
MoASSP Resolutions 2018-2019

The mission of the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals is to improve secondary education through positive leadership and the enhancement of student performance.

- A. School Funding:** Adequate and equitable funding of public schools to meet state and federal program requirements should be the top priority of the state of Missouri. For schools to continue to meet or exceed the objectives and goals set forth by the state and the federal government it is imperative that funding be established and maintained to provide the necessary training and ongoing professional development for the growth of teachers, principals and superintendents who serve our students, communities and the state.

MoASSP Supports:

- Supports the Goals and Objectives of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's "Show-Me Success Plan" as outlined in the 2018-2019 Strategic Plan.
- Guaranteeing all schools an adequate and equitable level of educational funding to meet state and federal mandates, including required assessments, and guarantee all students equal access to educational programs to be college and/or career ready.
- Dedicating funding to establish and maintain the necessary training and ongoing professional development for the growth of teachers and principals.
- Dedicating funds for programs that train superintendents and principals to deliver effective and constructive teacher evaluations.
- Allowing the voters of Missouri to amend the State Constitution to provide for a simple majority approval of public school general obligation bond issues and to increase the limit of bonded indebtedness.
- Providing sustainable and long-term funding for quality pre-school programs.
- Providing new sources of funding for school building construction and renovation.
- Providing funding for alternative school programs.
- Providing funding for early childhood education programs.
- Urging the General Assembly to review and strengthen laws related to Missouri's various tax credit programs and laws related to tax increment financing, urban redevelopment corporations and enterprise zones to ensure that revenues are available to support the services provided by school districts and other political subdivisions.
- Providing voting representation for school districts on governing boards which grant either Chapter 100 or Chapter 353 tax abatements.
- Modifying the circuit breaker law and homestead exemptions so long as protection of school district property tax revenues is guaranteed and the state is fully funding the program.
- A fair but flexible student focused Missouri School Improvement Program that will encourage continual student growth based on the state and community needs and expectations.
- Dedicating funds for principal leadership and professional development

MoASSP Opposes:

- Reducing revenue to public schools
- Voucher programs, tuition tax credits or tax deductions
- Mandating programs without appropriating the necessary funds to implement and sustain the programs
- Replacing the Missouri income tax with a sales tax
- Funding cuts for assessments for learning

- B. School Governance:** The educational goals of Missouri schools can best be achieved within the framework of a governance system in which elected community representatives have authority over policies and practices directly affecting teaching and learning.

MoASSP Supports:

- Providing school districts more flexibility in scheduling and school calendars to promote innovation within and beyond the school walls to meet the needs of all students.
- Creating educational standards for home-schooled students and instituting procedures for enforcement of those standards.
- Providing the same accountability standards for charter schools as public schools and instituting procedures for enforcement of those standards.
- The Missouri Learning Standards.

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- A bargaining process for public school employees ensuring that school districts retain final decision-making authority and have the ability to accept, reject or modify any proposal that may be presented.
- Limiting possession of weapons, concealed or otherwise on all school premises.
- Amending Chapter 213, RSMo to eliminate claims of liability filed against individual employees and school board members when named parties in an employment action.
- PSRS/PEERS as the sole provider for the Public School and Education Employee Retirement Systems of Missouri defined benefit plan.
- Reinstating the 2.55 multiplier for PSRS members who have 31 years of service or more.
- Gathering and utilizing educator input when revising the MSIP Program.

MoASSP Opposes:

- Restricting local control regarding: curriculum; disciplinary policies; the expenditure of administrative costs for school districts; the employment, assignment, compensation, or termination of school personnel; the principal's right to preview student publications in the best interest of students, schools and communities and; the authorization of inter/intra-district "school choice".
- Language that would directly lead to or would force the consolidation of school districts.
- Attempts to regulate the operating procedures of the Missouri State High School Activities Association.
- Authorizing the expansion of charter schools.
- Authorizing the creation of virtual charter schools.
- Mandating that school districts educate students who have been suspended or expelled.
- Mandating open enrollment of students.
- Any legislative effort to reduce the benefits currently offered by the current Missouri Public School Retirement System.
- Authorizing any action merging the Public-School Retirement System with the federal Social Security System.
- Authorizing the combining of retirement system investments.

C. Partnerships: MoASSP believes educating a child is a partnership among school, community and family and the continued development of strong relations.

Today's educational environment of standards-based education and high accountability demands that principals are knowledgeable and skilled in instructional leadership, organizational development, community relations and change management. MoASSP recommends that school districts provide ongoing, job-embedded professional development to assist with developing this capacity in all school leaders. Specific attention should be paid to helping school leaders learn to examine, interpret, and act upon quantitative and qualitative data pertaining to both academic and nonacademic indicators of student success. The following measurements, in addition to student indicators, are recommended for assessing principal performance: self-assessments; supervisor site visits; school documentation of classroom observations and faculty meeting agendas; climate surveys; teacher, other school staff, parent, and student evaluations; teacher retention and transfer rates; and opportunities for student engagement through co-curricular and extracurricular activities and rates of participation.

MoASSP urges NASSP and NAESP to hold a co-sponsored "National Principals Conference beginning in 2020. Beginning in 2020 and each and every year thereafter, the co-sponsored National Principals Conference should serve the professional learning and educational needs of pre-k through grade 12 principals.