

Missouri Association of School Personnel Administrators 2024 Legislative Platform

The Missouri Association of School Personnel Administrators (MOASPA) represents administrators dedicated to supporting Missouri school district personnel. MOASPA's Legislative Platform outlines the legislative issues that our members support and oppose. The following provisions represent MOASPA's top priorities for the 2024 Legislative Session:

1. MOASPA expresses grave concern over the continued shortage of certified professionals in the entire state of Missouri. This challenge affects all school districts in the state, making it difficult to provide quality education to all students. MOASPA is dedicated to finding solutions to this problem and improving the educational standards in Missouri.
 - a. Improving teacher salaries is crucial to attracting and retaining high-quality educators. To achieve this, legislation must be enacted to provide the necessary resources to raise the minimum and average salary of all teachers in the state. Additionally, measures must be taken to increase teacher recruitment and retention. These may include financial incentives for districts that actively participate in Grow Your Own programs or collaborate with universities and colleges in Missouri to develop teachers.
 - b. MOASPA supports efforts to provide flexibility for teacher certification to allow districts to provide educational opportunities with an increasing demand for educators and a diminishing supply of applicants.
 - c. MOASPA supports expanding opportunities for retired public school employees to fill hard-to-staff positions in Missouri.
2. MOASPA strongly supports legislative efforts that ensure ongoing access to quality public education and is committed to working with the legislature to develop sustainable approaches for promoting and providing quality public education for our communities. We firmly oppose any attempts to privatize public education through vouchers, voucher tax credits, virtual privatization, or other similar means. We also support efforts to limit charter school expansion until effective accountability and transparency measures are placed on existing charter schools. These approaches only serve to deplete the financial resources of local public schools, which are governed by duly elected Boards of Education, and erode the ability of public schools to provide quality education to our children.
3. MOASPA opposes all efforts to reduce, eliminate, or alter current retirement benefits and incentives provided by PSRS and PEERS to protect the public school retirement system.