

# In the Loop

Missouri NEA's electronic newsletter



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## TELL **GOVERNOR** PARSON

**PRIORITIZE THE**  
**IMMEDIATE**  
**VACCINATION OF**  
**EDUCATORS**



### **Educators Demand Prioritization for COVID-19 Vaccination**

**"Educators, students, and parents have done their part...Now it  
it time for our state leaders to do their part."**

Every state bordering Missouri is prioritizing the vaccination of educators. Yet Missouri has not authorized the distribution of vaccines to educators statewide. This is unacceptable!

MNEA Pres. Phil Murray has sent a letter to Gov. Mike Parson calling for the immediate priority vaccination of educators because schools should be the safest places in our community. Vaccination paired with clear safety guidelines that follow scientific recommendations will keep students and school staff safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Read and sign the letter to demand prioritizing educators for the COVID-19 vaccination.

[Read More >](#)

# COVID-19

## Coronavirus

### New CDC Guidelines for COVID-19 Mitigation

[#VaccinateEducators](#)  
[#VaccinateNow](#)

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a strategy guide for K-12 schools to help communities plan and implement the delivery of safe in-person instruction. Phil Murray, president of the Missouri National Education Association issued the following statement:

"Schools should be the safest place in any community. Now that we have clear CDC guidance, state and local leaders need to provide the necessary resources to ensure the safety of

## FREE DRIVE-THRU COVID-19 TESTING

**WHEN:** THURSDAYS  
FEBRUARY: 18, 25  
MARCH: 4, 11, 18, 25  
@ 10 AM - 4 PM  
**WHERE:** Harvester Christian Church  
2950 Kings Crossing,  
St. Charles, 63303



### St. Charles Educators Arrange Free COVID-19 Testing

[#SchoolSafety](#)

**WHEN:** Thursdays (Feb. 25 and March 4, 11, 18 and 25)  
**TIME:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Harvester Christian Church, 2950 Kings Crossing, St. Charles 63303

Educators and support staff affiliated with the Missouri National Education Association, concerned with the lack of state and federal resources to ensure every school can take proper steps to mitigate COVID-19's spread, are partnering with CaresSTL and Harvester Christian Church to host free drive-thru COVID-19 testing. Participating local unions



### NEA Pres. Becky Pringle speaks with CDC about new K-12 COVID-19 guidelines

Watch this informative briefing with NEA Pres. Becky Pringle and leaders from the CDC as they discuss the newly released COVID-19 Guidelines for K-12 schools. Review the guidelines and other COVID-19 resources below:

- NEA (video): [Briefing on CDC Recommendations](#)
- NEA: [CDC Guidance Good First Step - But Now It's Time for Action](#)
- CDC: [K-12 Schools COVID-19 Mitigation Toolkit](#)

students, educators, and their families. No one wants to return to in-person learning more than the educators who dedicate their lives to help their students succeed - that is why for the last 11 months, educators, along with parents and students, have been calling for clear guidelines for how to reopen school buildings and campuses safely based on science..."

[Read More >](#)

include the Fort Zumwalt Education Association, Francis Howell Education Association, St. Charles National Education Association and Wentzville National Education Association.

**PRE-REGISTER:**  
[bit.ly/DriveThruCaresSTL](https://bit.ly/DriveThruCaresSTL)

[Read More >](#)

- CDC: [How do I set up my classroom?](#)
- US DOE: [Strategies for Safely Re-opening Elementary and Secondary Schools](#)
- CDC: [Operational Strategy for K-12 schools through Phased Mitigation](#)
- DESE: [REACH4MO helps students and educators handle trauma and crisis](#)
- MOPStopsCOVID: [Get the Facts on the Vaccine](#)

[Read More >](#)



[Apply Now >](#)

## Read-On Missouri Tour Celebrates NEA's Read Across America

Since 1999, Missouri NEA has sponsored a state tour, celebrating NEA's Read Across America, to help inspire reading in Missouri's youth. The National Education Association's nationwide reading celebration takes place each year during the first week of March.

MNEA's Read-On Missouri Tour has been rescheduled for **May 3-7, 2021**. MNEA Pres. Phil Murray and Vice Pres. Rebeka McIntosh will inspire students by connecting reading with success in life. MNEA encourages local leaders to organize classroom activities that promote lifetime reading habits and use skits, parades, games and other activities that celebrate reading while promoting the message that reading opens doors to opportunities to learn and grow in our diverse world.

If you would like to apply for a stop on the Read-On Missouri Tour (which replaces the Cat Tracks Tour) during the weeklong event, please complete the tour form at [www.mnea.org/read-on](http://www.mnea.org/read-on).

Application deadline: **March 1, 2021**

Questions? Contact Mark Jones at (573) 644-9609 or [mark.jones@mnea.org](mailto:mark.jones@mnea.org).



[Read More >](#)

## Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Poster-Essay Contest Winners

Students capture 2021 theme.

**"Fulfilling Dr. King's Dream: Reading to lead and transform"**

For the 2021 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Poster-Essay Contest, the MNEA Human Rights Committee asks students to write an essay and design a poster that depicts the theme: "Fulfilling Dr. King's Dream: Reading to lead and transform." State-wide student contest winners and their teachers receive gift cards for their award in the amounts of \$50 (first-place), \$30 (second-place), and \$20 (third-place) in each grade-level category: K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

Congratulations to the 2021 winners.

[Visit the \[mnea.org\]\(http://mnea.org\) website to view all the winning posters.](#)

## State Board of Education Report

The Missouri State Board of Education met Feb. 9, 2021. MNEA Vice Pres. Rebeka McIntosh and MNEA Teaching & Learning Director Ann Jarrett attend the meetings. At the last meeting, the SBOE discussed eliminating the GPA requirement for teacher certification, development of

## MACCE Report

The Missouri Advisory Council of Certification for Educators met Feb. 2, 2021. MNEA Vice Pres. Rebeka McIntosh and MNEA Teaching & Learning Director Ann Jarrett attend the meetings. At the last meeting, MACCE discussed substitute teacher certification recommendations, Missouri

**Sign Up for 2021 Leg Connect Virtual Lobby Days**



DESE's Office of Childhood, DESE's ongoing COVID-19 response, and school funding.

[Read More >](#)

Educator Gateway Assessment updates, teacher workforce data, and other business.

[Read More >](#)

Instead of the usual MNEA Capitol Action Days and Legislative Forums, MNEA is setting up VIRTUAL Legislative Connections in 2021.

As educators and public school employees, your voice is needed to help Missouri legislators understand the issues that inhibit public schools from being the very best they can be. It is paramount that you communicate your needs and successes to help draw a roadmap to make Missouri public schools safe and productive in educating students.

## Salary & Benefits

### Where does your school district rank?



## Download the 2020-2021 Missouri Salary Benchmarks & Rankings Reports Today.

The Missouri Salary Benchmarks & Rankings Report details key points on each school district's teacher salary schedule and ranks their placement in the state, region and by student enrollment size. Back by popular demand are sections detailing hourly wages for select positions of ESP, paid leave benefits, and health insurance benefits for education staff. You can find the report posted on the Missouri NEA website - Salary Research page at [www.mnea.org/research](http://www.mnea.org/research). You can also find it and other reports on the Missouri NEA mobile app.

For more information, contact MNEA Electronic Communications and Research Coordinator Rishanda Richardson at (573) 644-9621 or [rishanda.richardson@mnea.org](mailto:rishanda.richardson@mnea.org).

[2020-2021 Missouri Salary Benchmarks and Rankings report >>](#)

[2019-2020 Missouri Salary Rankings: Average Salary of Superintendents, Administrators and Teachers >>](#)

[Read More >](#)

Let MNEA Governmental Relations know how you are willing to participate, whether it is writing an email or participating in a Zoom call with your legislator.

Sign up today at [www.mnea.org/legconnect](http://www.mnea.org/legconnect).



MNEA's Charitable Fund, the Humanitarian Outreach Project for Education provides aid for students and schools.

[Donate Now >>](#)

## **Ten MNEA members win \$500 Tuition Grants** **Reliant Financial Services helps educators reach career goals.**

Thanks to MNEA Member Benefits partner Reliant Financial Services, 10 Missouri NEA members will receive a financial boost to help with education expenses. The MNEA Tuition Grant is open to applicants:

- who are MNEA members,
- who are probationary teachers or education support professionals,
- who take a 3-hour college course to further their career in public education, and
- who receive a letter grade of "C" or better.

Of the many applicants, 10 members were chosen in a random drawing Feb. 8, 2021. Congratulations to the following members:

Lauren Dorris, Ritenour NEA (ESP)  
Alexandra El Attar, North Kansas City NEA (ESP)  
Sarah Fox, Fort Zumwalt EA  
Loren Howard, Columbia MNEA  
Dianne Lam, Ritenour NEA  
Alexa Mikel, Northwest EA



FINANCIAL SERVICES

Melody Murray, Columbia MNEA  
Claire North, Hazelwood NEA  
Lacey Ory, Independence NEA  
Megan Raney, Valley Park NEA

For your chance to win an MNEA Tuition Grant in next year's drawing, submit your application by Jan. 31 using either the [online application](#) or [mail-in application](#).

## Reliant Financial Services

Reliant Financial Services is a comprehensive financial planning company endorsed by Missouri NEA. For a consultation to discuss your retirement or other financial goals, call 800-471-7717 or 877-514-8410 (816-460-0401 in the greater Kansas City area or 314-514-8411 in the greater St. Louis area).

## Learn with Missouri NEA

Mark your calendars and participate in professional development offerings.

### Conversations About Race and Belonging

MNEA is partnering with Nebraska State Education Association to offer members this opportunity **free of charge**.

This is a facilitated and interactive virtual program that provides a foundation for initiating and engaging in relational conversations about race, otherness, equity, and belonging in various settings: home, work, community. This program uses episodes from the podcast Seeing White (Scene On Radio, 2017, Center for Documentary Studies, Duke University) and a selection of literary works by authors of color to frame conversations about race and belonging. This program builds a peer cohort through conversation, stories, racial literacy, critical thinking, and the practice of reflective and dialectic skills that support leading small group discussions on race and belonging.

It is composed of two parts: introductory session and 6-session full program.

#### Introductory Session

Sat., March 13 | 10 a.m. - Noon and 1-3 p.m.

Early bird registration ends Feb. 26, applications close March 3

#### Full 6-Week Program (six sessions, 2.5 hours each)

Saturdays (1-3:30 p.m.): April 3, April 17, May 1, May 15, June 5, June 12

Early Bird deadline Mar. 15, applications close March 21

Participants in the full program must commit to attend each Saturday session, and commit to organizing and implementing at least one conversation in their workplace or community, applying the discussion/reflection skills learned and practiced in this program.

Interested Missouri NEA members must [download and complete this application](#), and then email the completed application to Laurie.Bernskoetter@mnea.org by deadlines for each session. Applicants will be notified by email of their status before the program start date.

## "I Can Do It" Beginning Teacher Assistance Program

**Don't miss the last session this school year.**

"I Can Do It" is designed for teachers in their first two years and any teacher who wants to improve their classroom management skills. Missouri NEA partners with Maryville University to offer a meaningful program that meets the beginning teacher assistance program certification requirement.

Register at [www.mnea.org/missouri/icanDolt.aspx](http://www.mnea.org/missouri/icanDolt.aspx) for the virtual March sessions.

## National Board Certification Workshops

**NBC Candidate Boost Days**

These work days are for candidates who plan to submit one or more components in 2020-2021.

Register for virtual participation Feb. 27 or April 10 [www.mnea.org/nbc](http://www.mnea.org/nbc).

**Exploring NBC (VIRTUAL)**

This workshop is for educators who want information about the National Board Certification process and benefits. Free, online and open to all educators.

Mon., April 19, 7-8:30 p.m. [Register Now >>](#)

**National Board Jump Start (VIRTUAL)**

Designed by trainers who have worked with thousands of candidates, Jump Start is an intensive seminar geared for teachers pursuing National Board Certification. During the workshop, you will learn techniques that result in better components and how to organize your resources and time to be most efficient.

**Foundations 1:** Monday, June 7, 5-8:30 p.m.

**Component 2:** Wednesday, July 14, 9 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m.

**Component 3:** Thursday, July 15, 9 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m.

**Component 4:** Friday, July 16, 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30-2:30 p.m.

**Component 1:** Monday, July 19, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Foundations 2:** Tuesday, July 20, 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30-2:30 p.m.

**Registration Deadlines:** May 24 (early bird) / June 3 (regular)

**Fees:** All sessions Member \$80 early/\$120 reg., Non-member \$360 early/\$400 reg.

Individual Session Member \$25, Non-member \$67

**Foundations I is free of charge.**



[Register Now >>](#)



FINANCIAL SERVICES

## NEW Member Benefits Coming Soon from Reliant Financial Services

We want to help protect our members and their families against unpredictable events in 2021 and beyond. That's why



## NEA Discount Marketplace Exclusive Offers for Members

The NEA Discount Marketplace, powered by Rakuten, enables members to earn Cash Back when they shop and save on brand-name merchandise from over



## My Deals [Download Flyer](#)

The My Deals mobile app allows you to access discounts easily on your smartphone. Simply download the app, register and save. Search for "My Deals" in either the Android Google Play store or Apple App store. To register, enter MNEA's Program

we're introducing two new voluntary insurance benefits.

**GapAssist:** A package of three supplemental insurance benefits through Symetra Life Insurance Company that can help with out-of-pocket costs if you have an accident, critical illness diagnosis or hospital stay.

**Cancer insurance from Prosperity Life Group<sup>SM</sup>:** Pays cash benefits when you may need it most. With this cancer plan, you'll receive benefits that follow a positive diagnosis of an internal cancer during the term of your coverage. Cancer plans can assist you with a variety of expenses so you can focus on getting better.

With each of the benefits, you can spend the benefits however you want, on direct or indirect costs associated with the covered accident or illness. Each of these benefits are easy-to-use with:

- No deductibles
- No copays or coinsurance
- No required networks
- No required medical questionnaires

Watch your email, *Something Better* and the MNEA website for more information.

Enrollment starts March 15, 2021.

2,500 top retailers and online stores.

Check out the following member-exclusive deals in March at [neamb.com/marketplace](http://neamb.com/marketplace):

**H&R Block:** Free online filing

**Turbo Tax:** Assistance through TurboTax Live

**EveryPlate:** Meal kit dinners \$4.99 each, 58% lower than other meal plans

**Lenovo:** 70% off laptops, 0% financing

**Reebok:** End-of-season sales on shoes and apparel

It's quick and easy to get started on the NEA Discount Marketplace. Plus, spend \$25 or more at any qualifying Rakuten store, and receive a \$10 Welcome Bonus... just for joining!

[More Details](#)

ID 9461. Provide your email address and if prompted, your NEA ID.

NEA ID:

**Need help with My Deals?** Call (877) 428-4697

[Install Apple App](#)

[Install Android App](#)

## Log in MNEA.org

If you have never logged in MNEA.org before, your password is your NEA ID number.

**User Name:**

**LastName+SSN4 (Smith1234)**

**Password:**

(without the preceding zeros)

Having trouble?

Call (573) 634-3202.

[Log in Members Only](#)



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