



MSCA Monday Memo: March 17, 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

Nomination Process for MSCA Board of Directors - Reopened! Extended deadline for submissions is March 24, 2025.

Are you interested in making a difference in your profession? Consider running for a position on MSCA's Board of Directors! During this election process, three individuals will be elected by their peers to serve a 3-year term beginning on October 1, 2025. For more information, please visit <https://forms.gle/Xe9Tji6EMDJEDCzQA>.

Spring Events

An overview of our upcoming Spring events may be viewed by [clicking here](#) (additional details on these events also included throughout the memo).

April Webinar

Make plans to join us for our April webinar event!

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

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

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:

- **Key Legislation Passed:**
 - Control of the St. Louis Police Department, House Bill 495, has been passed, and the bill has been sent to the Governor.
 - An omnibus utility bill, House Bill 567, has also been passed and sent to the Governor.
- **Budgetary Issues:**
 - The FY2025 Supplemental Budget has been passed by the Senate and sent to the Governor.
 - The House Budget Committee's work on the FY2026 budget was delayed due to problems with the new MOVERS accounting system.
- **Controversial Debates:**
 - The Missouri Supreme Court heard arguments on a lawsuit seeking to strike down Proposition A, which concerns sick leave and minimum wage.
 - Significant debate occurred on HB495 concerning Public Safety, and the St. Louis Police Department Control, with many amendments added.
 - Debate also occurred on HB 567, modification of proposition A.
- **Other Legislative Activity:**
 - Numerous other bills were debated and moved forward in both the House and Senate, covering a wide range of topics including education, healthcare, and taxation.
 - Many committee hearings were held.
- **MSCA Bill Tracking Report**
 - <https://govwatch.net/report/jlq1knEWR6>

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.

Board of Director Meetings: As a reminder, approved minutes from our MSCA Board of Directors' meetings may be found online by [clicking here](#). Please note that member login is required. The next meeting of the Board of Directors is on March 28 & 29, 2025. Questions or concerns to be addressed at board meetings may be submitted to board@moschoolcounselor.org.

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](#).

- College counselors and advisors are invited to join [Missouri College and Career Attainment Network \(MOCAN\)](#) for spring Professional Development Workshops. **FREE** virtual and in-person workshops will be offered with topics around financial aid, career pathways, and college advising strategies. [Registration is now open!](#)
- [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 Association of Rural Education offers a HS Senior Scholarship Program to members of MARE school districts - [click here](#) for more information.
- NAMI Missouri will award \$1,000 scholarships to two high school seniors who demonstrate an understanding of the significant role mental health plays in our everyday lives. [Click here](#) for more information - deadline is March 28, 2025.
- 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.
- The Cameron Impact Scholarship is impact-driven and open to all applicants who meet the GPA and citizenship requirements, regardless of race, socioeconomic status, religion, sexual orientation or any other background factors. Integrity, intelligence, motivation, work ethic,

and willingness to serve others are the strongest indicators of a worthy educational investment. [Click here for more information.](#)

Job Opportunities

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