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Serving All Middle Level and High School Administrators

September 7, 2017

Video Version: https://youtu.be/wIRlzF1U_pQ

Principals,

MoASSP Membership – Missouri has its education problems, but they pale compared to what is going on across the nation. Part of our responsibility, at MoASSP, is to follow what is occurring throughout the country and relay to you the most critical pieces of information. In Missouri, we have been able to keep the focus on meeting the needs of students. The big picture over view, outside of our boarder, is that states are struggling and have lost their focus. What I have gleaned from my experience is that the states with the most active principal organizations are doing much better than those who don't spend time together or stay current. There are many states where the superintendents speak for the administrators and others where there is no voice at all. Those states continue to struggle. In Missouri, we are so lucky to have strong principals' organization that have active members who attend conferences, attend district meetings, speak for their regions, and for the state. We are very fortunate to have a strong superintendent's organization that listens to building level administrators and does provide support and direction. Together our voices blend into a chorus that carries a consistent lyric of student focused learning. MoASSP thanks you for your support, your ongoing quest to be a life-long-leader-learner, and for your commitment to helping our organization grow. Your membership and your voice are critical for us continue to keep the focus on students and student learning.

Double check to make sure you are a MoASSP Member in good standing:

- **MoASSP/NASSP/District Memberships** - [MoASSP Online Store](#) or use the [Fillable Membership Form](#).
- MoASSP/MCCTA Fall Conference - [MoASSP/MCCTA Fall Conference](#)
- MoASSP District Contacts, Meeting Dates, Times, and Locations - <http://www.moassp.org/> hit District Dropdown and hit the member district for your school

The MoASSP District Meetings have started. South Central meeting was lead by President Teresa Schulte and Northwest was led by President Dave Rapp. Combined, the groups welcomed 90 principals, 30 and 60 respectively. Also in attendance at the meetings have been college professors, DESE regional representatives, RPDC personnel, and usually a professional development presenter. Upcoming meetings will be:

- Northeast, September 13, at Mexico MS – 10:00 am
- Greater Kansas City Principals Round Table, September 13, at Lee’s Summit West – 11:30
- Central, September 14, at the University of Central Missouri State Union – 10:00 am
- Southeast, September 20, Farmington Centene Center – 9:30
- Southwest, September 27, at Strafford High School Auditorium – 8:15 am

[The United States Senate Youth Program](#), established in 1962 by U.S. Senate Resolution, is a unique educational experience for outstanding high school students interested in pursuing careers in public service. The 56th annual program will be held in Washington, D.C., from **March 3 – 10, 2018**. Two student leaders from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity will spend a week in Washington experiencing their national government in action. Student delegates will hear major policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, officials from the Departments of State and Defense and directors of other federal agencies, as well as participate in a meeting with a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. All transportation, hotel and meal expenses will be provided by The Hearst Foundations. In addition, each delegate will also be awarded a \$10,000 college scholarship for undergraduate studies, with encouragement to pursue coursework in history and political science.

Your action and voice matter, the US Senate chose to leave Title II funds intact. Thank you for sending your emails to our Congressmen and in particular to Roy Blunt. The money is still in limbo and needs House approval. [From Education Week](#), *The legislation would leave intact the main federal programs aimed at teacher training and after-school funding. And it would seek to bar the U.S. Department of Education from moving forward with two school choice initiatives it pitched in its request for fiscal year 2018, which begins Oct. 1.*

The bill, which was approved unanimously by the Senate budget subcommittee that oversees health, education and labor spending, would provide \$2.05 billion for Title II, the federal program that's used to hire and train educators. Both the House spending committee and the Trump administration have [proposed scrapping the program](#), so it remains in jeopardy despite the Senate's support.

[Student Athletes](#) - All students have dreams, aspirations, and goals. We should never destroy a dream, but use it to connect to learning. The chances of a high school student athlete making it to the pros is very slim, but the doors that become available as they follow their passion are countless. They need to be ready when that door opens, and the skills and knowledge they gain in high school will help them succeed when the next knob is turned.

Dreamers - In light of President Trump's decision to rescind DACA yesterday, NASSP has sent out an action alert this morning urging members to contact their representatives and ask them to support the DREAM Act of 2017. You all should have received the alert this morning, and you can find a direct link to the alert on the [Principal's Legislative Action Center \(PLAC\)](#).

Added Suicide Workshop – Because the October 25, workshop has reached the 25-team maximum, MoASSP has scheduled another opportunity. The added workshop will be December 6, 2017. Suicide is becoming a risk for every community and school district in Missouri. MoASSP, MSCA (Missouri School Counselor Association), 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, 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](#).

DESE Links to Trauma Informed Schools and Suicide Awareness - The links to DESE are:

<https://motraumaschools.com>

<https://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/am/documents/CCR-18-005.pdf>

Link to the administrative memo sent August 18th.

<https://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/am/documents/CCR-18-006.pdf>

Adm. memo link regarding youth suicide awareness and prevention model policy sent August 17th.

You may also contact Rene Yoesel for more information: Rene.Yoesel@dese.mo.gov

I hope your school year continues to move in a positive direction. In an ever changing environment of education, the one constant that matters most is The Principal of the Thing.