



# Minnesota Independent School Forum (MISF): Benefits of Membership

## About Us:

Founded in 1976, the Minnesota Independent School Forum (MISF) is the largest membership organization serving the private and independent school sector in Minnesota. MISF provides programs, support, and a united voice to over 65,000 students and thousands of educators at private and independent schools throughout Minnesota. Our programs focus on the common needs of private schools; admissions/marketing, development, leadership and STEM education. With our strong and mature connections, MISF serves as the "access point" for our schools providing financial, professional development, and STEM resources that can often be a challenge for our schools on their own.

## Leader Testimonial:

*"MISF has built a consortium of private schools that cross denominational boundaries that are both religious and non-religious. You have this community of schools that are pooling resources, sharing ideas, and learning from one another which is such a unique model. They are partnering with us to develop the team members we need to fulfill our mission. That is incredibly valuable. "*

## Mission

MISF connects and strengthens Minnesota's independent schools through exceptional training, resources, and advocacy so they can be student-centered and mission-driven.



### STEM Programs and Grants

Membership provides eligibility for STEM grants up to \$7,500, high-quality STEM programming and resources provided by community partners, and reduced-price membership to the Science House, a resource center for educators at the Science Museum of Minnesota.



### Professional Development

In addition to an annual School Leadership Conference (with expert presenters, networking, and exclusive materials), you will have access to several seminars throughout the year with topics such as admissions/marketing, development/fundraising, and technology/STEM.

### Connecting and Convening

Becoming a member will help you stay connected to a network of schools, build capacity through access to critical resources so you are able to lead schools that thrive and meet the needs of students, families and staff.



### Advocacy

You can expect a strong, unified voice that monitors and protects K-12 public policy issues throughout the year. Our staff is always here with individualized advice and answers to your questions. Monthly E-Newsletters contain legislative updates, information, and resources for schools.



MINNESOTA  
INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL FORUM

# Minnesota Independent School Forum: At A Glance

Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Offerings

**33,795** Students Served

**156** Member Schools (50% Catholic, 25% Lutheran, 15% Interdenominational, 4% other religious affiliation, 6% independent.)

**85%** Engagement rate with member schools

**249** STEM Grants awarded since 2010

**23** STEM Grants awarded in 2018-19 totaling \$106,699

**9** Schools participated in the Community Partnership pilot program, allocating \$50,248 in additional STEM resources to schools

Member schools are eligible to apply for the following STEM Grants:

- **Starter Grants** – up to \$1500
- **Sustainability Grants** – up to 20%/original grant, not to exceed \$1500
- **Innovation Grants** – up to \$7500
- **Community Partnership Grants** – eligibility varies

**\$1,159,264** Awarded in STEM grants to schools since 2010

[www.misf.org](http://www.misf.org)

## August 8, 2019

STEM Education Conference (Benilde – St. Margaret’s School)

## September 23—25, 2019

School Leadership Conference (Ruttger’s Bay Lake Lodge)

## October 2019

Professional Development Seminar (Attend in-person or via webinar) - Date/Content TBD

## November 4, 2019

MISF STEM grant application guidelines, application forms and scoring rubrics released

## December 2019

Professional Development Seminar (Attend in-person or via webinar) - Date/Content TBD

## January 2020

Professional Development Seminar (Attend in-person or via webinar) - Date/Content TBD  
MN Private and Independent Education Awards— nominations open

## January 14, 2020

Due date for STEM Grant Letter of Interest

## January 26, 2020

National School Choice Week rally at the capital

## February 18, 2020

Due date for STEM Grant Final Applications

## March 2020

Professional Development Seminar (Attend in-person or via webinar) - Date/Content TBD

## April 26, 2020

Private and Independent Education Awards

- STEM Grant awardees recognized

## May 2020

Professional Development Seminar (Attend in-person or via webinar) - Date/Content TBD

