENSURE ALL STUDENTS SUCCEED

**MSBA Governmental Relations Office**

200 Madison Street, Suite 320

Jefferson City, MO 65101

P: 573-638-7501



# MSBA ADVOCACY POSITIONS

## PREAMBLE

The purpose of the Missouri School Boards' Association's Advocacy Positions document is to state publicly MSBA's positions on a variety of issues facing public education. This document clearly conveys to legislators, policymakers, the public and the media where MSBA stands on those issues. The document guides MSBA's advocacy efforts.

Each position statement in this document has been approved by the MSBA Delegate Assembly, where every MSBA member board has the opportunity to be represented.

The statements in the document are sufficiently precise to not only state MSBA's positions, but also provide a degree of latitude to the MSBA Advocacy Staff to interpret and apply the statements to specific proposals. The staff keeps the membership informed about progress in implementing the Advocacy Document.

As the organization representing the largest group of elected officials in Missouri, MSBA works in cooperation with parents, students, staff, community groups, members of educational organizations, state and local policymakers and others to make the support of public education a state priority. MSBA promotes and supports a system of public education that is accountable to the communities school boards serve and that prepares students to be productive citizens in a competitive and global society.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>I. FINANCE</b>	<b>1-4</b>
A. Adequate and Equitable Public School Funding	1-2
B. Appropriation Priorities	2
C. Diversion of Existing Revenue	2
D. Education Emergency Loan Funds	2
E. General Obligation Bonds	2
F. Health Insurance	2
G. Local Revenue	3
H. Medicaid	3
I. Motor Fuel Tax Exemption	3
J. Motor Fuel Tax Increase	3
K. Non-Public School Funding	3
L. Prevailing Wage	3
M. Property Tax Abatement	3
N. Property Tax Assessment	3
O. Residency	4
P. Retirement Funding	4
Q. School Facilities	4
R. Surplus Property	4
S. Tax Credits	4
T. Title I Allocations	4
U. Utility Deregulation	4
<b>II. INSTRUCTION</b>	<b>5-7</b>
A. A+ Funding for AP Testing and Postsecondary Degrees and Certifications	5
B. Academic Integrity	5
C. Accreditation System	5
D. Alternative Methods of Instruction	5
E. Career Readiness	5
F. Curriculum Decisions	5
G. Emergency Guidelines	5



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

H. Instruction for Students Who are Removed from or Who Cannot Attend School	6
I. Internet Access	6
J. Kindergarten Readiness Assessment	6
K. Pre-Kindergarten Education Programs	6
L. School Innovation	6
M. Student Assessments	6
N. Student Behavior and Discipline	6
O. Student Retention	7
P. Technology	7
<b>III. PERSONNEL</b>	<b>9–10</b>
A. Administrative Leave	9
B. Certification	9
C. Collective Bargaining	9
D. Disruptive Speech	9
E. Educator Preparation Programs	9
F. Employee Evaluations	9
G. Immunity	9
H. Professional Development	9
I. Retirement	9
J. Salary and Benefits Schedule	10
K. Substitute Employees	10
L. Teacher Contracts	10
<b>IV. SCHOOL, COMMUNITY and FAMILY RELATIONS</b>	<b>11–13</b>
A. Child Nutrition Programs	11
B. Comprehensive School Health Services	11
C. Custody of Students	11
D. Cybersecurity	11
E. Foster Care	11
F. Immunizations	11

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

G. Medicaid Enrollment	11
H. Military	11
I. Safe Schools	11–12
J. Student Dress	13
K. Student Retention and the High School Diploma	13
L. Weapons	13
<b>V. SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE and OPERATIONS</b>	<b>15–18</b>
A. Campaign Contribution Limits	15
B. Charter Schools	15
C. Conflicts of Interest	15
D. Consolidation of Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Department of Higher Education	15
E. Educational Placements	15
F. Election Dates	15
G. Home Schooling	15
H. Judicial System	15
I. Liability Protection	16
J. Local School District Control	16
K. Missouri Course Access & Virtual School Program	16
L. Open Enrollment	16
M. Public Notices	17
N. School Board Candidates	17
O. School Board Elections	17
P. School Board Evaluations	17
Q. School Board Member Recall	17
R. School Board Member Service	17
S. School Board Member Training	17
T. School Start Dates	17
U. Students Living on Military Bases	17
V. Subdistricting for School Board Elections	18
W. Sunshine Law	18
X. Transfer from Unaccredited Districts	18

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Y. Use of Public Funds in Relation to a Ballot Issue	18
Z. Virtual Education	18
<b>VI. FEDERAL GOVERNMENTAL ISSUES</b>	<b>19–22</b>
A. Affordable Care Act	19
B. Charter Schools	19
C. E-Rate Program	19
D. Elementary and Secondary Education Act	19–20
E. Equal Access	20
F. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act	20
G. Foster Care Students	20
H. Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision	20
I. Health Insurance Taxation	20
J. Higher Education Act	20
K. Homeless Students	20–21
L. Marijuana	21
M. Medicaid	21
N. National Standards, Curriculum and Assessments	21
O. Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education	21
P. Special Education	21–22
Q. Streamlined Funding	22
R. Technology and Broadband Internet	22
S. U.S. Census	22
T. Vouchers	22
<b>GLOSSARY</b>	<b>23–24</b>
<b>INDEX</b>	<b>25–28</b>

# MSBA ADVOCACY POSITIONS

## I. FINANCE

MSBA believes that funding public schools is the responsibility of local communities, the state and the federal government. Local school districts must be given maximum flexibility in the use of financial resources. MSBA believes development and implementation of an adequate and equitable funding system is critical to the future success of Missouri's public schools.

### A. Adequate and Equitable Public School Funding

MSBA supports adequate and equitable public school pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade (Pre-K–12) state and federal funding to allow all students in every school district the opportunity to meet and achieve state and federal student performance standards, and prepare them to be active citizens in Missouri's communities.

1. MSBA believes there should be a review of Missouri's approach to funding public education and encourages a more simplified and equitable system.
2. MSBA opposes the direct or indirect use of public funds for nonpublic K–12 education because it is detrimental to public education.
3. MSBA opposes tax legislation that compromises growth in general revenue.
4. MSBA supports a change in the foundation formula that decreases reliance on student daily attendance for funding, particularly in situations where students are encouraged or required to miss school for the student's own health or to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.
5. MSBA supports changes in the state's foundation formula that remove the penalties for districts that have a decreased summer school enrollment.
6. MSBA supports the collection of sales tax on internet sales at the state and local levels to increase the funding available to school districts and to assist state and local entities that provide necessary services to the communities and families school districts serve. MSBA supports legislation to ensure internet sales taxes collected do not supplant existing funding and to ensure that the revenue from the taxes is deposited in the School District Trust Fund at the same rate as taxes on in-person sales.
7. MSBA supports full funding for student transportation as prescribed by law. MSBA also supports additional funding for districts with higher per-pupil transportation costs.
8. MSBA supports fully funding the A+ Schools Program so that qualifying students may use the funding to pay for the cost of tuition and fees for postsecondary courses prior to high school graduation.
9. MSBA supports granting school boards the ability to establish a minimum tax levy at or near the performance levy that is correlated to the operating levies of districts that have performed at the highest levels as measured by Missouri's Annual Performance Report criteria. If a desired goal is for all Missouri students to have access to the same

## I. FINANCE

high-quality education as that provided in Missouri's Performance Districts, a similar level of local support should be required.

10. MSBA supports increasing state revenues available to adequately fund public education by bringing certain taxes on tobacco, e-cigarettes, imitation tobacco or cigarette products, alcohol and alcohol-related products, and internet sales to a level consistent with the national average.
11. MSBA supports legislation in the general assembly to adopt a balanced state budget based on the most current revenue information available at the time of adoption.
12. MSBA supports legislation to fund state and local programs to eliminate disparity in achievement among all students.
13. MSBA supports legislation providing relief to districts with a significant amount of tax-exempt property located in the district.
14. MSBA supports legislation that would prevent the governor from withholding monies appropriated by the general assembly for public schools.
15. MSBA urges the general assembly to take all actions necessary to provide sufficient state revenues to adequately fund the foundation formula, transportation, and all other categoricals for the public schools of Missouri and encourages the governor not to reduce such funding after it has been appropriated
16. MSBA urges the general assembly to increase state funding to allow districts to provide free early childhood education programs.
17. MSBA urges the general assembly to increase state funding to allow districts to implement safety practices per recommendations from the 2019 Governor's School Safety Task Force that would assist school districts in their safety efforts.

### **B. Appropriation Priorities**

MSBA supports all current, new or expanded mandated programs being adequately and equitably funded with state and/or federal resources and not with monies redirected from existing programs.

### **C. Diversion of Existing Revenue**

MSBA strongly opposes any attempt to divert revenue committed to or intended for public education.

### **D. Education Emergency Loan Funds**

MSBA supports the establishment of state program funding that provides low-interest loans to school districts during difficult financial times.

### **E. General Obligation Bonds**

1. MSBA supports a constitutional amendment permitting the increase of a school district's bonding capacity to 20 percent.
2. MSBA supports a constitutional amendment permitting the passage of school bond issues by a simple majority vote.

### **F. Health Insurance**

MSBA supports legislation providing a statewide health insurance solution for school districts.

## I. FINANCE

### **G. Local Revenue**

MSBA supports giving school districts additional options for raising local revenue, including sales taxes.

### **H. Medicaid**

MSBA strongly supports changes to Missouri's rules and regulations to allow for maximization of federal Medicaid revenue to school districts.

### **I. Motor Fuel Tax Exemption**

MSBA supports legislation that would exempt public school districts from paying state motor fuel tax for fuel consumed by school buses.

### **J. Motor Fuel Tax Increase**

MSBA supports an increase in the motor fuel tax in Missouri.

### **K. Nonpublic School Funding**

MSBA opposes the use of vouchers, tax credits, deductions for tuition and related educational expenses, and other similar credit systems to support nonpublic K–12 schools.

### **L. Prevailing Wage**

MSBA supports revision of the state prevailing wage statutes and regulations to provide local school districts more flexibility in controlling construction and maintenance costs.

### **M. Property Tax Abatement**

MSBA urges the general assembly to strengthen laws controlling tax abatement programs to allow school districts to have greater control over their duly authorized revenue sources. These tax abatement programs include, but are not limited to, Chapter 100, Chapter 353, tax increment financing (TIF), and the Missouri Downtown Economic Stimulus Act (MODESA). MSBA supports the following reforms related to tax abatement programs:

1. Local voters should have the opportunity to vote to opt out of tax abatement projects impacting funding for public schools.
2. Representation on any tax abatement commission shall be proportional to the impact on the taxing jurisdiction.
3. Residential projects shall not be supported by any tax abatement program.
4. School boards shall have legal standing to participate in all phases of the process, including any legal appeal relating to any tax abatement application for property located in the school district.
5. School boards shall have veto power over their portion of any tax abatement project.
6. School districts shall receive payments when tax-abated properties are sold, in whole or in part, before the expiration date of the tax abatement program.
7. The terms “blight” and “conservation” shall be redefined in a more restrictive manner.

### **N. Property Tax Assessment**

1. MSBA supports the current law requiring that reassessment be conducted on a two-year cycle and supports the establishment of penalties for failure to comply with this law.

## I. FINANCE

2. MSBA supports legislation mandating accurate real property assessments and practices to ensure comparable assessments and practices throughout the state.
3. MSBA supports legislation that would require county officials to certify a school district's assessed valuation in a more timely fashion in order to comply with state law regarding the setting of tax rates.

### **O. Residency**

MSBA supports legislation that clarifies the definition of residency of students for school district attendance purposes.

### **P. Retirement Funding**

MSBA supports legislation that ensures the future solvency of the Public School Retirement System (PSRS) and the Public Education Employee Retirement System (PEERS). MSBA encourages PSRS/PEERS to implement alternative solutions to maintaining benefits and fiscal sustainability of the retirement systems, while reducing the immediate and growing financial impact on public school districts and their employees.

### **Q. School Facilities**

1. MSBA supports efforts to allow local school districts to pursue a wide variety of funding sources to support improving school facilities.
2. MSBA supports legislation that establishes adequate state and federal funding for school districts for the renovation and construction of school facilities, including funding to support sustainable development and accommodation of the latest technologies.
3. MSBA supports statewide construction standards for school facilities.

### **R. Surplus Property**

MSBA supports revision of state law on the disposal of surplus property to give school districts greater flexibility to determine whether property has value and the most economical or advantageous method of selling, trading or otherwise disposing of unused items.

### **S. Tax Credits**

1. MSBA supports legislation creating reasonable standards for tax credit programs, ensuring accountability and capping the potential reduction of state revenue.
2. MSBA supports the suspension of the issuance of all tax credits until the statutory funding obligations of the state are met.

### **T. Title I Allocations**

MSBA supports legislation requiring the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to return to using free and reduced lunch count rather than census poverty data as the basis for determining Title I allocations to school districts with a total population of less than 20,000 students.

### **U. Utility Deregulation**

MSBA opposes any legislation that is designed to deregulate utilities and that would have an adverse impact on school district funding.

## **II. INSTRUCTION**

MSBA recognizes that the purpose of public education is to improve the achievement of all students and help every student reach his or her potential. MSBA believes that Pre-K–12 standards and curriculum must prepare all students to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. MSBA supports the use of credible research to improve all aspects of public education.

### **A. A+ Funding for AP Testing and Postsecondary Degrees and Certifications**

MSBA supports the expansion of the A+ Scholarship Program to allow eligible students to use A+ funding prior to graduation in order to pay for the costs of Advanced Placement (AP) testing and expenses associated with postsecondary degrees and certifications offered in high school.

### **B. Academic Integrity**

MSBA supports all districts requiring the highest standards of academic integrity.

### **C. Accreditation System**

MSBA supports a statewide accreditation system that reflects high standards and provides for local flexibility in improving student achievement. MSBA believes that the statewide accreditation system should apply to all schools providing education to students that directly or indirectly receive state funds. MSBA believes that the statewide accreditation system should apply to all schools funded by Educational Savings Accounts.

### **D. Alternative Methods of Instruction**

MSBA urges the General Assembly to allow school districts to utilize alternative methods of instruction, without penalty, as an alternative when school buildings or districts are forced to close.

### **E. Career Readiness**

MSBA supports quality career, technical and vocational education programs in that they are vital to student readiness for 21<sup>st</sup> Century employment success.

### **F. Curriculum Decisions**

1. MSBA strongly believes that the ultimate decision for establishing curriculum must be made at the local level to meet or exceed state and national standards and must be inclusive to educate the whole student.
2. MSBA supports local autonomy in the development of curricular goals and objectives and opposes legislation that would diminish such autonomy, including legislation that mandates or prohibits specific curricular content.
3. MSBA supports teaching methods and instructional time that are differentiated to meet individual student needs.

### **G. Emergency Guidelines**

MSBA urges DESE to develop emergency guidelines that can be used by local school districts to transition from classroom learning to either a hybrid alternative method of instruction or a full alternative method of instruction when civil authorities or school districts declare an emergency.



## II. INSTRUCTION

### **H. Instruction for Students Who Are Removed From or Who Cannot Attend School**

MSBA supports legislation that would provide school districts funds and other resources to educate students outside the school environment when a student is removed from or is unable to attend school.

### **I. Internet Access**

MSBA supports expedited state and federal efforts to provide all students access to affordable and reliable high-speed internet where they reside and to all parts of Missouri. MSBA believes that this issue is a priority that demands immediate resolution.

### **J. Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**

MSBA supports implementation of standardized kindergarten readiness assessments.

### **K. Pre-Kindergarten Education Programs**

1. MSBA supports collaborative partnerships for early childhood education utilizing existing programs, school district preschools, contracted service programs and community-based programs that meet high quality standards.
2. MSBA supports the inclusion of quality early childhood training in leadership preparation programs.
3. MSBA supports legislation that will provide adequate funding and technical support to all school districts so they may offer quality, voluntary pre-kindergarten education programs, including the Parents as Teachers program.
4. MSBA supports standards and licensure requirements for all public preschools and full certification for all Missouri preschool teachers.
5. MSBA supports a voluntary, free and equitable preschool program available to all Missouri families.

### **L. School Innovation**

MSBA supports legislation that allows school districts to operate efficiently and establish innovative educational practices.

### **M. Student Assessments**

1. MSBA supports legislation to require the state and/or federal government to fully fund the costs of state and/or federally mandated student assessment programs.
2. MSBA supports student assessment systems that include multiple methods of measuring student growth and performance and that hold students accountable.

### **N. Student Behavior and Discipline**

1. MSBA supports increased funding for professional development and research-based discipline models that focus on positive behavior supports, avoid out-of-school suspensions, and allow school districts to customize discipline based on the needs of the individual student.
2. MSBA supports legislation that gives districts greater flexibility and discretion to work with parents and students to discipline students and reform student behavior before involving law enforcement in school-related incidents.

## II. INSTRUCTION

### **O. Student Retention**

MSBA opposes legislative mandates to retain students in a particular grade level when the final decision is not made by trained educators.

### **P. Technology**

MSBA supports the use of technology by local school districts to enhance the curriculum and facilitate student learning that transcends the traditional building, school day and school calendar.

II. INSTRUCTION

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### **III. PERSONNEL**

MSBA believes that maintaining the highest quality staff by developing and implementing plans for effective recruitment and retention is critical to the success of any school district. Trained and motivated school district personnel are essential for student success.

#### **A. Administrative Leave**

MSBA supports the revision of state statute to allow districts greater flexibility to put employees on paid administrative leave.

#### **B. Certification**

MSBA supports the authority of the State Board of Education to establish teacher certification requirements and urges the State Board of Education and higher education institutions to continue to provide greater flexibility in certifying professional educators, particularly in critical-need areas.

#### **C. Collective Bargaining**

MSBA supports legislation that clarifies district responsibilities for collective bargaining, clarifies subjects that are required to be bargained and those that are not negotiable, and prohibits any action that disrupts the school environment and services to students.

#### **D. Disruptive Speech**

MSBA believes that districts should be able to hold an employee responsible when his or her speech materially disrupts the educational environment or district operations, regardless of whether such speech is spoken or written and whether it occurs in person, electronically, or on or off of school grounds.

#### **E. Educator Preparation Programs**

MSBA supports rigorous reforms in teacher education and administrator preparation programs to better prepare certified staff to meet the challenges of tomorrow's schools.

#### **F. Employee Evaluations**

1. MSBA supports both pre-service and in-service training programs that prepare administrators to effectively evaluate personnel.
2. MSBA supports the use of ongoing performance-based evaluations for administrators and teachers.

#### **G. Immunity**

MSBA supports legislation providing legal immunity for school employees and volunteers acting within the scope and course of their employment and service.

#### **H. Professional Development**

MSBA supports comprehensive, ongoing professional development activities to enhance the performance of classroom teachers, administrators and other district staff.

#### **I. Retirement**

1. MSBA supports incentives within the existing public school retirement system that will encourage teachers and administrators to remain in the public school system.
2. MSBA supports legislation that provides school districts the flexibility to employ retirees, particularly in high-need certification areas.

### III.. PERSONNEL

3. MSBA supports clarification that teachers receiving retirement benefits are not eligible for tenure.

#### **J. Salary and Benefits Schedule**

1. MSBA supports salary and benefit levels that are competitive with neighboring states and enable Missouri school districts to attract and retain high-quality teachers.
2. MSBA supports school districts establishing their own salary schedules for certified and non-certified staff.

#### **K. Substitute Employees**

1. MSBA supports revisions to the unemployment compensation law to prohibit substitute employees from being eligible for unemployment benefits.
2. MSBA supports clarification that persons teaching under a substitute certificate are not eligible for tenure.

#### **L. Teacher Contracts**

MSBA supports renewable contracts for teachers in that they are more consistent with excellence in education than indefinite contracts.

## **IV. SCHOOL, COMMUNITY and FAMILY RELATIONS**

MSBA believes that boards of education, families and communities are ultimately responsible for the academic achievement of students in their district. MSBA supports disseminating and implementing best practices along with flexibility to develop innovative programs. MSBA and local school boards should share the good news about public schools and address misconceptions that may exist.

### **A. Child Nutrition Programs**

MSBA supports legislation that would allow for efficient, economical school nutrition programs that provide access to healthy and appetizing food to all children.

### **B. Comprehensive School Health Services**

MSBA supports increasing access to comprehensive school health services, including mental health services and counseling, for students and their families. MSBA supports increased state and federal funding for these services.

### **C. Custody of Students**

MSBA supports clarification of state statutes related to the custody of individual students so that school personnel know which persons the district may release a student to and when the district may refuse to release a child to a biological parent or guardian.

### **D. Cybersecurity**

MSBA supports state and federal initiatives that assist school districts in minimizing the risk of, preventing, and adequately responding to cyber-attacks.

### **E. Foster Care and Kinship Arrangements**

MSBA supports legislation that ensures children in kinship arrangements, foster care, as well as children identified as homeless, have the resources to be successful learners. MSBA recognizes the importance of educational stability of these children. MSBA supports school district representation in conversations of educational stability to ensure each student's needs are appropriately met. MSBA supports ensuring all appropriate parties have access to the educational records of children in foster care.

### **F. Immunizations**

MSBA supports legal requirements that all children who attend public early childhood education programs and public school must be immunized unless there is a documented medical reason or a sincerely-held religious reason to excuse the student. School districts should be able to receive state aid to provide alternative education options to unimmunized children who are removed from school by the Department of Health and Senior Services when exposed to a contagious disease.

### **G. Medicaid Enrollment**

MSBA supports state and federal efforts to simplify the Medicaid enrollment process so that eligible students and their families have access to healthcare resources.

### **H. Military**

MSBA supports partnerships with military, including Missouri's military bases and Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), to enhance opportunities for school districts and benefit students.

## IV. SCHOOL, COMMUNITY, and FAMILY RELATIONS

### I. Safe Schools

1. MSBA believes that every school district should have access to the necessary training and resources to prevent and address school violence. MSBA supports quality annual professional development for the district's designated school safety coordinator so that every school district has current information on recommended safety practices.
2. MSBA encourages all school districts to adopt a high-quality emergency operations plan and supports designation of state and federal resources to assist school districts in writing, implementing, testing and reviewing these plans.
3. MSBA recommends that the state implement, maintain and fully fund a single, state-wide reporting system to encourage the public to share safety concerns, assist districts in analyzing school-related safety and violence concerns, and connect school districts and relevant local agencies with the necessary professional expertise and resources to prevent school violence.
4. MSBA supports collaborative efforts among federal, state and local policymakers; local school district leaders; higher education leaders; and law enforcement and other emergency responders to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for our students and staff.
5. MSBA supports the designation of a lead state agency to coordinate and synchronize mental health, behavioral risk and other related programs that support school safety.
6. MSBA supports the designation of a state school safety coordinator, who is empowered to coordinate state resources for school safety for all K–12 schools in Missouri. The coordination center should be supported by a school safety advisory council that includes school board members to provide input on the needs and concerns of public school districts regarding school safety.
7. MSBA supports funding for the assessment of existing school facilities to identify security and safety risks and funding for districts to address those safety concerns. MSBA supports funding for the design and construction of school facilities and grounds so that school districts can better screen visitors, control who has access to students and ensure student and staff safety while at school.
8. MSBA supports funding and legislation that would provide all school districts immediate access to trained first responders in the case of an emergency. MSBA supports funding to implement an increase in school resource officers or trained school law enforcement.
9. MSBA supports legislation to ensure a safe educational environment for all children free from any form of bullying/cyberbullying, discrimination, misconduct, sexual harassment or other harmful acts.
10. MSBA supports legislation that would expand the current law to require prosecutors, in addition to juvenile authorities, to notify school districts when a student in the district has been charged with a misdemeanor or felony and of the disposition of a misdemeanor or felony, regardless of whether or not the student is a juvenile or an adult.
11. MSBA supports legislation that would protect students and adults on school buses, at bus stops and on school grounds from criminal behavior through strict criminal sanctions for such actions.

#### IV. SCHOOL, COMMUNITY, and FAMILY RELATIONS

12. MSBA supports providing a safe, orderly and supportive learning environment, which is an essential part of student success.

##### **H. Student Dress**

MSBA supports legislation that gives school districts the authority to prohibit student dress that:

1. Could pose a health or safety hazard.
2. Is contrary to the district's educational mission.
3. Is disruptive to the educational process.

##### **I. Student Retention and the High School Diploma**

MSBA supports legislation to require students to stay in school until the age of 18 years or earlier if the student has earned a high school diploma or its equivalent.

##### **J. Weapons**

MSBA supports revision of Missouri statutes regarding weapons to recognize the unique and sensitive nature of the school environment including, but not limited to:

1. Allowing each local school board the flexibility to decide whether concealed weapons should be allowed anywhere on district property, including on parking lots.
2. Allowing a person to be charged with criminal trespass if he or she does not follow district rules regarding the possession of weapons on school property.
3. Allowing students to transport and possess weapons on district property, including firearms and bows and arrows, when authorized by the local school board and related to a school-sponsored or authorized activity.



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## **V. SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE and OPERATIONS**

MSBA believes that locally elected boards of education represent the most fundamental element of a democratic society and are the embodiment of representative government. It is critical that school boards set the vision for school districts, establish structures, adopt policies, hire the superintendent, and engage in advocacy on behalf of children and the schools. MSBA believes that all board members should participate in continuing education activities.

### **A. Campaign Contribution Limits**

MSBA supports reasonable limitations on campaign contributions and lobbying expenditures in order to promote grassroots involvement in state government. Such limits should not prohibit community members and businesses that support the local school district from contributing to campaigns to pass school district bond and levy initiatives.

### **B. Charter Schools**

1. MSBA supports only those charter schools that are authorized by local boards of education and subject to the same accountability standards as other Missouri public schools.
2. MSBA also supports measures that increase charter school accountability to the state and local taxpayers that fund the schools and to the students that attend the schools. These measures include, but are not limited to, requiring approval of a charter school by a majority vote of the voters of the school district in which the charter school would be located.

### **C. Conflicts of Interest**

MSBA supports clarification of conflict-of-interest statutes concerning school board members and school employees.

### **D. Consolidation of Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and Department of Higher Education (DHE)**

MSBA opposes a merger between DESE and DHE.

### **E. Educational Placements**

MSBA opposes legislation that would erode or remove a school district's authority to make educational decisions, including placement decisions, for all students, including students in residential treatment facilities.

### **F. Election Dates**

MSBA opposes a reduction in the number of dates available to school districts for bond and levy elections.

### **G. Home Schooling**

MSBA supports legislation to require parents of children attending home schools to annually notify the district where such children reside.

### **H. Judicial System**

MSBA supports maintaining a nonpartisan state judicial system.

## V. SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE and OPERATIONS

### I. **Liability Protection**

MSBA supports state and federal legislation that protects school districts, school board members and district employees from liability when acting in good faith.

### J. **Local School District Control**

1. MSBA opposes any legislation, regulation, rule or judicial decision that would diminish local control, increase bureaucratic and administrative burdens, or allow the governance of public school districts to be removed from local boards of education.
2. MSBA supports the elimination of unnecessary laws, regulations and rules that inhibit local boards of education from establishing innovative educational programs or restrict local school district budget development.

### K. **Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program (MOCAP)**

MSBA opposes state mandates that funnel education funding to non-public entities, including the MOCAP program. Alternatively, MSBA supports reform of the MOCAP program by:

1. Allowing school districts flexibility to ensure that students are receiving a quality education.
2. Requiring MOCAP vendors to enroll, educate and fully support all public school students who seek to use their services.
3. Increasing vendor transparency so that parents, students, school districts and the public have immediate access to the information necessary to make good decisions regarding student education.
4. Increasing vendor accountability and vendor responsibility for complying with laws public school districts are subject to, particularly those applicable to students with disabilities or student safety.
5. Protecting taxpayer dollars by ensuring that education is provided at an affordable rate, is not duplicative, and is a quality program.

### L. **Open Enrollment**

MSBA opposes legislation that would permit students to attend schools outside the district they reside in unless the legislation meets all the following objectives:

1. All local funding remains with the resident district.
2. No school district is required to accept nonresident students. If they do, they may limit the number or grade-level of the students admitted. However, the school district cannot refuse to admit students based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, or migrant status, English language learner status, homeless status or prior student performance. Measures are taken to prohibit transfers that would foster racial or economic segregation.
3. Parents or the receiving school district are responsible for student transportation.
4. Measures are taken to prohibit recruiting or transferring for participation in athletics or other competitive activities.
5. Students must make at least a one-year commitment.
6. Students who wish to enroll in a non-resident district must apply and notify both districts no later than March 15<sup>th</sup>, regardless of extenuating circumstances.

## V. SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE and OPERATIONS

### **M. Public Notices**

MSBA supports legislation that would allow for state-mandated public notices to be provided in electronic forums such as community, district or state websites or on district social media accounts.

### **N. School Board Candidates**

MSBA supports legislation that would require candidates for school board to submit to a criminal background check for the limited purpose of verifying that the candidate is eligible to run for school board.

### **O. School Board Elections**

MSBA believes that school board elections should be held on the Municipal Election Day and remain nonpartisan so the school board members may focus solely on what is best for the students and the school district and are not distracted by partisan politics.

Further, MSBA opposes the use of cumulative voting in the election of school directors.

### **P. School Board Evaluations**

MSBA supports all boards of education annually participating in meaningful self-evaluations to ensure responsible governance and to maintain the public's trust.

### **Q. School Board Member Recall**

MSBA opposes legislation that allows for the recall of local school board members.

### **R. School Board Member Service**

MSBA opposes term limits for school board members in that they are not conducive to effective governance.

### **S. School Board Member Training**

1. MSBA supports legislation that would require school board members to repeat initial training when they have had a break in school board service of greater than one term.
2. MSBA supports legislation that would create consequences for failing to obtain mandatory school board member training.
3. MSBA supports legislation that requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to make available to the public the names of school board members that have been trained as required by law.
4. MSBA supports legislation that requires DESE to ensure that training provided to school board members meets the requirements of state law.
5. MSBA supports legislation to require funding for mandatory school board member training provided exclusively by the Missouri School Boards' Association.

### **T. School Start Dates**

MSBA supports legislation that would restore the authority of the local board of education to set the start date for its schools without restriction.

### **U. Students Living on Military Bases**

MSBA supports students living on military bases attending their resident school districts.

## V. SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE and OPERATIONS

### V. Subdistricting for School Board Elections

MSBA believes that members of the school board should focus on and represent the needs of all students in the district. For that reason, MSBA is opposed to dividing school districts into subdistricts for school board election purposes, unless the decision to do so and the process used are made by the school board or the voters of the school district.

### W. Sunshine Law

1. MSBA supports revisions to the Missouri Sunshine Law that allow school boards to operate more efficiently, allow districts to recoup the costs of expensive record production, and limit financial penalties to situations where public entities intentionally violated the law.
2. MSBA supports legislation that allows school districts the discretion to close records relating to emergency operations plans for any type of emergency where the district determines that public knowledge could compromise safety and security.
3. MSBA supports legislation that would allow for reports made to the school safety hotline to be closed.

### X. Transfer from Unaccredited Districts

MSBA urges the legislature to take all necessary steps to ensure that:

1. School districts have the discretion to accept or not accept the transfer of students from unaccredited schools.
2. School districts that exercise their discretion to accept transfer students from unaccredited schools will do so in a non-selective and non-discriminatory manner.
3. School districts that accept transfer students from unaccredited schools will receive prompt and guaranteed payment of tuition, as established by the receiving district, for the transfer students.

### Y. Use of Public Funds in Relation to a Ballot Issue

MSBA supports a revision of state law to allow school boards to use district funds to communicate to the public the reasons for putting a bond and levy issue on the ballot.

### Z. Virtual Education

1. MSBA supports virtual education options when the courses are provided by Missouri public school districts.
2. MSBA supports virtual education options provided by other entities when such courses are rigorous, courses are taught by Missouri-certified teachers or qualified college professors, the curriculum is aligned to Missouri learning standards, and the course and provider are approved by the local school board as part of the public school district curriculum.
3. MSBA opposes state mandates for a public school district to pay for or accept credit from virtual education providers that are not approved by the local school board.

## **VI. FEDERAL GOVERNMENTAL ISSUES**

MSBA recognizes that while public education is primarily a state and local responsibility, there are limited roles for the federal government. Local boards of education must be aware of federal issues impacting their districts and take appropriate positions. It is critical that education policy is focused on the student — not on partisan ideology.

### **A. Affordable Care Act (ACA)**

MSBA supports federal legislation and regulations that provide public school districts more flexibility in implementing the employer mandates of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) including, but not limited to:

1. Allowing school districts the discretion to decide, without penalty, whether to offer substitute employees health insurance regardless of the number of hours worked by those employees.
2. Allowing for the immediate rehire of retired employees on a part-time basis without the obligation to provide health insurance.
3. Clarifying that school districts may offer, without penalty, voluntary, long-term leaves of absence to employees without benefits.

### **B. Charter Schools**

MSBA opposes federal mandates, incentives or other federal support for states to initiate or expand charter schools unless those charter schools are sponsored by a public school board and are subject to the same accountability measures as public schools.

### **C. E-Rate Program**

MSBA supports federal legislation allowing for increased funding of the E-Rate program and flexibility in utilization of the funding, including for broadband internet capabilities to support alternative methods of instruction in order to better meet the technology needs of all school districts.

### **D. Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also Known as Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**

MSBA supports legislation and regulation to address the following:

1. Avoid stigmatizing groups of students as responsible for failure of particular schools to make annual progress.
2. Create positive incentives for states, schools, students and parents to meet and exceed the challenges created by the legislation and standards.
3. Fully fund, at federal and state levels, the ESEA programs that will enable public schools to meet the requirements imposed by the legislation and standards.
4. Measure progress by using reliable longitudinal measures of each child's academic achievement.
5. Oppose use of competitive grants to distribute funding for Title I and other formula grants and support a method of equitable distribution of funding.
6. Oppose use of high-stakes assessments that do not conform to an accepted set of accessibility standards.
7. Provide greater local flexibility in the ESEA.

## VI. FEDERAL GOVERNMENTAL ISSUES

8. Redefine accountability to place responsibility on appropriate entities, such as state education agencies.

### **E. Equal Access**

MSBA supports a change in Missouri statute to create a definition of secondary schools to include grades not lower than the fifth grade nor higher than the twelfth grade.

### **F. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

MSBA supports revisions to this law and regulations, as well as other privacy laws, to address modern data governance issues including, but not limited to:

1. Clarifying the definition of a student record to exclude e-mail or other types of electronic messages.
2. Clarifying when districts may share, and who may share, visual depictions or recordings of students, particularly when those students have been involved in misconduct or a crime.
3. Recognizing the crucial role law enforcement, the juvenile justice system, social services, court-appointed advisors, mental health providers, and the medical community play in serving students and their families and protecting the school environment, and the need for these persons or agencies to protect the privacy of students and families but also share information when necessary to help students and families or protect the school community.
4. Recognizing the increased use of electronic service providers in classroom instruction.

### **G. Foster Care Students**

MSBA supports full funding of federal laws requiring districts provide services to foster care students and reimbursement for districts providing transportation and other services to those students.

### **H. Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision**

MSBA supports federal legislation to amend the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision to remove the Social Security provisions that unfairly exclude government pension recipients from fully accessing earned Social Security benefits.

### **I. Health Insurance Taxation**

MSBA opposes any taxation of employer-provided health insurance benefits.

### **J. Higher Education Act**

1. MSBA supports federal legislation to expand and continue the Higher Education Act to encourage students to enter the teaching profession with an emphasis on high-need areas.
2. MSBA supports federal student loan forgiveness for teachers.

### **K. Homeless Students**

1. MSBA supports legislation and regulations that clearly define homeless students so that federal resources can be focused to serve the neediest students.

## VI. FEDERAL GOVERNMENTAL ISSUES

2. MSBA supports full funding of the McKinney-Vento Act and reimbursement for districts providing transportation and other services to homeless students.

### **L. Marijuana**

MSBA supports legislation or regulation that:

1. Clarifies the district's responsibility to administer to students cannabidiol (CBD) or other medications made from marijuana while on school property or at district activities.
2. Clarifies the district's legal obligation to allow staff members, adult students or others to possess and use CBD or other medications made from marijuana while on school property or at district activities.
3. Prohibits the marketing or sale of marijuana or CBD near school property unless approved by the school board.

### **M. Medicaid**

MSBA supports full federal funding of school-based Medicaid services.

### **N. National Standards, Curriculum and Assessments**

MSBA opposes the establishment of mandated national teacher standards, education standards, curriculum and student assessments in that they are detrimental to quality educational opportunities for Missouri's children.

### **O. Office for Civil Rights (OCR), U.S. Department of Education**

MSBA supports federal legislation or regulations that would clarify that the OCR mission is to work cooperatively and preventatively with public school districts to encourage and enforce school district compliance with specific civil rights laws and regulations.

### **P. Special Education**

MSBA supports legislative and regulatory changes to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that:

1. Authorize and streamline the timely sharing of information among public school districts, medical providers, and state and local mental health and social services agencies to provide districts relevant information to appropriately educate students with special needs.
2. Clarify school district obligations to students receiving special education in situations where schools or school districts are required to close due to a pandemic or other natural disaster and special education services cannot be effectively delivered.
3. Designate appropriate state and local agencies to have primary financial responsibility for providing select "related services" and/or reimbursing local school districts.
4. Eliminate the financial burden on districts providing services to nonresident students.
5. Eliminate unnecessary administrative process requirements.
6. Expand incentives to improve recruitment and retention of teachers, staff and service providers to students with disabilities.
7. Maintain safe learning environments for all students and staff.



## VI. FEDERAL GOVERNMENTAL ISSUES

8. Provide for full funding of federal and state commitments to special education programs. At a minimum, the federal government should meet its promise of providing 40 percent of the average cost of educating special-needs students.

**Q. Streamlined Funding**

MSBA supports streamlined federal funding without reduction in funding from the federal government that has been designated for local school districts.

**R. Technology and Broadband Internet**

MSBA supports federal legislation and funding to address the technology needs, including broadband internet capabilities, of school districts and communities.

**S. U.S. Census**

Because school districts and the communities they are located in rely on resources and representation that are apportioned in accordance with the U.S. Census, MSBA supports efforts to ensure that the U.S. Census results are as accurate as possible.

**T. Vouchers**

MSBA opposes federal mandates, incentives or other federal support for states to initiate or expand the use of vouchers, tax credits, deductions for tuition and related educational expenses, and other similar initiatives to support nonpublic K–12 schools.

## GLOSSARY

**A+ School Program** is a legislated, statewide program that allows students who meet the eligibility requirements for free tuition to attend a Missouri community college.

**Abatement, tax:** see **Tax abatement** below.

**Affordable Care Act (ACA)**, also known as The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act nicknamed Obamacare, is a federal law that requires large employers to provide full-time employees access to affordable health insurance for themselves and their dependent children.

**Chapter 100 tax increment financing** of the Missouri Revised Statutes includes legal authority for a city or county to issue general obligation bonds to pay for industrial expansion or machinery that is leased back to a company. Because the company does not own the property, the company does not pay property taxes.<sup>1</sup>

**Chapter 353** of the Missouri Revised Statutes includes an incentive that is used by cities to encourage redevelopment of blighted areas in exchange for property tax abatement.<sup>2</sup>

**Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)** is a state agency that oversees the distribution of state and federal funds to Missouri public school districts, state and federal legal compliance, and the certification of teachers. DESE is the administrative arm of the State Board of Education.

**E-Rate Program** is the commonly used name for the School and Library Programs of the Universal Service Fund, a federal program that is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission. The program provides discounts to help schools and libraries obtain affordable telecommunications and internet access.<sup>3</sup>

**Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)** is a federal law that provides funding for elementary and secondary education at the state level. It was initially a part of U.S. President L. B. Johnson's "War on Poverty." The law seeks to provide students equal access to education.

ESEA was reauthorized in 2001 as the **No Child Left Behind Act**; in 2015 it was reauthorized as the **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**.<sup>4</sup>

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)** is a federal law protecting the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable U.S. Department of Education program.<sup>5</sup>

**Foundation Formula** is created by a state law that distributes state funds to local school districts in an attempt to provide adequate and equitable funding to all Missouri public school districts.

**General obligation bond** is a common type of tax-exempt municipal bond backed by the credit and taxing power of the issuing jurisdiction, such as a school district.

**Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision** are two federal government stipulations that reduce Social Security benefits for individuals who receive a pension based on work for a federal, state or local government such as a public school district.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://exportmissouri.mo.gov/BCS%20Programs/BCSProgramDetails.aspx?BCSProgramID=47>

<sup>2</sup> [https://ded.mo.gov/sites/default/files/programs/flyers/Chapter353\\_ProgSummary\\_2016\\_0.pdf](https://ded.mo.gov/sites/default/files/programs/flyers/Chapter353_ProgSummary_2016_0.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Wikipedia, March 2017

<sup>4</sup> Wikipedia, May 2017

<sup>5</sup> <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.ncpssm.org/PublicPolicy/SocialSecurity/Documents/ArticleID/970/Government-Pension-Offset, and Windfall-Elimination-Provision> and <https://www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/gpo-wep.html>

**Higher Education Act** is the federal law that governs the administration of federal student aid programs.

The **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** is a federal law that requires school districts to provide a free and appropriate public education to students who qualify for special education services. IDEA was previously known as the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (EHA).

**Learning Environment** refers to the diverse physical locations, contexts and cultures in which students learn.<sup>7</sup>

**McKinney-Vento Act** is a federal law that requires school districts to identify, enroll and assist homeless students.

**Missouri Downtown Economic Stimulus Act (MODESA)** is a state-administered tax abatement program intended to create jobs and facilitate redevelopment of downtown areas.

**Parents as Teachers** program is a program administered by public school districts to promote optimal early development, learning and health of young children before they enter school by supporting and engaging their parents and caregivers.

**Prevailing Wage Law** is a Missouri law that establishes a minimum wage rate which must be paid to workers on public works construction projects, such as bridges, roads and government buildings.<sup>8</sup>

**Public Education Employee Retirement System (PEERS)** is a state-defined benefit retirement system for eligible public school employees without a teaching certificate.

**Public School Retirement System (PSRS)** is a state-defined benefit retirement system for eligible public school employees with a teaching certificate.

**Real property** is a legal term referring to lands, buildings and improvements to real estate.

**Surplus property** is property that is owned by the district but is no longer needed and can be disposed of.

**Tax abatement** programs are state laws that authorize the state or other governmental entities to reduce or eliminate the amount of property tax paid on real estate, new construction, rehabilitation and/or major improvements, typically in hopes of encouraging economic development.

**Tax Increment Financing (TIF)** is a state tax abatement program used as a subsidy for redevelopment, infrastructure, and other community-improvement projects in areas determined to be blighted, conservation, or economic development areas.

**Title I** is part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. It provides financial assistance to local educational agencies and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> <http://edglossary.org/learning-environment/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://labor.mo.gov/DLS/PrevailingWage>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/index.html>

## MAP INDEX

### A

A+ Scholarship Program....5  
A+ Schools Program....1  
Administrative leave....9  
Advanced Placement (AP) testing....5  
Affordable Care Act....19  
Alternate method of instruction....5  
Appropriation priorities....2

### B

Balanced state budget....2  
Ballot issue....18  
Board member evaluations....17  
Board member training....17  
Bonds:  
    Campaign contribution limits....15  
    Election dates....15  
    General obligation bond....2  
    Use of public funds and ballot issues....18  
Bows and arrows....13  
Broadband....19  
Bullying, cyberbullying....12

### C

Campaign contribution limits....15  
Candidate background check....17  
Chapter 100 and Chapter 353....3  
Charter schools:  
    Accountability....15, 19  
    Federal mandates....19  
Close records relating to emergency plans....18  
Collective bargaining....9  
Community:  
    Campaign contribution limits....15  
    Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act....20  
    Pre-kindergarten education programs....6  
    Public Notices....17  
Concealed weapons....13  
Conflicts of interest....15  
Consolidation of DESE and DHE....15  
Contagious disease/Pandemic event....1, 11  
Contracts, teachers:  
    Collective bargaining....9  
    Teacher contracts....10  
Counseling....11  
Criminal background checks:  
    School board candidates....17  
Criminal sanctions....12  
Criminal trespass....13  
Cumulative voting:  
    School board elections....17  
Curriculum:  
    Curriculum decisions....5  
    National standards....21  
    Technology....1, 7

Virtual education....18  
Custody of students....11

### D

Department of Health and Senior Services....11  
Deregulation, utilities....4  
Discipline....6  
Discrimination, safe schools....12  
Disruptive dress....13  
Disruptive speech....9

### E

E-Rate Program....19  
Early childhood education, Pre-K:  
    Funding....2, 6  
    Immunizations....11  
    Programs....6  
Election dates....15  
Electronic communications:  
    Service providers....20  
    Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act....20  
    Public notices....17  
Elementary and Secondary Education Act....19-20  
Emergency Guidelines....5  
Emergency loan funds....2  
Emergency operation plans (EOP)....12, 18  
Equal access....20  
Evaluations:  
    Employee....9  
    School board members....17

### F

Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA)....20  
First responders....12  
Foster care....11, 20  
Foundation formula....1, 2  
    Daily attendance....1  
Funding, nonpublic schools:  
    Vouchers....3, 22  
Funding, public schools:  
    A+ Funding....1  
    Adequate and Equitable Public Funding....1, 2  
    Appropriation priorities....2  
    E-Rate Program....19  
    Education emergency loan funds....2  
    ESEA....19, 20  
    First responders....12  
    Foster care students....20  
    Homeless students....20-21  
    Medicaid....3, 21  
    Parents as Teachers program....6  
    Pre-K education....6  
    Professional development....6  
    Property tax abatement....3  
    Renovation....4  
    School facilities....4

## MAP INDEX

### F cont.

- School health, comprehensive....11
- Special education....21, 22
- Streamlined funding....22
- Student assessments....4
- Student behavior and discipline....4
- Technology & Broadband Internet....7
- Use of public funds in ballot issues....18
- Utility deregulation....4

### G

- Government pension offset....20
- Governor's School Safety Task Force....2

### H

- Health insurance, school districts:
  - Affordable Care Act....19
  - Health insurance solutions....2
  - Taxation....20
- Health services, students....11
- Higher Education Act....20
- Home schooling....15
- Homeless students....20, 21

### I

- Immunity, employees and volunteers....9
- Immunizations....11
- Internet access....6
- Internet capabilities....19, 22
- Internet sales tax....1

### J

- Judicial system....15
- Juvenile justice system....20

### K

- Kindergarten, readiness assessment....6

### L

- Law enforcement....6, 12, 20
- Loan forgiveness for teachers....20
- Loan funds, emergency....2
- Local control of schools and school districts:
  - Accreditation system....5
  - Adequate and equitable public funding....1-2
  - Charter schools....151 19
  - Curriculum decisions....5
  - ESEA....19, 20
  - Local revenue....3
  - Local school district control....16
  - Prevailing wage....3
  - Property tax abatement....3
  - School facilities....4
  - School start dates....17
  - Student dress....13

### M

- Marijuana....21
- McKinney-Vento Act....21
- Medicaid enrollment....11
- Medicaid revenue....11
- Medicaid services....21
- Medical community....20
- Mental health services:
  - Comprehensive school health services....11
  - Designation of lead state agency....12
  - Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act....20
  - Special Education....21, 22
- Mergers....15
- Military:
  - Military partnerships....11
  - ROTC....11
  - Students living on military bases....17
- Missouri Downtown Economic Stimulus Act....3
- Missouri Course Access (MOCAP)....16
- Motor fuel tax increase....3
- Municipal election day....17

### N

- National standards, Curriculum & Assessments....21
- Nonresident student:
  - Open enrollment....16
  - Special education....21
- Nutrition programs....11

### O

- Office for Civil Rights (OCR)....21
- Open enrollment....16

### P-Q

- Pandemic event....21
- Parents as Teachers program....6
- Partisan/nonpartisan politics....17, 19
- Performance levy, districts....1
- Prevailing wage statutes....3
- Professional development:
  - Professional Development....9
  - Safe Schools....11
  - Student behavior and discipline....6
- Property tax abatement....3
- Property tax assessment....3, 4
- Public funds....1, 18
- Public notices....17

### R

- Recruitment and retention, staff:
  - Personnel....9
  - Special education....21, 22
- Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)....11

## MAP INDEX

### R cont.

- Residency, student:
  - Home schooling....15
  - Students living on military bases....17
- Retirement:
  - Funding....4
- Revenue diversion....2

### S

- Safe schools....4, 11, 12
- Safety Advisory Council (school)....12
- Safety hotline (school)....18
- Sales tax:
  - Alcohol and tobacco....2
  - Internet....1
  - Local revenue....3
  - Motor fuel tax exemption....3
- School:
  - Closings....5
  - Facilities....4
  - Innovation....6
  - Resource Officer (SRO)....12
  - Safety Advisory Council....12
  - School law enforcement....12
  - Start dates....17
  - Transfers from unaccredited districts....18
  - Violence....11, 12
- School and district notifications:
  - Home schooling....15
  - Safe schools....11
- School board training:
  - Break in service....17
  - Failure to receive training....17
  - Meets state law....17
  - Public record of training....17
- School boards:
  - Background check....17
  - Communicate academic achievement....11
  - Conflicts of interest....15
  - Elections....15
  - Establish tax levy....1
  - Evaluations....17
  - Liability....16
  - Recall....17
  - Sunshine Law....18
  - Term limits....7
  - Veto power....3
- School buses:
  - Motor fuel tax exemption....3
  - Safe Schools....12
- School district liability....16
- School safety:
  - Assessments....14
  - Hotline....18
- Segregation issues....16
- Sexual harassment....12

- Special education:
  - Funding....21
  - Recruitment and retention....11, 21
  - Safe learning environment....21
- State School Safety Coordinator....12
- Strikes (collective bargaining)....9
- Student:
  - Behavior....6
  - Charged with (misdemeanor/felony)....12
  - Custody....11
  - Dress....13
  - Educational placement....17
  - Homeless....20
  - Retention....7, 21
  - Special needs....21
  - Transportation....1
- Student assessments:
  - Kindergarten readiness assessment....6
  - National Standards, Curriculum and Assessment....21
  - Student assessment....6
- Substitute employees....10
- Summer school....1
- Sunshine Law....18
- Surplus property....4

### T

- Tax abatement, property....3
- Tax assessments:
  - ESEA....19
  - Property tax assessment....3
- Tax credits:
  - Nonpublic school funding....3
  - Tax credits....3, 4
  - Vouchers....22
- Tax exempt property....2
- Tax exemptions, motor fuel....3
- Teacher, student loan forgiveness....20
- Teacher certification, training:
  - Certification....9
  - Educator preparation programs....9
  - Pre-K....6
- Teacher contracts:
  - Collective bargaining....9
  - Contracts....10
- Teacher retention:
  - Personnel/staff....9
  - Salary and benefits schedule....10
  - Special education....21, 22
- Technology:
  - Curriculum enhancement....5
  - E-Rate Program....19
  - School facilities....7
- Term limits, school board....17
- TIF (Tax Increment Financing)....3

## MAP INDEX

### **T cont.**

#### Title I:

- Allocations....4
- Competitive grants....19
- ESEA....19, 20

#### Transfer students....18

#### Transportation, student:

- Finance/funding....1
- Foster care students....20
- Homeless students....21
- Open enrollment....16

#### Trespass, criminal....13

#### Tuition deductions:

- Nonpublic school funding....3
- Vouchers....3, 22

### **U**

#### U.S. Census....22

#### Unaccredited districts....18

#### Unions/collective bargaining....9

#### Utility deregulation....4

### **V**

#### Virtual education....16, 18

#### Vouchers:

- Federal support....22
- Nonpublic school....3

### **W**

#### Wages....10

#### Weapons....13

#### Windfall elimination provision....20

#### Withholding funds....2

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