Missouri State | AGENCY for TEACHING, LEADING, AND LEARNING

NewsLetter

11/02/2026



"The ATLL is Your Partner in Learning"

The Agency for Teaching, Leading, and Learning (ATLL) is excited to partner with Southwest Missouri School districts for their professional learning needs. If you have specific needs, please reach out to one of us and let the learning begin!

Please use the following link to view our 2026-2027 ATLL Staff Directory of coaches and consultants ready to assist you!



Mailing List

We are currently updating our constant contact mailing list. If you have staff that would like to be added to our mailing list, please have them subscribe HERE.

New Leadership

If you know of a new Superintendent, Administrator, SPED or Curriculum Director, or Professional Development Coordinator taking a position in your school district, please send their name and email address (if known) to Randy Luebbert and Ruben Berry so that we can update our records.
RLuebbert@MissouriState.edu and RubenBerry@MissouriState.edu

Counselor Changes

If you are a counselor that will be retiring this year, or moving buildings/districts, or know of a new counselor starting in the 2025-2026 school year, please contact Laura Harris and Ruben Berry so that we may update our records.
LauraHarris@MissouriState.edu
RubenBerry@MissouriState.edu

Notes From Our Consultants

Literacy

If you have any questions regarding LETRS training for the upcoming school year please contact any of the following consultants for more information:

*Amber Perryman: amberperryman@missouristate.edu

*Annette Tankersley: annettetankersley@missouristate.edu

*Jenny Dunagan: jennydunagan@missouristate.edu

In addition, we continue to offer training or assistance with LETRS support, Dyslexia, Aspire, RSPs (Reading Success Plans), and CLPs (Comprehensive Literacy Plans).

Educators are invited to join DESE's Office of Literacy for Virtual Office Hours from 10:00-11:00 a.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month except December. Following a brief Office of Literacy updates session, attendees may ask questions of the DESE literacy team on topics ranging from Reading Success Plans to K-12 resources and professional learning to school libraries and more. For more information, please contact Literacy@dese.mo.gov.

- Link for First Thursday of Each Month
- Link for Third Thursday of Each Month

MLDS

Attention ALL Leaders! MLDS Has a place for you! Let us help you support your leadership journey! We hope to see you in 2025-2026!
Please contact Randy Luebbert for more information and to sign up:
RLuebbert@MissouriState.edu or 417-836-4422

RA

Don't get stuck on setting up your Registered Apprenticeship for Young People program! Here are things I can help with:

- Assist with writing Standards and first work process
- Present to your stakeholders
- Serve as your point person until you get your feet on the ground
- Answer questions or come walk you through the process

417-836-4074
BettyGlasgow@MissouriState.edu

GYO

Please check out the Grow Your Own Network video HERE. We look forward to seeing all teaches who work with future educators at our quarterly GYO networking sessions!
There's still time to register for the SW Grow Your Own Teacher Leader Network. Register HERE

MELL

Do you have new English learner (EL) students enrolling in your district? Or do you have lots of ELs and you could use a helping hand? Let's talk about how to assist your English learners and their families to grow academically and develop a sense of belonging in your school community. I am available for phone calls, emails, virtual meetings, school visits, etc. I also offer a quarterly newsletter and monthly Meet Ups.

Reach out to Rhonda Hittenberger Ortiz - MELL Instructional Specialist
417-836-4093
Rhittenbergerortiz@missouristate.edu

Notes From Our Consultants

PBIS

"Not Your Grandma's PBIS"

Our PBIS team works diligently to meet the needs of our Southwest region districts with the core purpose of implementing PBIS as an evidence-based, multi-tiered framework used to build a continuum of supports that provides social, emotional, behavioral, and mental health for ALL students.

We offer onsite support tailored to your needs.
The primary goal is to establish safe, predictable, and effective environments that support both social competence and academic achievement.

Dr. Daren Harris
417-836-5152
DarenHarris@MissouriState.edu

Dr. Brad Owings
417-836-4006
BradleyOwings@MissouriState.edu

KarenMurray
417-836-4084
KarenMurray@MissouriState.edu

Andrea Rockney
417-836-4084
ARockney@MissouriState.edu

From Friends at Learning Blade



November Learning Blade Corner

Celebrate National STEM Day with Learning Blade in Missouri!

November 8 is National STEM Day! It's a great opportunity to show Missouri students how science, technology, engineering, and math connect to exciting careers across our state!

From aerospace and advanced manufacturing to healthcare, agriculture, and energy, STEM professionals are making a difference in Missouri every day. Learning Blade helps students explore these careers and see how STEM connects to their future.

With engaging missions like Dolphin Rescue, Rescue Robot, and Energy Sources, your students can:
● Explore healthcare, veterinary science, and engineering careers as they work to rescue an injured dolphin and design a prosthetic tail, learning how STEM professionals solve real-world problems.
● Discover robotics, engineering, and computer science careers while exploring how sensors, circuits, and programming are used in Missouri's aerospace, automotive, and manufacturing industries.
● Learn about energy and environmental careers as they investigate different energy sources and discover how STEM professionals help power Missouri communities and protect our natural resources.

Celebrate National STEM Day by helping your Missouri students discover the STEM careers and opportunities available right here in their home state!
Learning Blade is available at no cost to Missouri schools through funding from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

If you aren't already using Learning Blade, remember that it is FREE to create a new account: www.LearningBlade.com/MO, or for more assistance on how to use Learning Blade, get expert tips and support with your state manager: Schedule Here

Learning Blade
Powered by eDynamic Learning

Innovative Approaches to Mathematics Education

Hosted by:
Southwest Missouri Student Math Teacher Organization (SM2TO)



Join **James Burnett**, influential mathematics educator and co-founder of ORIGO Education to explore research-based strategies for boosting math achievement for elementary students.

The session will highlight pacing techniques aligned with how the brain processes and retains information, as well as purposeful development of mathematical vocabulary to build student confidence and promote rich classroom discourse. Through engaging, practical experiences, educators will learn how to bridge the gap between abstract concepts and concrete understanding, ensuring learning that lasts. Participants will explore how fluency is more than memorizing isolated facts—it's about making connections, using flexible strategies, and developing true number sense. In this hands-on session, James will guide participants through powerful visual models and intentional games that move students beyond rote procedures toward deep, conceptual understanding. Participants will explore how to redefine fact fluency by shifting the focus from memorization to flexible, extendable strategies that support long-term mastery.

When: Thursday, November 12th
4:00 – 6:00pm
Where: Missouri State University
851 S John Q Hammons Parkway
Glass Hall – Rm 486

Register Today!

ORIGO EDUCATION

Center Support

Center Support

Numeracy Leadership Network (NLN)
See Cohort Information Below
Presenter: Ronnie Evans

Join fellow math leaders in the Numeracy Leadership Network (NLN). This cohort will meet four times a year to focus on leadership practices that drive improved student engagement and proficiency in mathematics. While the group's agenda will be shaped by participant needs, key areas of focus may include: Instructional leadership and coaching, Assessment literacy, Leading effective math PLCs, Strengthening Tier 1 instruction across grade levels, Relevant state updates and initiatives, and Professional learning through shared expertise and collaboration.

Throughout the series, teachers will explore a variety of instructional strategies that increase engagement, support productive struggle, and improve student outcomes. The NLN is designed to support leaders in translating ideas into action within their unique district contexts.

Lunch will be provided. The cost for participation is $165, which covers all sessions, lunch, parking, and materials.

Workshop Dates: 10/16, 11/12, 01/25, 03/15
Even if you missed the first meeting you can still join in!
Register HERE

Upcoming Workshops

SPED

Process Coordinator Networking - Virtual

Thursday, December 3rd | 12:00PM - 2:00PM

Presenters: Melynda Van Note & Daphne Grandel

The Process Coordinator Networking Meeting provides an opportunity for special education process coordinators, compliance specialists, and district administrators to collaborate, share updates, and strengthen practices aligned with the Missouri State Plan and Standards & Indicators.

Participants will review current compliance guidance, discuss DESE updates, and exchange effective strategies for ensuring high-quality IEP development, evaluation procedures, and documentation. The meeting will include time for regional collaboration, Q&A on common compliance challenges, and sharing of district systems or forms that promote efficiency and consistency. We will meet virtually.

Register HERE

Special Education New Directors' Group Virtual

Tuesday, December 8th | 9:00AM - 11:00AM

Presenters: Melynda Van Note & Daphne Grandel

The New Directors' and New PC Group will meet periodically throughout the 26-27 school year to discuss a variety of topics and build relationships with other new directors and new process coordinators.

You will register for each session individually (9/15/26 (virtual), 10/28/26 (in-person), 12/8/26(virtual), and 4/8/27(in-person), so look for all four of the dates in Frontline to register for what you can attend. You do not have to attend all four - you may pick and choose based on your schedule. This is for the 12/8/2026 virtual training.

This will be a Q & A time, and important updates will be shared. We will review the transfer process for in-state and out-of-state students and common compliance issues.

Register HERE

Upcoming Workshops

SPED

New Special Education Teacher Follow-Up Training

Thursday, December 10th | 9:00AM - 3:00PM
Presenters: Melynda Van Note & Daphne Grandel

This follow-up training provides continued support for new special education teachers through practical guidance on IEP implementation, documentation, collaboration, instructional supports, and day-to-day special education responsibilities.

Participants will have opportunities to problem-solve, ask questions, and strengthen effective practices for supporting students with disabilities.

Register HERE

MELL

MELL Meet-Up - Talking WIDA & Portfolios Cohorts

Please See Cohort Information Below
Presenter: Rhonda Hittenberger Ortiz

This month's focus is on all things WIDA. We will discuss changes to WIDA guidance, as well as explore how and when to gather documents for portfolio exits.

Bring your lunch and connect with other educators of multilingual learners. We will have a focus each meeting as well as time set aside to collaborate and talk with others who are doing what you do!

Joplin Offering - Friday, December 4th
11:30AM - 3:00PM : Register HERE

Springfield Offering - Friday, December 11th
11:30AM - 3:00PM : Register HERE

Upcoming Workshops

Behavior

Teaching Behaviors in the Special Education Classroom

Tuesday, December 8th | 8:30AM - 2:30PM
Presenter: Mikelle O'Neal

This full day workshop is designed to help special education teachers support students with behavioral needs.

Teachers will gain insight on how to identify missing skills in the area of communication, regulation and social interactions. Strategies will be shared on how to find the time and resources for intentional instruction and practice in the area of missing skills.

This workshop is designed for anyone supporting special education students.

Register HERE

Behavior Leaders: Behavioral Best Practices and Networking for Supporting Teachers and Students

Wednesday, December 9th | 8:30AM - 2:30PM
Presenter: Mikelle O'Neal

This workshop is designed to provide school leaders an opportunity to collaborate with neighboring administrators on topics surrounding student behaviors.

The following topics will be discussed as they relate to an increase in behaviors:

- the use of ISS and OSS,
- protecting instructional integrity in the classroom,
- training the influx of new teachers,
- alternatives to suspension,
- supporting students and teachers.

This networking time will allow additional opportunities for participants to discuss/problem solve behavioral topics relevant to their district.

This workshop is designed for superintendents, special education directors, building leaders or any individual in a leadership role.

Register HERE