

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 2019-20 academic year will be remembered for many reasons; the sudden stoppage, distance learning, and the unique and unforgettable end of year/graduation celebrations. MISF extends our thanks, tips our hats and raises our glasses to all teachers, leaders, students and families who have endured a disruption unlike any other.

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) announced their interpretation of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) and Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Funds as part of the CARES Act. **Unfortunately, it does not follow the [guidance](#) issued by the United States Department of Education (USDE) to provide equitable services to nonpublic school students based on total enrollment.** MISF remains in close and frequent communication to advocate that nonpublic schools must be served equitably. It is expected a final rule will be issued by the US Department of Education (USDE) to remove confusion related to equitable services for nonpublic students. MISF has been proactive to ensure private and independent schools are informed and prepared to fully advocate for their equitable share of services and resources from the CARES Act legislation.

Visit the [MDE CARES Act website](#) for more information, including documents related to Nonpublic Equitable Services. To learn which parts of the ESSER/GEER funds your school may be eligible, [visit this list of LEAs and the corresponding programs eligible for participation](#).

Throughout these last three months, it has become abundantly clear the need for an organization like MISF is critical. MISF stands together, and at the center, to ensure a strong and unified voice for private and independent schools in Minnesota. Which leads me to...

MISF annual membership begins on July 1. If you are a current member, thank you. You see firsthand the resources provided and the benefits to you and your school. Our member retention has been over 94% for the last two years, indicating a high level of satisfaction - **we need you**. For those who are not currently members, by joining MISF, you will be connected to a robust, active and respected voice for your schools and students. We like to say, "be independent, not alone."

Without the support of donors, funders and members, MISF would be unable to fill this critical role. Please [reach out to me directly](#) to learn more.

Thank you for your commitment and belief in the power of private and independent education.



Tim Benz
President

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MISF STEM Education Conference

Conference will take place virtually on August 4-6th

While in-person conferences are hard to beat, this year's MISF STEM Education Conference needs to go virtual. We'll rely heavily on the "T" in STEM (technology) to meet your professional development needs. The conference will take place from Tuesday, August 4 through Thursday, August 6.

We are confident this virtual conference will provide the same high quality STEM professional development you've come to expect at our in-person STEM Education Conference.

The conference is for grade K-12 educators and leaders. Your school does not need to be a member of MISF to attend.

Conference Features

- Presenters you know and love as well as some interesting new ones
- Earn CEU's for each session you attend up to 9 CEU's for entire conference
- Access to recorded webinars

Conference Schedule

- Two breakout sessions each day
- 9:30 - 11:00 AM
- 1:00 - 2:30 PM
- Each breakout session offers 2-3 different presentations
- [CLICK HERE](#) to view list of presentations with recommended grade ranges
- Attendees will choose breakout sessions upon registering

Registration and Fees

- MISF Member Schools - \$35
- Nonmember Schools - \$105
- [CLICK HERE](#) to see if your school is a member of MISF

Title Funds may be available to cover registration fees. Check with your local school district for more details.

Registration fees are nonrefundable; however, registrations are transferable.

Featured Content

Mistakes, Failure and Confusion: Essentials in Creating a Culture of Learning Paul Bernabei, Top 20 Training

If we want students to explore and create, we need to establish a culture of learning in which mistakes, failure, and confusion are celebrated. This session focuses on (1) the negative beliefs students often have when they make mistakes, fail, or experience confusion; (2) how these beliefs keep them stuck in their comfort zone; and (3) how we can help students move into their curious zone by more effectively responding to and celebrating student mistakes, failure, and confusion.

Integrating Computer Science into other Content Areas Sarah Carter, Minnesota Department of Education

All students, even at the youngest levels, need opportunities to engage in computational thinking and computer science. But, the school day is already full-so what can we do? In this session we will explore activities that integrate computer science with other content areas. We'll look at the Computer Science Framework and the CSTA standards and have a conversation about connections to other content areas. Attendees will also be encouraged to share their experiences with integration, including best practices and tools.

[Click here to REGISTER](#)

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[Funded STEM Program Opportunity for MISF Member Schools](#)

Solar Suitcase Capstone Project (2020-2021)



MISF is inviting member schools that serve 11th grade students to apply for a **FULLY FUNDED STEM Program** in partnership with We Share Solar® and the WEM Foundation.



The Solar Suitcase Capstone Project 2020-2021 is a pilot program that integrates Social Studies with STEM curriculum for an interdisciplinary project-based learning experience. The program targets Grade 11 STEM-subject and Social Studies teachers who would team-teach in a multidisciplinary approach to student engagement. Learning will focus on the science of solar and the social studies of

global energy access and inequality. Project-based learning methods will incorporate capstone-style engagement by addressing essential questions and promoting independent, innovative, entrepreneurial thinking.

Application Details

- MUST be a MISF member in the 2020-21 year to participate
- 11 MISF member schools will be chosen to participate
- MISF is coordinating the application process for member schools
- Teacher training will be delivered virtually with self-paced modules beginning in Aug/Sept and a full day of virtual training on Oct. 15, 2020
- Curriculum will provide approximately 10 - 15 STEM lessons and 5 - 10 Social Studies lessons
- **Application deadline: Friday, June 26, 2020 - Complete Letter of Interest Application**
- [CLICK HERE to Complete Letter of Interest Application](#)



Program Flyer

- [Click here for more details](#)

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Membership Renewal Period Begins on July 1

Watch your inbox for information



MISF stands together, and at the center, to ensure a strong and unified voice for private and independent schools in Minnesota. Annual membership renewal begins on July 1, when invoices will be sent to member schools. If you are a current member, thank you. You see firsthand the resources provided and the benefits to you and your school.

For the 2020-2021 school year, dues are **\$4.75 per student; or \$265 for schools with 55 or fewer students**. Member schools may pay an additional per student "opt-in" fee and receive an annual membership to the Science Museum of MN's Lending Library Educator Resource Center, a resource facility available September through May. [Click here for more information about member benefits](#). We look forward to serving you in the next school year.

There are new member incentives for schools newly joining MISF! [Contact Tim Benz for more information](#).

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Important Dates to Remember

- July 1, 2020: Membership renewal begins
- 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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