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To: Smithville R-II Board of Education
From: Mark Maus
Date: April 16, 2025
Re: MSBA 2024A, 2024D Policy Updates

Members of the Board of Education,

Through our partnership with the Missouri State School Board Association (MSBA), each year, they make recommendations for policy changes based on new or modifications in Missouri in state statutes, federal law, or court cases that have impacted current policy. Traditionally, MSBA will recommend several policy revisions each year, and this is the first and fourth recommendation they have made for the 2024-25 school year. We missed the first one for the Board to review.

Below is a portion of the update letter they provided with the policy recommendations:

MSBA has created this NEW procedure to assist districts with developing standards and rules for acceptable artificial intelligence (AI) use. This procedure provides a sample framework for a districtwide AI Use Plan.

Dr. McGinnis will be our point person for this work, and he will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this revision.

MSBA is pleased to provide your district with the 2024D Update of policies and procedures. The drafts can be found in the Work in Progress section of your online policies. This update is based primarily on recent changes in Missouri state law. The changes include expansion of the state auditor's authority to audit school districts; new grounds for closing meetings or records under the Sunshine Law; setting minimum teacher salaries and allowing districts to pay higher salaries to attract and retain teachers in some schools and subject areas; expanding students' access to full-time virtual schooling; expanding the definition of home schooling to distinguish home schools that accept tax-credit vouchers, and giving homeschooling parents an option to avoid unnecessary investigations for educational neglect; requiring schools to print the phone numbers for police and crisis hotlines on student ID cards; excusing student absences due to mental or behavioral health concerns, and prohibiting students' grades from being lowered due to these absences; and redefining requirements for school districts to report educational neglect.

One other major change will impact only some districts in the state. Beginning July 1, 2026, districts in charter counties or in cities with a population greater than 30,000 must get voter approval before they can adopt a four-day school week.

This is the third of three readings, and the recommendation would be to approve the MSBA recommendations as presented.