



## Out-of-this World!

One of the schools to be featured at the second annual Student Showcase was the Festus Rocket Club. Last year, the club traveled to Paris, France, in a worldwide rocket competition and won first place.

## What's in this issue?

### Melissa's Column: We Need to Talk

*Find NSBA's Navigating Student Walkouts & Mass Protests in her column.*

### Early Childhood Education Program of the Year Award

*Application Deadline April 2*

### CES Offers Training to Help School Staff Identify Troubled Students

### Policy Perspective: Guns and Schools in Missouri

### Register for Spring Regional Meetings

### Who Will Receive Awards at the Leadership Summit?

## MSBA Members Advocate for Students

More than 250 school board members and administrators attended the recent MSBA Legislative Forum in Jefferson City. They heard updates on legislative issues related to K-12 education pending before the General Assembly including House Bill 2200, a measure designed to give school districts greater flexibility to develop schools of innovation. Those schools could include a curriculum delivery method of instructional model different from the traditional school model. School districts would have the opportunity to seek a waiver from any state rule or regulation that is a barrier to developing such a school. MSBA has worked closely with State Representative Shawn Rhoads of West Plains to develop the bill. He told the audience at the Legislative Forum it's important to encourage even more innovation in public schools than currently exists.

### Read more about the Legislative Forum on page 3.

*A highlight of this year's Legislative Forum was the second annual Student Showcase. Students from more than a dozen school districts set up displays in the Capitol Rotunda to show off some of the unique programs offered to students in their district. Thanks to all of the students who participated in this year's Student Showcase and made it such a success.*





# We Need to Talk

*by Melissa Randol, MSBA Executive Director*

It goes without saying that there is a diversity of opinion about safety, but I believe there's one topic we can all agree on: we want all of our children to be safe in their homes, in their schools and in their communities. But we need resources to help us ensure our children's well-being. To assist school districts with their critical task of keeping our children and our staff safe, MSBA created the Center for Education Safety in 2010. Missouri once again lived up to its slogan as the Show-Me State, and the Center for Education Safety is now a model for school safety throughout the nation – sharing resources and coordinating monthly communications with the safety centers in other states. MSBA's CES has a number of resources available to assist school districts in their ongoing efforts to protect our children.

**1. Training** – As the designated school safety center by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, CES provides resources and training to school districts on a multitude of topics, including behavioral risk assessment, school facility assessments, transportation safety, student radicalization, active shooter, crisis communication, emergency operations planning, school safety legal updates and behavior issues on the school bus, just to name a few. In March, CES will be hosting training throughout Missouri on the crucial topic of sexual predator prevention – you don't want to miss this training. [See the last page for the list of meetings.](#)

**2. School Safety Conference** – MSBA CES has hosted a school safety conference for the past 10 years, with national school safety professionals sharing their expertise with attendees. The next conference will be held June 4-5 at Tan-Tar-A, immediately following MSBA's Leadership Summit. See more at [www.mosba.org/conferences](http://www.mosba.org/conferences).

**3. Missouri School Safety Association (MOSSA)** – MSBA created an organization that is designed to support the needs of school districts' school safety officers. Missouri law requires every school district to name a school safety officer. The Association is designed to provide training, resources and support to the individuals who have been given this critical responsibility. [For more information about MOSSA, please contact John Warner at MSBA, Warner@mosba.org.](#)

**4. Mental Health Funding** – Missouri, like most states, has significantly reduced funding for mental health services over the past decade. After years of advocacy by MSBA, in the coming months schools will have access to funding for mental health services through Medicaid and will be reimbursed at the community rate for both IEP and non-IEP students who are Medicaid-eligible. This could be a game-changer for many schools that have not had funding for essential mental health services. [For more information, contact Dr. Kim Ratcliffe at MSBA, Ratcliffe@mosba.org.](#)

**5. Legal Support** – There are legal ramifications embedded in the decisions we make as educators. MSBA's legal team, along with the attorneys at the National School Boards Association (NSBA), have a number of resources available to assist districts. A topic that has garnered a lot of attention recently is how to handle student walkouts and mass protests. NSBA has produced a document that outlines the legal and safety concerns associated with these incidents. [View NSBA's Navigating Student Walkouts & Mass Protests document here.](#)

Don't forget that MSBA's legal team is only a phone call away if you need additional information on legal issues impacting schools.

Our challenges are complex, but they can be solved by working together, accessing proven resources and communicating with stakeholders in our communities. MSBA and our Center for Education Safety is here to support Missouri's school districts as we collectively strive to maintain the best and safest learning environment for our children. We need to talk.

## Legislative Forum, continued...

Rhoads told the audience at the Legislative Forum, “For some reason, we want to throw away a system that works, but that’s been over-regulated with a different system that’s proven it doesn’t work. That’s why we came up with House Bill 2200.” MSBA believes HB 2200 represents a positive agenda for public education in Missouri and urges the General Assembly to approve it this year.

Another piece of legislation under consideration this year is a bill sponsored by State Senator Gary Romine of Farmington that would reform the process for appointing members to the State Board of Education. Senator Romine is the chair of the Senate Education Committee and he told those at the Legislative Forum the bill is needed in the aftermath of Governor Greitens’ recent appointments to the State Board that resulted in the removal of Margie Vandeven as Commissioner of Education in December.

“It takes all of us to make sure our voices are heard and that people understand the flagrant abuse of power that we’ve seen over the last several months,” Romine said.

The State Board of Education continues to be unable to conduct any official business since it currently has only three of its eight seats filled. Governor Greitens withdrew and then re-nominated his five appointees to the State Board after the General Assembly convened in January. That move gives the State Senate additional time to confirm the nominees, but it also means the nominees cannot serve on the State Board of Education until they are confirmed by the Senate. Senators from both parties have expressed opposition to confirming the five nominees to the State Board.

Following presentations on legislative issues, board members and administrators attending the Legislative Forum had the opportunity to visit with legislators from their home areas at the Capitol.

## Early Childhood Education Program of the Year Award

### Application Deadline April 2

The Early Childhood Education Program of the Year Award recognizes outstanding early childhood education programs in Missouri. We want to celebrate YOU and your efforts in providing early childhood education, regardless of school size. Awards are now given in three categories: small, midsize and large districts.

NEW THIS YEAR: District finalists are asked to produce a ten-minute video presentation of their Early Childhood Education program to be shown at Annual Conference. If district finalists do not have the resources to create such a program, MSBA may offer to assist as part of our Good News in Public Schools effort.

[Access the application at www.mosba.org/future-builders.](http://www.mosba.org/future-builders)



## CES Offers Training to Help School Staff Identify Troubled Students

In the aftermath of a series of school shootings this year, including the tragedy at a Parkland, Florida, high school last month that left 17 students and adults dead, school leaders and school safety officials throughout Missouri and the nation are now re-evaluating district safety plans and discussing ways to ensure our schools remain among the safest places for our students, teachers and staff. MSBA’s Center for Education Safety offers Behavioral Risk Assessment Training that is designed to help school officials identify and get help for troubled students in order to prevent a tragedy. Amy Bledsoe is an Education Safety Coordinator for MSBA’s Center for Education Safety and she says the training is designed for teams within a school district who then set up a formal process to help students and staff report concerns.

“You have team members who are trained, but anyone can bring information to the team or another faculty or staff member,” says Bledsoe. “That person then would relay information to the administration and the team. Then the team would get to work and figure out what steps to take in that situation,” she adds.

The Center for Education Safety is the only statewide school safety organization in Missouri and is supported and operated by the Missouri School Boards’ Association. Contact the Center for Education Safety if your school district is interested in the Behavioral Risk Assessment Training.

[You can email Amy Bledsoe, Bledsoe@mosba.org.](mailto:Bledsoe@mosba.org)

## DEADLINE APPROACHING Proposals for Presentations MSBA’s 2018 Annual Conference

Don’t miss the chance to share  
at the conference!

Submission deadline is March 30.  
Submit your proposal online at  
[www.mosba.org](http://www.mosba.org).



# GUNS and SCHOOLS *in Missouri*



Here are some answers to many questions regarding weapons and schools. The school district may authorize adults to carry weapons on school property in some circumstances, though in most cases school districts choose to ban weapons unless they are carried by law enforcement. Before making any decisions to reverse current practices, MSBA strongly recommends that school boards consult the district's private attorney, the district's insurance carrier, the district staff and other stakeholders.

## STUDENTS

State law requires districts to have a policy prohibiting students from bringing weapons onto district property or to school activities. §160.261, RSMo. and MSBA Policy JFCJ. Students may participate in district-sponsored activities that involve firearms but are still prohibited from carrying any firearm capable of lethal use onto district property, district transportation or to a school-sponsored activity. §571.030.7, RSMo. In these cases, adults transport the firearms.

## ADULTS

Most school districts currently prohibit adults other than law enforcement from bringing weapons onto school property under MSBA Policy ECA. However, that policy can be revised to allow any non-student with a conceal carry permit to bring a weapon onto school property. In addition, a weapon can be openly carried onto school property or to school activities by an adult if it is:

- Non-functioning and the ammunition is not readily accessible; or
- Carried onto school property while transporting a student to and from school; or
- Possessed by an adult for the purpose of facilitating a school-sanctioned firearm safety event. See §571.030, RSMo.

## EMPLOYEES IN GENERAL

The district may allow employees to carry weapons to the same extent as other adults by revising policy ECA. However, most districts prefer to hire trained employees for security purposes and only allow those employees to be armed.

### a. Hiring Security Guards or School Resource Officers

Many districts currently employ or jointly employ one or more law enforcement officers to serve as school resource officers in the district. These are typically commissioned officers who are currently employed by or retired from the county or city in which the district is located and may carry weapons onto school grounds. §571.030.2, RSMo. Some districts also contract for or employ trained persons to serve as security guards. Policy ECA currently recognizes these practices.

### b. Employees as School Protection Officers

A school protection officer (SPO) is a teacher or administrator who has been designated by the district to carry a concealed weapon or self-defense spray as part of the district's security plan. State statute requires the district to first have a public hearing on whether the Board should designate SPOs at all. §160.665, RSMo. Only then can the district consider which employees to appoint to this position, and that decision is made in closed session. SPOs must have a conceal and carry permit and complete 112 hours of training as approved by the Missouri Peace Officer Standards and Training Program (POST).

MSBA has a second version of Policy ECA that recognizes the use of SPOs and an administrative procedure, ECA-AP2, that outlines the duties of an SPO and the district process for designating an employee as an SPO.

## *Information about school safety*

For more information on this and other school safety issues, member districts may contact the School Laws Department or the MSBA Center for Education Safety at 800-221-6722.

# Register NOW!

*Registration is Open!*

## Spring Safety Workshops by MSBA's Center for Education Safety

Get the latest information to assist you in keeping your schools safe. The one-day training includes a legal update and discussion *When Educators Become Predators*. Registration fee is \$59 and includes lunch.

- Kirksville: March 6, 2018
- St. Charles: March 7, 2018
- Cape Girardeau: March 8, 2018
- Springfield: March 12, 2018
- Kansas City: March 13, 2018
- Columbia: March 14, 2018

Register online at [www.mosba.org](http://www.mosba.org) or call 800-221-6722.

## Spring Registration is Open! REGIONAL MEETINGS

Every spring, Regional Meetings are held in each of the seventeen regions to provide MSBA members with an opportunity to network, share ideas with peers and learn about current issues. Encourage your new board members to attend!



See your region's topic and register online at [www.mosba.org/meetings](http://www.mosba.org/meetings) or call 800-221-6722. \$45 per person and includes dinner.

## Who Will Receive Awards at the Leadership Summit?

### Board Member Certification and Governance Team Awards

Don't forget, May 1 is the deadline for submitting all documentation for Advanced, Master and Distinguished board member certification awards. Applications and criteria can be found at [www.mosba.org/board-member-forms-resources](http://www.mosba.org/board-member-forms-resources).

Criteria for the Governance Team Award must also be fulfilled by May 1 if you want to be recognized during the 2018 Leadership Summit luncheon on June 2. District status on the award criteria may be checked at any time by examining each board member's transcript of attendance and credits under account information on the MSBA website, [www.mosba.org](http://www.mosba.org). The superintendent and board secretary can access all district board member transcripts. Find criteria for the Governance Team Award at [www.mosba.org/governance-team-award](http://www.mosba.org/governance-team-award).

Register now for a Spring Regional Meeting to help you fulfill the criteria for these awards.

Contact Debby Duermeyer by email, [training@msbanet.org](mailto:training@msbanet.org), or phone, 573.445.9920, ext 329.

## Leadership Summit

June 1 – 3, 2018 | Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach

Ideal for: Superintendents, Board Members, Aspiring Board Leaders

## SAFE SCHOOLS & Colleges Conference

*New Date!*

June 4 – 5, 2018 | Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach

Ideal for: Safety Coordinators, School Resource Officers, Board Members, Superintendents, School Support Staff for K-12 and Higher Education

## FEDERAL RELATIONS Capitol Visit

June 26 – 29, 2018 | Washington, D.C.

Ideal for: All Board Members, Superintendents

## Annual Conference

in Cooperation with MASA

September 27 – 30, 2018 | Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach

Ideal for: Everyone! Entire School Leadership Team

