



1 **Education Policy**

2 Continuous improvement of the public education system being necessary to student success,

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4 **MASA Supports:**

- 5 • Creating approved pilot programs that would exempt districts from certain aspects of the
- 6 state school improvement program in exchange for a continuous improvement effort that
- 7 promotes financial and organizational efficiency while focusing on the unique needs of their
- 8 communities;
- 9 • Limiting charter school expansion until additional and effective accountability and
- 10 transparency measures are placed on existing charter schools;
- 11 • Replicating programs that have been proven effective in meeting the needs of students,
- 12 specifically students that live in poverty or are considered “at-risk”;
- 13 • Providing specialized training for administrators, teachers and staff who work in high poverty
- 14 areas or with diverse student populations that focus on the unique situations children face in
- 15 their communities and culture;
- 16 • Dedicating funds for programs that train administrators to deliver effective and
- 17 constructive teacher evaluations;
- 18 • Offering incentives and policy changes to assist the recruitment of talented college students into
- 19 the education profession and retain them once they become teachers;
- 20 • Defining the parameters by which employees may collectively bargain including (1) establishing
- 21 the Board of Education as the decision-making body on any issue that may reach an impasse
- 22 between administration and a bargaining group; (2) identifying issues and topics which may be
- 23 the subject of bargaining negotiations; (3) establishing a process that does not exclude any
- 24 teacher organization; (4) setting stringent and significant penalties for anyone participating in a
- 25 school strike; and (5) defining “good faith bargaining”;
- 26 • Continuing the independent governing structure of the PSRS/PEERS retirement systems;
- 27 • Reinstatement of the 2.55 multiplier for PSRS members who have 31 years of service or more;
- 28 • Increasing Missouri’s graduation rates by offering incentives for students to stay in school
- 29 and/or disincentives for dropping out;
- 30 • Ensuring students who graduate from a Missouri High School be eligible for all state financial aid
- 31 made available by the state of Missouri;
- 32 • Ensuring the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has the resources
- 33 needed to intervene and assist low performing school districts; and
- 34 • Continuing the current independence, structure, and governance of the Missouri High School
- 35 Activities Association (MSHSAA).

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37 **MASA Opposes:**

- 38 • Basing a teacher’s pay, a district’s salary schedule, layoffs, or tenure solely on teacher
- 39 evaluations until funding can be dedicated to effective teacher evaluation and evaluator
- 40 programs;
- 41 • Establishing an arbitrary percentage of student performance that must be used in
- 42 employee evaluations;
- 43 • Reducing the probationary period for teachers; and
- 44 • Using outside arbitrators to resolve employment disputes.

1 **School Finance**

2 Resources being necessary to carry out the charge of public education in the state of Missouri,

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4 **MASA Supports:**

- 5 • Ensuring the foundation formula continues to be fully funded;
- 6 • A plan to fully fund the transportation formula as well as Parents as Teachers;
- 7 • Ensuring that a long-term plan is developed to fund early childhood education programs in all
- 8 school districts;
- 9 • Funding the Small School appropriation for the formula;
- 10 • Increasing the bonding capacity for school districts;
- 11 • Increased funding and the creation of initiatives to provide training to school districts and
- 12 administrators in order to utilize the resources available in their community to provide mental
- 13 healthcare to students;
- 14 • Developing a definition consistent with the Missouri Constitution in order to determine “new
- 15 construction and improvements” within the assessed value of state-assessed property;
- 16 • Reforming Missouri’s tax credit programs by:
 - 17 • Placing a sunset clause on all current and future tax credit programs;
 - 18 • Making all new tax credit programs subject to the appropriations process;
 - 19 • Prohibiting the use of multiple tax credit programs on the same project, particularly
 - 20 the stacking of the low-income tax credit with the historic preservation tax credit;
 - 21 • Conducting a standardized, annual review of tax credit programs to monitor and
 - 22 report on each tax credit’s return on investment;
 - 23 • Tying the caps of tax credit programs to funding of categorical education
 - 24 spending;
 - 25 • Modifying the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit to increase the number of eligible
 - 26 participants; and
 - 27 • Placing a portion of the savings from tax credit reform to be dedicated to funding
 - 28 the improvement of school facilities and infrastructure;
- 29 • Requiring the unanimous support of all taxing jurisdictions for any tax abatement project. If
- 30 unanimous support cannot be achieved, the issue should either be put to a vote of the people in
- 31 the affected taxing jurisdictions or schools should be given the ability to opt out of the
- 32 abatement;
- 33 • Providing resources to provide targeted professional development to school districts and
- 34 their administrators so they may utilize the unique resources in their community to better
- 35 address the mental healthcare of their students;
- 36 • Reinstating flexibility of professional development funds to allow for alignment with district
- 37 needs;
- 38 • Consideration of revenue enhancements such as a sales tax on Internet sales tax, tobacco
- 39 taxes, alcohol taxes or a general sales tax to provide long-term funding for Missouri public
- 40 schools;
- 41 • Using uniform assessment processes by county assessors to provide consistent
- 42 appraisals throughout the state and penalizing assessors that fail to meet the
- 43 requirements;
- 44 • Allowing voters to approve bond issues with a simple majority;
- 45 • Providing additional funding for technology, MOREnet, math and science equipment, Safe
- 46 Schools Grants and alternative education programs;

- 1 • Creating state funding for school facility replacement and/or improvement;
- 2 • Exempting education spending from proposals, like the Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights that seek to
- 3 put a cap on state spending;
- 4 • Funding of the Missouri Virtual Instruction Program rather than the establishment of
- 5 statewide open enrollment policies to virtual charter or virtual private schools;
- 6 • Changes to the transportation hardship law that do not financially burden either the
- 7 sending or receiving district;

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9 **MASA Opposes:**

- 10 • Diverting state funds from the public schools by any means including tuition tax
- 11 credits/vouchers;
- 12 • Mandating open enrollment of students to attend schools in districts in which their parents
- 13 do not pay property taxes;
- 14 • Any effort to reduce the amount of funding available to districts for summer school;
- 15 • Mandating programs without appropriating the necessary funds to implement and sustain
- 16 the programs;
- 17 • Any effort to change the current process for determining the taxable assessed value and tax
- 18 status of senior citizen living facilities in Missouri;
- 19 • Imposing property tax reductions, freezes or limits;
- 20 • Transforming the early childhood special education program from a required to a
- 21 voluntary program;
- 22 • Replacing the Missouri income tax with a sales tax;
- 23 • Forcing consolidation of school districts;
- 24 • Limiting the ability of school districts to seek civil, equitable and other legal remedies