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Serving All Middle Level and High School Administrators

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Video Version - <https://youtu.be/u-G1EGMfogs>

Principals,

Total Eclipse of the Sun – A direct line over Missouri from Perryville to St. Joseph is the center of the path of the eclipse. The path is only 73 miles wide and 36 miles either side of the mid-point will be in the “eclipse zone”, for a full eclipse. The moon will cover the sun and put those in the direct path in total darkness for about 2 minutes and 35 seconds. If you are in St. Joseph, the total darkness begins at 1:06. In Columbia, the total darkness begins at 1:12 and in Perryville, it begins at 1:18. If you in the path but not directly on the line, your time in total darkness will vary. Kansas City will have 27 seconds of total darkness and Lake St. Louis will have 59 seconds of total darkness. A partial eclipse will be visible all across the state. Two cautions: 1.) make sure everyone you know has the proper eclipse glasses to view the cycle of the eclipse. 2.) **DO NOT PURCHASE ANY PLANTS AFTER THE ECLIPSE.** The last time something like this happened a *Little Shop of Horrors* musical broke out and a dentist disappeared!



[Pay Yourself First – Be an active member of MoASSP.](#) The Transformational Principal is a Visionary, Instructional, Managerial, Relational, and Innovative leader. To keep up in today’s ever-changing educational climate, a principal **MUST** stay current, continue his or her professional growth, and model reflective practice.

MoASSP/MCCTA Fall Conference – Creating Innovative Learning Opportunities -

[Eight Keys for Transformative School Design](#)

Eric Sheninger and Thomas C. Murray

1. Leadership and school culture lay the foundation for improvement.
2. The learning experience must be redesigned and made personal.
3. Decisions must be grounded in evidence and driven by a "return on instruction" (ROI).
4. Learning spaces must become learner-centered.

5. Professional learning must be relevant, engaging, ongoing, and personal.
6. Technology must be used to accelerate student learning.
7. Community collaboration and engagement must be woven into the fabric of a school's culture.
8. Schools that successfully transform learning long-term are financially, politically, and pedagogically sustainable.

ACT no longer paid for by the state – There are important Registration Deadlines and the first registration date is September 29, (see below). As most of you are aware, the state census testing will no longer be part of the state budget for assessments. If your school district chooses to pay for the ACT, the company has made available the dates and windows for assessing the students second semester. The cost for the ACT paper test or the ACT online version is the same. Cost for the test with writing portion is **\$61.50** and the cost without the writing portion is **\$45.00**.

[Planning for the spring ACT testing dates and window.](#)

District Testing Key Dates and Deadlines

	Registration/Contact	Initial Testing Date (Paper)	Make-up Test Date (Paper)	Online Testing Window
Spring 2018	September 29, 2017	February 27, 2018	March 20, 2018	February 27-28, 2018 March 6-8, 2018
Spring 2018	October 27, 2017	April 3, 2018	April 24, 2018	April 3-5, 2018

How important is a professional organization? – Education professional organizations are very valuable and play a significant role in improving the quality of education in Missouri. MASA (Missouri Association of School Administrators) is the organization most of the superintendents in the state belong too. Each year they survey their members to ensure the organization is serving the needs of those MASA represents. 75% of those responding regularly attend district meetings. 40% of the members attend one of the two conferences. The biggest needs for superintendent training are in three areas: legal assistance, school finance, and strategic planning. They also are seeking to know more about student mental health and school board relations. MASA members are concerned about state and federal funding and serving the educational needs of under-served students.

MoASSP, your Professional Organization – While your needs and the needs of your superintendent are decidedly different, the commonality is the value of a professional organization and engaged members who realize the worth of a network of colleagues, and continued collaboration with peers. As the principal, you are the educational leader, and the job of the superintendent is to make sure you have the necessary tools and support to lead your building teachers, staff, and students. MoASSP wants to

continue to serve the needs of our secondary school principals and create more opportunities to meet the needs of the student you serve.

[Finland's Educational System - Five state teachers of the year](#)—representing Montana, Indiana, Nebraska, Colorado, and the Department of Defense Education Activity school system made a trip to Finland. Finland's education system has long been touted as a model for successful education, as seen in its top rankings on international assessments (which have slipped in recent years). U.S. educators want to learn how to "[teach like Finland](#)," which is [one of the happiest countries in the world](#) and where students famously have 15 minutes of play for every 45 minutes of instruction. But some educators have [pushed back against the love for Finland](#), saying that there are examples of education within our own borders that are just as successful.

[Suicide Awareness and Prevention by July 1, 2018](#). Suicide is becoming a risk for every community and school district in Missouri. MoASSP, MSCA, and MASP (Mo Association of School Psychologists) are offering a one-day workshop "Strengthening Your Building Level Suicide Plan", October 25, 2017. Plan on bringing a team of 3 to 5 from your building or your district. The cost is \$499 per team and lunch will be provided. Each district shall adopt a policy for youth suicide awareness and prevention, including plans for how the district will provide training and education of its district employees. [Each district's policy shall address](#) (DESE), but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Strategies that can help identify students who are at possible risk of suicide;
- (2) Strategies and protocols for helping students at possible risk of suicide; and
- (3) Protocols for responding to a suicide death.

Workshop registration is available on the [MoASSP website](#) (programs drop-down or banner) and [MoASSP online store](#).

Most of you are fine-tuning your first meeting with the teachers, making sure the presentation is aligned to adult learning models, and that it covers most of the reminders and new information your district and building committees want included. So much to do, and very little time to get it done. This is why being an innovative principal is highly valued. Never forget, It Really is the Principal of the Thing.