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Serving All Middle Level and High School Administrators

MoASSP Update November 2, 2017

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

MoASSP Principal,

National Principals Month has come and gone – Even though National Principals Month ended on Tuesday, your commitment to continual personal learning, striving to inspire innovation, and a balanced educational experience for students will continue to be your mission. You will do it without fanfare or a need for accolades, you will do it because you know the value of a great leader in a school, and you will do it because you know a clear vision is the guiding light to keeping the focus on a building culture that is safe and focused on learning. Thanks to all of you for sharing your experiences, your expertise, and your leadership skills with the principals in your area and across the state.

Constitution of Missouri – Wayne Goode wrote a letter to the editor in the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*. Mr. Goode served in the state legislature for 42 years. In his article he stated, “While most of Missouri government is under the control of the governor and the Legislature, our Constitution, last revised and readopted in 1943, made it clear that the Departments of Education, Transportation and Conservation were to be controlled by constitutionally established boards and operated independently and in a nonpartisan manner.” He went on to write, “On occasion, I had reason to research and read from the constitutional convention debate, and it’s quite clear that the delegates intended these three departments to be relatively independent of the governor and Legislature. The selection of the heads of these three departments is clearly the prerogative of the independent boards and not the prerogative of the governor.”

ACT on Site Testing During the Week – **Deadline has been extended!** Many Missouri schools have contacted ACT claiming they were unaware of any registration deadlines for weekday testing. ACT

operations colleagues have allowed ACT to extend the Late Spring deadline for Missouri schools. Schools now have until November 17th to have a signed agreement in place to qualify for the Late Spring date (or makeup date). This means that districts or schools must start the process well before 11/15/17. You are encouraged to sign up ASAP as there is no commitment to go the webpage and register. If you have questions you may email Chris Mitchell at Chris.Mitchell@act.org or call him at 319-322-8224

Reminder that fee waivers may not be used for weekday testing. Therefore, Missouri schools (public and private) qualify for special pricing. \$37.00 for The ACT and \$55.00 for The ACT+Writing

[ACT Conference](#) – Over 100 educators are already registered for the conference. Early-bird registration is \$100 and will end December 8, 2017. Based on the theme, *“Show-Me Missouri ACTion,”* the event will feature breakout sessions on preparing students for success in both college and career. Join us at **Saint Louis University, Cook Hall on Monday, January 8, 2018.**

[State Board Meeting was held Tuesday October 31, 2017](#) – The MSIP6 proposal was presented to the board and no action was taken. Questions were raised about including “Resource Standards”. Resource Standards are suggested items that are not mandated, but suggested. They include but are not limited to: class size, number of administrators, and suggested personnel like librarians, counselors, and other staff members. One of the new board members indicated he would like local boards to make the decisions on the personnel. “I don’t know if what we have now is good. If I am on the board, I want money in the classroom.” [Fine Arts Workgroup was announced.](#) “At its February 2017 meeting, the State Board authorized the convening of work groups (as outlined in Section 160.154, RSMo) to review and possibly make recommendations for new Fine Arts learning expectations. Statute requires a work group consisting of 16 members to be assembled to review grades K-5 Fine Arts standards, and a work group consisting of 17 members to be assembled to review grades 6-12 Fine Arts standards.” [A report from the Dyslexia Task Force](#) - “The task force was charged with advising and making recommendations to the governor, Joint Committee on Education, and relevant state agencies regarding dyslexia. The task force was also charged with making recommendations for a statewide system for identification, intervention, and delivery of supports for students with dyslexia, as described in the act.” You can see the entire report at the provided link. The impact will primarily be at the elementary level at this time. Very soon you may see a new logo from DESE. [An update on how the APR](#) was presented to the board. The presentation is simple and concise and could be used to share with teachers in your building.

Proposed Logo with Slogan



Very soon you may see a new log from DESE. The new “Brand” may replace the old Top 10 by 20 logo. The one constant will be the torch.

[Report Harassment](#) - Over the last 9 months several principals have been placed on administrative leave for failure to report felony harassment. Last January MoASSP sent out a statement on when to contact law enforcement. Please take this seriously. **“Harassment** - The amended code includes a new felony harassment offense under Section 565.090 RSMo. **A person now commits harassment in the first degree, a class E felony, if “he or she, without good cause, engages in any act with the purpose to cause emotional distress to another person, and such act does cause such person to suffer emotional distress.”** Emotional distress is defined as “something markedly greater than the level of uneasiness, nervousness, unhappiness, or the like which are commonly experienced in day-to-day living.” § 565.002 (7).

Thus, while distress that results in crying is likely not commonly experienced in day-to-day living, it may not be so “markedly greater” that is criminal harassment – particularly for elementary school students who are more likely show distress by crying.” Follow the above link to Edcounsel’s website about when to report harassment. If someone other than you made contact with law enforcement, make sure you document the contact and don’t just take their word. There have been incidents where there was no documentation and the principal was placed on administrative leave while the lawyers and school district worked through the civil case.

I hope your week is going well and November is a wonderful month for you and your school. Your leadership is invaluable. It Really is the Principal of the Thing.