



**July 21<sup>st</sup> SOC Meeting at 1 p.m. on Webex**

It's hard to believe, but back to school time is just around the corner...where did the summer go??? The return to school is a whirlwind of activities like enrollment, bus schedules, clothes, uniforms, supplies, and fees for this and fees for that. Things can easily become overwhelming for parents and children. Many of these families lack even basic necessities like stable housing or food, may have experienced repeated traumas, and/or struggle with mental health issues or substance abuse. These factors combined with limited resources have tragic outcomes. For example, approximately 23% of third-grade students in the Kansas City public and charter schools can read at grade level. The rate is estimated to be even lower in neighborhoods that are devoid of any resources and present with a multitude of systemic challenges. Literacy gaps along with other academic deficiencies often get worse with every school year. The good news is this does **NOT** have to be the case!

The July SOC meeting will focus on giving every child regardless of where they are from or what they do or do not have a great start to a new school year. There will be presentations on setting children up for academic success, dealing with bullies, and much more. Additionally, there will be information about resources including things the SOC can do to partner with all of you to ensure the needs of every child are met. All are welcome at the meeting so please feel free to forward this flyer and if anyone needs an invitation, please reach out to Jennifer at: [Jennifer.LHeureux@dmh.mo.gov](mailto:Jennifer.LHeureux@dmh.mo.gov).

