

## Missouri Association of School Personnel Administrators 2025 Legislative Platform

The Missouri Association of School Personnel Administrators (MOASPA) represents administrators who support 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 2025 Legislative Session:

- 1. The primary goal of this legislative platform is to fund SB727 fully, ensuring the initiative delivers its intended educational benefits and has a positive impact on students statewide. This commitment includes safeguarding the actual funding and the percentage of funds that districts receive for other critical education programs and student transportation. By preserving these resources, the integrity of existing support systems that address diverse educational needs is maintained, ensuring no area of education is compromised.
- MOASPA expresses 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.
  - 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 while firmly opposing any efforts to reduce, eliminate, or alter current retirement benefits and incentives provided by PSRS and PEERS, ensuring the protection and sustainability of the public school retirement system.
- 3. MOASPA strongly supports legislative efforts to ensure access to quality public education and advocates for sustainable solutions to enhance it. We oppose privatization efforts, including vouchers, voucher tax credits, virtual privatization, or similar initiatives, as they deplete financial resources from local public schools governed by elected Boards of Education. Additionally, we support limiting charter school expansion until robust accountability and transparency measures are established for existing charters, protecting public education's ability to serve all children effectively.