

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



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Letter from the President

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Schools,

The non-regulatory guidance for the [Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund \(ESSER\)](#) has been released by the US Department of Education. As indicated previously, the equitable participation provisions are favorable for private and independent schools. MISF is hosting webinars this week to ensure schools are informed and prepared to work collaboratively with LEAs to maximize services provided to your school. The webinar will be recorded and provided later this week if you are unable to participate in person. To register, [follow the link below](#).

During the last two months, MISF has been connecting and advocating across a diverse array of partners in nonpublic education, including:

- Conducting weekly meetings with the Nonpublic Ombudsman from the MN Department of Education to ensure consistent, accurate and timely information is conveyed to nonpublic schools
- Participating twice weekly in calls with similar state CAPE affiliate organizations to monitor national issues impacting nonpublic schools
- Facilitating several weekly collaborative meetings with regional, jurisdictional and diocesan leaders to coordinate, collaborate and communicate topics of mutual importance
- Submitting testimony to the House Education Finance committee and Senate E-12 Finance and Policy committees in favor of legislation to hold harmless nonpublic pupil transportation appropriation due to the stay at home order

The closure of this school year is unlike any previous. We send our very best wishes for a healthy and safe conclusion to this academic year.

To repeat from last month's newsletter, **"we hear you, and we're here for you."** MISF is honored to stand together, and at the center of the private and independent education ecosystem. Thank you for your belief and commitment to ensure healthy and thriving private and independent schools.



Tim Benz
President

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WEBINAR: What You Need to Know About the ESSER Fund

(Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief)

Thursday, May 14, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

This webinar is FREE for all Minnesota Nonpublic Schools, regardless of membership in MISF.

The US Department of Education has released guidance for the [Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund \(ESSER Fund\)](#), which is part of the CARES Act. As anticipated, there is a provision for equitable services to nonpublic schools.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NONPUBLIC SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

- The law requires equitable services be provided to nonpublic schools
- It's based on the Title I Part A formula, but distributed to nonpublics similar to a Title II or Title IV programs (total student enrollment)
- The law requires LEAs to conduct timely and meaningful consultation with ALL nonpublic schools in their LEA to meet the needs of the nonpublic schools through equitable services
- ALL nonpublic schools are eligible to participate, even if your school has not participated in federal Title/education programs in the past
- The permissible uses of these funds are expansive and have wide flexibility, but further guidance will be provided

Tim will provide an explanation of the guidance and present a handful of steps your school can take now to ensure participation and services for your school. Space is limited, so register today.

Click here to
REGISTER

NOTE: The webinar will be recorded and provided later this week if you are unable to participate in person

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STEM SCOOP

MISF STEM Education Conference

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and concerns about social distancing, **this year's STEM Education Conference will be a virtual conference, with programming held on Tuesday, Aug. 4, Wednesday, Aug. 5 and Thursday, Aug. 6.**

Enjoy the same robust content and learning activities to foster inquiry, problem-solving and engineering design processes... from your own home!

Watch your inbox for more information coming soon.

3M: Science at Home Program



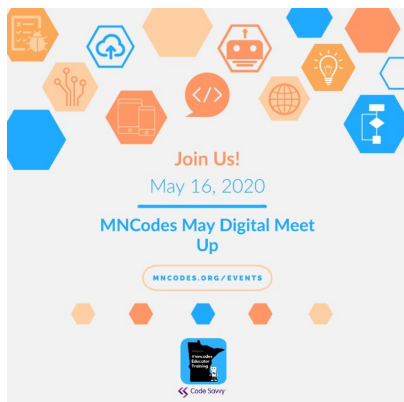
3M has launched a new, free-to-use digital program for teachers called [Science At Home](#), where 3M scientists and engineers will produce simple, educational experiments that reinforce core scientific principles using commonly found household items. It is fully accessible now.

3M's hope is that these easy to access resources can be of value to teachers in the coming weeks who are looking for additional educational content to support distance learning efforts. The educational content is geared toward students ages 6-12. All of the experiments follow the [Next Generation Science Standards](#), that we know the State of Minnesota uses to measure science-related education, and have been produced in partnership with the Bakken Museum in Minneapolis.

[Please take a look at the website and content at Science at Home](#) . They will be adding fresh content to the site each week.

MNCodes Digital Computer Science Ed PD & Meet Up

FREE Online K-12 computer science professional development event on Saturday, May 16th from 9-11:30am



This event is a chance for any K-12 educators who are interested in computer science, from across Minnesota, the US, and the world, to come together to connect, learn and share around topics of mutual interest. We will be crowdsourcing session topics ahead of time for this event via our Eventbrite registration form. Our plenary speaker for this event is David DeLiema speaking on Debugging and Productive Failure - check out his exciting work on our [latest Bytes of Inspiration video](#)! This event will have breakout sessions, open discussions, Q&A, resource sharing....and prizes!! Learn more and register here!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mncodes-digital-computer-science-ed-pd-meet-up-tickets-103271570046>

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WEBINAR: Navigating the College Process in the New COVID-19 World

This webinar is free for ALL Minnesota nonpublic school parents, families, faculty and staff

Pass this information on to your school community! Parents of high school students in grades 10-11 will not want to miss this important webinar.

**Tuesday, May 19
6:30 - 7:30 PM**

The Minnesota Independent School Forum is partnering with national expert Cozy Wittman from [College Inside Track](#) to host a must-see online event to provide guidance and answer your questions.

The already complicated college process just became more challenging for families in the wake of COVID-19.

Campus visits are cancelled, ACT test dates are postponed and more changes every day. How does a family conduct a search and choose a college in this new environment? Learn up-to-date info on topics such as:

- **What can I do if the college has canceled all tours?
- **What is happening with the ACT/SAT test?
- **What are ways I can reduce the cost of college?

This webinar is **free** for all Minnesota nonpublic school parents, families, faculty and staff. Space is limited, so register today!

**Click here to
REGISTER**

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COVID-19 Education Impact Innovative Response RFP

[The Ciresi Walburn Foundation for Children](#) seeks proposals from Twin Cities-based schools, community-serving organizations, and other education-focused nonprofits for funding for new, innovative, and/or highly-impactful programs and plans to provide academic instruction to historically underserved students in order to mitigate the impact of and help students catch up from learning loss due to the coronavirus crisis.

Proposals most likely to be selected for funding will:

- describe creative, imaginative, and/or research-backed programs and plans to boost academic achievement for students of color, English Learners, and students who qualify for free- and reduced-price lunch;

- be rigorous in leading students towards meeting grade-level standards;
- be "evergreen"-programs and plans that can be implemented in the near-term and also in future school years; and
- be replicable by other schools and organizations.

Proposals are due no later than Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 5 PM.

For more information, visit their website: <https://www.ciresiwalburnfoundation.org>.

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Important Dates to Remember

- May 14, 2020: Webinar: What You Need to Know About the ESSER Fund
- May 19, 2020: Webinar: Navigating the college process in the new COVID-19 World
- August 4-6, 2020: MISF Virtual STEM Education Conference
- September 28-30: MISF School Leadership Conference at Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort

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