



Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals

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MoASSP Update February 24, 2017

Video Version: <https://youtu.be/GdslqJh4TbQ>

MoASSP Principals,

March 26-28, 2017 - Spring Conference, Attending to School Culture.

Opening Day Sunday March 26

2:00 PM Sunday Ed Camp

6:00 PM Jostens Steak Dinner

7:00 PM Opening Session with Tiffany Anderson

8:30 PM Walsworth Reception

[Tentative Agenda](#) for Breakouts, Awards, and Presentations on Monday and Tuesday

[Downloadable PDF](#) for Purchase Orders or Mail-in Registration Forms

[Online Registration](#) from MoASSP Online Store

Invisible – What do wind, radiation, electricity, love and culture all have in common? I'm sure you can name a few commonalities. One that comes to mind right away is that they all are invisible. Another common trait is they can be very useful and add to productivity. They also can cause serious injury, pain, or damage. Your building culture is invisible and yet it is the most powerful force in the building. It alters behaviors and is a force that transfers from one person to the next. Is your culture "intentional"? Have you analyzed the cause and effect? A few examples of the cultural make-up are: traditions, heroes, exemplars, physical space, recognition ceremonies, metaphors, shared values, and a focus on learning. What are a few things you really like about the present school culture and what could use some attention?

Sharing – When do you make time to share and what format is used for facilitating the exchange of ideas? There is nothing more important for leaders than sharing great ideas and finding ways to enhance the learning already occurring under your guidance. Twenty middle level principals in Southwest Missouri spent four hours in an Ed-Camp environment at Springfield Cherokee Middle School sharing ideas: how to handle bullying and harassment, improving math instruction, helping struggling students, flexible scheduling and RTI. The conversations were focused, inspiring, and self-generated. Every single participant walked away with new ideas and all felt like the day was very productive. Jay Apostol of Monett and Bill Powers of Cherokee Middle created a forum that was a benefit for so many life-long-learners. [See the Ed-Camp notes here.](#)

Legislative Actions –

HB 643 -- SUMMER SCHOOL STUDENTS -- SPONSOR: David Wood

This bill changes the calculation of "full-time equivalent average daily attendance of summer school students" by modifying the divisor of such calculation. Currently, the divisor is "the number of hours required in Section 160.011, RSMo, in the school term." This bill changes the divisor to "the actual number of hours school was in session in the school term." This bill will cost Springfield about \$300,000 and North Kansas City about \$310,000. The bigger district will see a much bigger impact than the smaller districts.

[SCS/SB 32](#) - This act establishes the *Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program* - Educational Savings Accounts or Vouchers. The names change, but the outcome is intended to be the same, parents can use state money to send their son or daughter to a private school. The cost for the program is intended to be \$25 million for the first year and with an intended growth plan of 20% more each year. See how well they work [The New York Times](#).

The House has passed and sent to the Senate [House Bill 138](#) that would establish a new online course access program that would replace the current MoVIP program. The house bill has problems and will drive up the cost. **[SB 327](#)** – **This is the best of the Virtual Instruction bills**. This act changes the Missouri Virtual Instruction Program (MOVIP) to "The Missouri Course Access Program" (MCAP) and allows any K-12 student to enroll in up to two MCAP courses per year, to be paid by the school district, if the student has been enrolled full-time in a public school for at least one semester immediately prior to enrolling in MCAP, and the student has received approval to enroll from his or her school counselor through a procedure described in the act. A school district shall pay, for any one course for a student, the market necessary costs or fourteen percent of the state adequacy target as calculated at the end of the most recent school year. School districts may adopt a policy to provide funding for more than two courses within a student's normal course load if it is in the best interest of the child. We are okay with this bill. You might send a positive note to your legislator. They would love to hear something positive from all of us.

Did you know? - Because of state law, State School Board cannot say "No" to a charter school. Once it meets the criteria for becoming a charter school, the school cannot be denied regardless of performance. St. Louis' largest charter school, Confluence Academy, network got a five-year renewal Tuesday even though it has not met state performance expectations in its almost 14 years of operation. With data from last year only 18 out of a possible 39 charter school LEAs (46%) would be deemed to be fully accredited (if given such a moniker) for the 2015-16 school year. [See more in an article by St. Louis Public Radio](#).

[The Media: Separating Fact from Fiction](#)- *An informed citizenry is vital to democracy. Yet the challenge of wading through information—and misinformation—has never been greater. How can educators help young people make sense of the news they get from an ever-evolving media landscape?* [Suzanne McCabe](#) February 13th, 2017 wrote in Scholastic's blog about education and learning, what is the difference between facts, rumors, and deceptions.

How are vouchers, charters, and school choice doing? [The New York Times](#) has an article that indicates vouchers, and school choice are not showing gains in student academic achievement. *In June, a third voucher study was released by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, a conservative think tank and proponent of school choice. The study, which was financed by the pro-voucher Walton Family Foundation, focused on a large voucher program in Ohio. "Students who use vouchers to attend private schools have fared worse academically compared to their closely matched peers attending public schools," the researchers found. Once again, results were worse in math.*

The article goes on to talk about charter schools, *“But while vouchers and charters are often grouped under the umbrella of “school choice,” **the best charters tend to be nonprofit public schools, open to all and accountable to public authorities. The less “private” that school choice programs are, the better they seem to work.**”*

As one season closes another opens, bringing with it the planning for the invisible whirlwind of activity that occurs in the spring. As the principal you are checking your notes from last year, looking at the calendar and trying to figure out how you are going to get everything in on time and not upset the “focus on learning.” It will happen and there might even be a surprise or two, but you will handle it well – because you are the Consummate Professional and the Principal of the Thing! I hope you have had a great week and will have an even better week next week.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Phil".

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