February 24, 2026

Midland Empire Conference (MEC) – Letter of Support: Conference Membership

Dear Superintendents and Activities Directors of Mexico Public Schools, Kirksville R-III School District, Moberly School District, and Marshall Public Schools,

On behalf of the Midland Empire Conference (MEC), thank you for your letter of interest and the time your districts invested in developing a conference expansion and divisional alignment proposal.

At the MEC Board of Controls meeting held Tuesday, February 24, member schools expressed strong support for the addition of Mexico, Kirksville, Moberly, and Marshall to the Midland Empire Conference. The discussion reflected a shared belief that your districts would be outstanding conference partners and that your inclusion would strengthen the MEC's long-term stability and opportunities for students.

Further, your proposal's emphasis on competitive balance, geographic considerations, and travel efficiency aligns with the conference's priorities as we work through the remaining steps of the process.

As we move forward, the Board of Controls will continue to review the practical components of membership, including:

- Conference governance and expectations
- Activity and scheduling alignment across sports and activities
- Transition timing and implementation planning
- Divisional structure considerations to promote rivalries and manage travel

Each MEC member school plans to consult with its local Board of Education to identify any potential concerns or obstacles as we move forward.

At this time, we anticipate that our April 9 in-person Board of Controls meeting will be an appropriate time to take a vote on the inclusion of your schools in the conference. We will be in touch ahead of that meeting to continue the conversation.

Sincerely,

Philip Pohren, Superintendent - Maryville R-II
Board of Controls Chair - Midland Empire Conference