

Alternative Schools Network Association Missouri Student Success Network Missouri Association of Alternative Schools Missouri Alternative Education Network

History/Overview...

The Alternative Schools Network Association (ASNA, a 501 C3 organization) was incorporated in September 1997 with its roots in the Kansas City Metropolitan region. The Network represented area public school districts, private schools, charter schools, individual alternative schools, dropout prevention programs, and other community and state agencies in Missouri that provided support services for high-risk youth and their families. The ASNA Mission was to coordinate, strengthen, and increase the effectiveness of educational programs and services for "at risk" and "difficult to educate" students. Specifically, ASNA strived to:

- Reduce dropout rates of Missouri Students.
- Develop a collaborative network with local, state, and national organizations to promote dropout prevention and improve student performance.
- Provide professional development opportunities focused on shaping school environments to ensure that all students receive quality educational programs and services to which they are entitled.

In 2003 it was determined there was a need for a statewide organization to address the challenges and issues facing students at-risk of school failure. From the Alternative Schools Network Association (ASNA), a statewide organization was formed. The first meeting of the Board of Directors was held on September 24, 2003, and the Missouri Student Success Network (MSSN) was named. Richard Phillips served as the initial Executive Director for the organization.

The MSSN Board of Directors was comprised of individuals representing agencies and institutions that provide services to students at risk of school failure and their families. The primary purpose of the board and the organization is to develop a structure of support to improve upon the programs and services provided to children at risk of school failure and their families.

MSSN Mission: Missouri Student Success Network will establish a system that connects schools, parents and community agencies to a statewide network of support focused on increased success of Missouri's at-risk students.

MSSN Goals: To develop and implement a clearly articulated system of support and coordinated services between Missouri communities and state agencies; To link schools and community inter-agency teams in a collaborative process to address identified needs of at-risk students and families.

In February 2008, the organization began to focus its efforts specifically on the students, families and staff serving in alternative schools and programs. The advisory committee represented the Nixa, Moberly, Caruthersville and Hancock Place School Districts as well as the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education. The organization changed its name to the **Missouri Administrators of Alternative Schools** serving as a sub-organization under the Missouri Student Success Network umbrella. In February 2009 the advisory committee expanded to include

representatives from every region of the state. Following the retirement of Richard Phillips, the organization once again changed its name to the Missouri Alternative Education Network and became a separate 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization with bylaws and an Executive Board. Chris Denham of Mexico was elected the first president of the organization.

Conferences

MSSN held its first conference was held in October, 2008 in Columbia with 55 attending. In 2009 MAAS held its conference in conjunction with the Practical Parenting Partnerships organization at TanTarA, Osage Beach. In 2010 the MAEN held its conference at the Governor's Office Building with 67 attending. In 2012 the conference had out-grown its space and was moved to the Country Club Hotel & Spa and remains in that location to date. The conference and organization continues to grow in size and membership.

Key Personnel

Founders of the Organization

ASNA – Jim Daughtery; Dave Sullivan, DeLaSalle, Kansas City 1997- 2001

MSSN – Richard Phillips, Blue Springs 2001-2009

Presidents of MAEN

Chris Denham, Mexico 2009-2012

Ann Wall, Camdenton 2012-2016

Frances Gooden, Ozark 2016-2020

Amy McEvoy, St. Louis 2020 -