



Missouri Music Educators Association
A Federated Affiliate of the National Association for Music Education

Memo to: Missouri School Superintendents

In an effort to address the growing retention crisis of music educators the Missouri Music Educators Association will once again sponsor a two-day Mentoring Conference focused on assisting teachers in the first years of their careers. The MMEA Mentoring Program has been recognized nationally, and feedback from participants indicates that this program has had a positive effect on their classroom performance and has assisted in their decision to stay in the profession.

The Mentoring Conference will be held at the Tan-Tar-A Conference Center at Margaritaville on **Sunday, September 27, and Monday, September 28, 2026. For music educators with one to three years of experience the conference will be free of charge. There will be a conference fee of \$50 for teachers attending with four or more years of experience to offset the cost of meals.** Sessions will be offered for elementary/general music, band, orchestra, and choir, plus clinics specifically tailored for the K–12 music instructor teaching in smaller school districts. Teachers with more years of experience but who are transitioning to the music classroom are also welcome to attend. The conference is free, with meals provided by MMEA. The only expense is the cost of the hotel room at the conference rate. The deadline to reserve rooms is August 22 and the code to receive the convention rate is MMEM.

Conference Goals and Topics include:

1. Best practices for rehearsal/classroom management, including discipline problems and solutions.
2. Organization and administration of the music education classroom.
3. Building and maintaining a successful K–12 Music Program.
4. School budgeting and business management for the music educator.
5. Effective communication with students, administrators, parents and district patrons.
6. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access training for today's classroom.
7. Networking with successful music educators to develop resources for ideas, techniques and literature.
8. Missouri State High School Activities Association Rules and Guidelines for Music Activities. This session will be led by James Melton, Associate Executive Director of MSHSAA.

We need your assistance in helping us connect with teachers new to the music classroom. If you have a music educator with one to three years of experience or a teacher transitioning to the music classroom from another area in your district, please email their contact information to Chris Sprague, MMEA Mentoring Chair at mentoring@mmea.net. You may also register them online for the September clinic at MMEA.net. **Registration will be active**

May 1 through September 21, 2026. Feel free to share this correspondence with new music educators, building level principals, human resource personnel, music supervisors, and your activities directors.

On behalf of the Missouri Music Educators Association, I would like to thank you in advance for your support of music educators in our state.

Sincerely,
Chris Sprague
Missouri Music Educators Association Mentoring Chair