

**Missouri School Boards' Association**  
**PROPOSED 2015-16 PLATFORM STATEMENTS**  
"Helping School Boards Succeed"

SUBJECT: **Increased Funding for ROTC programs**

PROPOSED PLATFORM STATEMENT:

**"MSBA believes that in addition to an excellent academic education, relevance and rigor are essential elements in our student's learning to meet and exceed the challenges of our nation and world today.**

**Partnering with the United States of America's Armed Forces through the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program will provide real life opportunities, interest and patriotism for students wishing to serve our nation as a career.**

STATEMENT OF REASONS (Please indicate how the proposed platform statement relates to MSBA's mission statement):

**Partnerships with the Armed Forces can expand the opportunities for our students and benefit our country by early training of young people who could serve in one of the many branches of the Armed Forces. Through this partnership young people will experience the values, responsibilities, relevance and rigor necessary to meet the requirements of the military before graduation. This in turn will provide a growing and committed group of young people who could enter the military with a strong background and meet the stringent requirements for entry into the Armed Forces. Our local districts will be able to offer another resource to put relevance and rigor in our curriculum.**

**Community partnerships with the Armed Forces and local groups such as Veterans groups will help our local school boards make decisions on providing this relevant opportunity to our students. Local veterans groups could act as mentors and sponsors for this group of young people.**

**The ROTC program could also enable the aims of specific students who might need the structure and fiscal assistance to further their educational and life pursuits."**

This resolution could fit into all three categories below. Italics and underlining denote key existing statements.

**2. Family and Community Involvement** - *MSBA believes families and the community must work as partners with the public schools in order to provide a quality education for each child.*

*MSBA believes the public schools, in collaboration with communities and families, play a significant role in the coordination of comprehensive services designed to meet the needs of the children.*

*MSBA believes that business/education/community partnerships that support students and public schools are essential.*

**3. Standards and Curriculum** - *MSBA believes that PK-12 standards and curriculum must prepare all students to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Every student must have a challenging instructional program, which is relevant and prepares each student to enter the workforce or to continue his or her education. A school district's curriculum should also address ethics, character, values and democratic principles to prepare students for their role as citizens.*

*MSBA believes that the ultimate decisions establishing curriculum must be made at the local level and such curriculum must be inclusive to educate the whole student.*

*MSBA believes career, technical and vocational education programs are vital to the 21st century.*

**8. Federal Issues** - *MSBA believes that while public education is primarily a state and local responsibility, there are limited roles for the federal government. Local boards of education must be aware of federal issues impacting their districts and take appropriate positions.*

Date March 12, 2015

Submitted by:

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Please submit your proposed statements to:  
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**DEADLINE: April 3, 2015**

Following is additional information for our board – which would not be submitted with the resolution. I just wanted personally to hear how our legislators view the ROTC program and their commitment for or against increased funding. If I receive an answer I will share with our board. Nancy

Email Nancy sent to Representative Vicki Hartzler and Senator Claire McCaskill on 3/15/15

I have been on the Camdenton R-III School Board for 17 years. For many of these years, we have wished to start a ROTC program in our school district. In pursuing this idea, we have been told that these programs were being cut or funding not available. This program would give students the rigor and relevance they need to see the military as a career or at the very least encourage them to choose the military after graduation and serve their country.

Recently we heard alarming statistics that most young people who will apply in the future will not qualify to join the Armed Forces of the United States. ROTC programs in our high school will not only prepare students for the responsibilities and stringent requirements of the military, but will also give our military young persons committed to the mission and who will meet the requirements. ROTC programs will give students the opportunity to serve their country and gain the maturity, hunger for continued education, and then the resources to go back and complete a college or technical education.

Can you check into the funding being given to the military for ROTC programs and respond whether these programs are being cut, and if so, would you support reinstating their funding or increasing the funding for ROTC programs?