



East Prairie Schools

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. Aaron Cornman
Superintendent
aaron.cornman@eastprairie.org
573-649-3562

EAST PRAIRIE SCHOOL DISTRICT SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN NEW STATEWIDE INITIATIVE TO BOOST POSTSECONDARY OUTCOMES FOR RURAL STUDENTS

East Prairie High School to Hire College and Career Advisor to Provide Students College and Career Support

East Prairie, MO (December 3rd, 2021)—East Prairie School District announced it was selected to participate in the new Missouri Postsecondary Advising Initiative, which will place trained advisors into high schools across the state, alongside the current school counselor, to provide students with individualized college and career support. East Prairie High School is among 40 schools selected from across the state to participate in the initiative's inaugural cohort.

“East Prairie School District is extremely excited to offer this opportunity to support our students as they make plans for their future,” stated Dr. Aaron Cornman, Superintendent of East Prairie School District.

The [Missouri Postsecondary Advising Initiative](#) was launched in fall 2021 by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), in partnership with philanthropic organization rootEd Alliance. The three-year initiative, which is funded by federal COVID relief dollars, aims to ensure all high school students have an advisor exclusively focused on helping them achieve success following graduation. This is particularly true for students in rural communities, as research shows they are less likely to enroll in college than their peers, and they are less likely to finish.

Forty schools were selected to participate in the 2021-22 school year following a competitive application process. Schools were selected based on school and community need, COVID impact in the community, and geography. An additional 100 schools that applied but were not selected in the first round will begin the program in 2022-23.

Selected high schools are encouraged to hire dedicated college and career advisors by January 2022.



East Prairie Schools

These advisors will support students' postsecondary pursuits by:

- Developing and implementing individualized plans for postsecondary education and training;
- Identifying opportunities to secure financial aid, including completing the FAFSA;
- Supporting students as they work to enroll in college, earn a workplace credential, and/or enlist in the armed services; and
- Coaching students through the transition from high school to lifelong success.

Schools and advisors will receive operational support and ongoing training from rootEd Missouri. rootEd Missouri is a partnership between two organizations with deep roots in Missouri - Ozarks Technical Community College and rootEd Alliance.

###