



MSCA Monday Memo: March 31, 2025

STUDENT STANDARDS - INFO FROM DESE

At the February 2025 State Board of Education (Board) meeting, the Board approved the updated K-12 Missouri School Counseling Learning Standards. These standards are developmental by design and include sequential activities organized and implemented by school counselors with the active support of parents/guardians, teachers, administrators, and communities.

- See [Administrative Memo OCCR-25-003](#)

Coming soon! Updated example curriculum lessons, professional development opportunities, and a crosswalk between the original and updated standards. Thank you to the workgroup that worked so diligently on this update. We appreciate you. For more information about implementing the K-12 Missouri School Counseling Learning Standards, please contact School.Counseling@dese.mo.gov.

MSCA NEWS & UPDATES

Board Updates

The MSCA Board of Directors met on March 28 & 29 for its regularly scheduled meeting - see below updates. As a reminder, minutes from past meetings may be viewed by [clicking here](#). Please note that member login is required. Questions or concerns to be addressed at board meetings may be submitted to board@moschoolcounselor.org.

Below are a few notable highlights of the Board's work this weekend:

- The Board of Directors approved the proposed budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
- The Membership Linkage Committee headed by Assistant Board Chair- Carey Hughes has been established. This board committee has been tasked with developing focus questions for members to help gain insight and feedback into the needs and ways in which MSCA can support members throughout the state of Missouri. More information will be shared as to how you can participate in these focus groups.
- Jill Hancock, Director of Operations, Cindy Bentley and Sarah Kaelin, MSCA Board members, attended a regional leadership development conference recently in Chicago, Illinois. This group was able to participate in various breakout sessions to help network and brainstorm ideas for MSCA. Their participation in this professional development has provided some

insight into ways we can strengthen our MSCA Leadership Development and Delegate Assembly.

- The Board of Directors established a committee to take a look at our MSCA Ends Policies and compare them to the toolkit provided by ASCA. Based on this work, the committee looked for feedback from the rest of the Board of Directors. These Ends Policies will be reviewed and changes voted on in September. Any changes to the Ends Policies has to be voted on by the delegates during the Delegate Assembly in November.
- The Ends Policy E.1, School counselors are educated about, and advocate for, state and national legislation related to school counseling and education issues, was monitored. Discussion was had about the importance of continued offering of advocacy efforts to support school counselors throughout the state of Missouri. There was an increase in participation in the Advocacy Day at the Capitol!
- During this meeting, a new board chair and assistant chair were voted on. Congratulations to Olivia Carter who will be serving as Board Chair and Cindy Bentley who will be the Assistant Chair. Their roles begin on October 1st.
- Before the end of the school year, MSCA Board of Directors would like to check in with Regional Leadership. Region Presidents- please be on the lookout for opportunities to chat with the MSCA Board sometime in May!

April Webinar

Make plans to join us for our April webinar event!

- Wednesday, April 2, at 10:00 a.m. - Small Groups 101

[Visit the online calendar](#) to register.

Online Professional Development

As a reminder, you can access past professional development offerings via the MSCA website - these are available for members' only. [Click here](#) for additional information.

Strategic Plan

During its December meeting, the MSCA Board of Directors adopted a strategic plan for 2024-2026 - [click here to view additional details](#) - watch for updates coming soon!

Take Ten Conference

The 2025 Take Ten Conference has been scheduled for Friday, April 29, in Lee's Summit focusing on Trauma & Crisis Management - [click here for more details](#).

Legislative Update

MSCA members are invited to participate in [monthly legislative update virtual discussions](#) (3rd Friday of each month during the legislative session). Here is what has been going on in the capitol:

- Missouri legislators returned to the Capitol from their annual spring break, focusing on legislative priorities.
- The House Budget Committee finalized their version of the FY26 Budget.

- The House debated bills on school safety, initiative and referendum petitions, settlement demands, workers' compensation, license fee offices, telehealth services, professional registration, emergency suspensions, dental care in correctional centers, and state preemption of licensed professions.
- Additional bills in the House addressed licensure of speech pathologists and audiologists, SAPA 2.0, employment security, property assessments, emergency medical services, design-build projects, teacher externships, and consolidated public library districts.
- Further House discussions included payments of real and personal property taxes, coroners, kratom products, civil jurisprudence, financial institutions, motor vehicles, utility reimbursement, drug trafficking, and pensions.
- The House also addressed sales tax exemptions on auctioned property, private pension taxation, sunshine law, confiscation of animals, and local election authority prohibitions.
- Several House committee meetings were held to discuss bills related to the Patients First Act, therapeutic water projects, and a post-consumer paint recycling program.
- The Senate perfected SB 79, allowing the Farm Bureau to offer less comprehensive and potentially less expensive health plans to its members, after debate and compromise.
- MSCA Bill Tracking Report - <https://govwatch.net/report/1lq1knEWR6>

Board of Directors: Meet our MSCA Board of Directors for the 2024-2025 school year! [Click here](#) for more information.

2025 Save the Date: Make plans to join us for the 2025 MSCA Fall Conference, which will be held on November 2-4 at the Tan-Tar-A Conference Center. Interested in presenting a workshop session at the conference? Submit a [proposal form](#) by August 1, 2025.

Affinity Groups: Affinity Groups are small communities of members who share a similar area of interest or identity. Affinity Group members enjoy opportunities to discuss shared challenges, brainstorm solutions, identify valuable resources and network with like-minded peers. Each group is formed based on grassroots interest and needs and offers opportunities for meaningful conversations in safe spaces. Affinity Groups are self-directed and led by members - these discussions are open to all MSCA members. Current affinity groups include: Coordinators/Directors of School Counseling, Rural Counselors, New School Counselors, BIPOC, and 'NRM 25 cohort. For information on scheduling, etc., please [click here](#). Interested in forming an affinity group on additional topics? Contact the MSCA office at msca@c2cpro.solutions.

Dr. Norman C. Gysbers Nationally Recognized Missouri Program (NRM) Cohort: Is your school interested in applying for recognition for the 2024-2025 school year? [Click here](#) for more information on the cohort.

School Counseling Ethics Questions: Have a legal or ethical question or challenge? Submit your question via this [Google Form](#) - questions will be shared with members of the MSCA Ethics Committee for feedback.

MSCA Committees: Interested in learning more about MSCA's committees? [Click here](#) for more information.

Member Highlights: We know that school counselors do great things! And, we want everyone else to know! To submit accomplishments and activities you would like highlighted in a MSCA Monday Memo and/or on MSCA social media, please complete this [Google Form](#).

Got Questions? MSCA members are encouraged to reach out to the MSCA office for any questions at (573) 635-9109 or msca@c2cpro.solutions. Additionally, members may reach out directly to the MSCA Board of Directors at board@moschoolcounselor.org.

NEWS FROM MSCA'S PARTNERS

MSCA continues to share updates from related organizations and partners as outlined below. Organizations are encouraged to submit updates to Jill Hancock at jill@c2cpro.solutions for inclusion within the Monday Memo.

Upcoming Events of Interest

- Join the Show-Me Echo learning collaborative: Child Psych Echo - held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month from 12-1 pm, [click here for details](#).
- [Click here](#) for information on a webinar on Erika's Lighthouse - Free Tier-1 Mental Health Resources for Missouri on April 3, at 4:30 p.m.
- [Click here](#) for information on a 'Careers Under Construction' event being hosted in Columbia, Missouri on April 11.
- [Click here](#) for information on a 'Understanding and Treating ADHD' event being hosted in Overland Park, KS, on April 11.
- Registration for the [New School Counselor Institute](#) is now [open](#)! The NSCI will take place from July 7-9, 2025, at Stoney Creek Hotel in Columbia, Missouri. This three-day boot camp is specifically designed to equip new school counselors with the tools they need to thrive in their first day, week, month, and year in the school counseling profession. Eligible participants include graduates of a master's program in school counseling who currently hold a school counselor position, possess an alternative certificate, or are certified school counselors transitioning to a new role. Registration will close on June 12, 2025. Contact [Cierra Griffin](#) with any questions related to NSCI.

Other News & Information

- [Click here](#) for the latest information from the Missouri College and Career Attainment Network (MOCAN).
- The Missouri Behavioral Health Council and Department of Mental Health (DMH) have released a "Youth Behavioral Health Liaisons and Schools" document as well as a new resource map that makes it easy to find the name and contact information for the Youth Behavioral Health Liaison (YBHL) for each county. More information may be found by [clicking here](#).

- SchoolLink: In partnership with DESE and MU, SchoolLink offers *no cost* problem-solving support for all Missouri K-12 school personnel. SchoolLink staff members are available Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm through text, email, and phone calls. We are here to lift the weight off your shoulders by supporting you as you work with students in your schools. We can help connect you (or your families) with resources in your area, offer a listening ear, and provide actionable next steps as you navigate both personal and professional needs! We are here for YOU, and look forward to supporting you as you champion students and families. Fill out this [quick survey](#) to get Gratitude Cards mailed to your school.

Job Opportunities

- Fulton High School has a position open for the 2025-2026 school year. More information can be found [here](#).
- Southern Boone School District has a position open for the 2025-2026 school year. More information can be found [here](#).