



MINNESOTA
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL FORUM

May 2021 Newsletter

Be Independent, not alone

2021 Private & Independent Education Awards

[Watch the livestream replay here.](#)

Admissions Professional Development Webinar
June 17, 2021
12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

The Ride to Independent Schools

[Read more](#)

MISF STEM Learning Community

[Read more](#)

MISF Jobs Board

Member schools can post job listings for free.

[Read more](#)

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education:

As we near the end of the 2020-21 school year, MISF offers a profound "THANK YOU" to the leaders, educators, staff and students across Minnesota. The grace, strength and patience shown by everyone is to be commended and applauded. Here's to a return to a "normal" school year and very limited use of the terms "contact tracing, quarantines and schedule resets."

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2021 MN Private and Independent Education Awards. Please take the time to watch [the replay of the event](#), including [the videos produced to highlight each of these deserving recipients](#). Thank you to Rosa Miller, presenting sponsor and Mairs & Power and Catapult Learning as premier sponsors of this important event to celebrate the people, programs and volunteers in schools.

Mark your calendars for September 27-29, 2021, for the 2021 School Leadership Conference at Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort. As of now, we're planning to come together for an in-person experience. More information on topics and schedule to follow. Don't miss out!

According to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), 232 nonpublic school applications for the Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools (EANS I) were approved. MDE remains on schedule to release final allocations this week. Further information on reimbursement should follow shortly thereafter.

Tim Benz
President

WHAT DO
EDUCATORS
SAY ABOUT
GRADELINK?



*This newsletter sponsored
by Gradelink*

**MISF Members get 50%
off set up!**

Gradelink is an easy student information system that helps you

improve enrollment and fulfill your mission. Pricing starts at just \$97/mo for 50 students. Watch an instant demo at [Gradelink.com](https://www.gradelink.com).

MISF Member Discount

Use coupon code **MISF** and get 50% off the setup of EnrollMe for online admissions. Offer expires 6/30/2021.

I'm Steven Lockwood, I am a private school advocate, a former teacher and I want to see you thrive. Contact me for more information.



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2021 Private and Independent Education Awards Videos Available to Stream or Download

Thanks to everyone who joined us in celebrating the 2021 Private and Independent Education Awards. All of the individual recipient award videos are available online in [our Vimeo showcase](#). The replay of the entire livestreamed event is [available here](#).

STEM SCOOP



SAVE THE DATE!
STEM EDUCATION VIRTUAL/ONLINE CONFERENCE
Tuesday, August 3 2021: 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Wednesday, August 4, 2021: 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

The 2021 virtual two-day conference will provide a selection of breakout sessions that allow teachers to share effective resources, expertise, lessons, and strategies.

Featured Session: Keynote Speaker:
Engaging Disengaged Students
Presented by Paul Bernabei, Top 20 Training

Registration begins soon! Watch your inbox and the [MISF Website](#) for more information.

Science Standards Implementation Delay/ Transition to the New Standards

To provide flexibility for districts in implementing new standards as the state emerges from COVID-19, MDE will be delaying the required implementation of the Science standards to the 2024-25 school

year. The rulemaking process to allow flexibility for implementation needs. With science in the rulemaking process, MDE will use that opportunity to update the proposed rule language to reflect the new implementation date. Since the MCAs are based on the standards, the Science MCA – IV will be delayed until the spring of 2025 for grades five, eight, and high school. Although districts are not required to begin work to implement the standards, MDE will continue to engage in test specifications and development to be prepared for the MCA – IVs in spring of 2025.

With the delay of the date for full implementation of the new standards, districts and teachers will need to decide if they want to delay the transition timeline they may have developed. One factor they may be considering is that the MCA exam will not transition to the new standards until spring 2025. However the new standards and the shifts in pedagogy associated with them are likely to result in improved science learning and it would be wise to give students those opportunities as soon as is feasible. Plus the improved learning may help them perform better on the current MCA. Districts have several factors to consider in their transition plans, including staffing, curriculum materials, and time for planning. [Read John Olson's article](#) about the standards delay and planning for the transition.

What is Social Justice Teaching in the Science Classroom? NSTA Virtual Miniseries: June 5, 12, 19, 26

Join NSTA for this special four-part, interactive, virtual miniseries, which is jointly hosted by the Association for Multicultural Science Education (AMSE) and NSTA's Committee on Multicultural / Equity in Science Education. Scheduled throughout the month of March, this miniseries is your source for resources and strategies for motivating and enhancing the participation of traditionally underrepresented students in science through the lens of equity and social justice. All sessions are Saturdays 10:30 – 1:00 Central Time. Information, [What IS Social Justice Teaching in the Science Classroom? | NSTA](#)

- June 5: Designing for Rightful Presence in K-12 Science Teaching and Learning
- June 12: Critical Affinity Spaces for Science Educators
- June 19: Toward Field-Based Science Education that Contributes to Just, Sustainable and Culturally Thriving Worlds
- June 26: Defining Social Justice in our Science Classroom

Three-Dimensional Instruction Workshops

These free workshops are provided by Activate Learning, a curriculum publisher, for Minnesota educators. Three-Dimensional Learning to Promote Student Engagement, June 16, 8 – 10 AM, online. Led by Joe Krachik, Framework writer and IQUST curriculum author. A Framework for K–12 Science Education provides a new vision for science teaching and learning that focuses science teaching on helping students figure out phenomena and design solutions to problems. Classrooms incorporating three-dimensional learning will have students build models, design investigations, share ideas, develop explanations, and argue using evidence. Teachers will develop a deeper understanding of three-dimensional learning and the value of figuring out phenomena.

Registration, [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Code Savvy ~ MN Codes Cohort

Code Savvy has some exciting news to share - the applications for the 21-22 [MNCodes Coding in the Classroom Leadership Cohort](#) are open now through May 31st! Each school year the cohort meets once a month to explore different aspects of computer science education, everything from learning different tools to equitable best practices to integrating CS with other content areas. The cohort focuses on research based practices as well as building a strong network to share ideas and questions. You don't want to miss this great opportunity to dive deep into CS education! You can view more information below, as well as on the [cohort website](#).
ALSO!

We wanted to remind you that registration for the May 15 CS Workshops is open now, and the day is coming up soon! You won't want to miss this great morning of diving deep into various CS ed topics. CSTA MN members get free registration, and you can even sign up now to be a CSTA member at [minnesota.csteachers.org](#) and still get a free registration to the workshop! Details on how to receive

the free workshop registration are distributed through CSTA MN. [You can find details and register for the workshops here.](#)

Science Update May 2021

Read the MDE Science Update for May 2021 [here](#).

Admissions Professional Development Webinar The Ride to Independent Schools June 17, 2021 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

The process for families of choosing an independent school is a journey. It involves much consideration, a great deal of investigation and ultimately critical decision-making. This session will share insights from The Enrollment Management Association's special report The Ride to Independent Schools 2020-2021 featuring insights, data, and recommendations based on a survey of nearly 3,000 families during the summer of 2020. The more that schools can appreciate and understand what parents are thinking and how they are feeling at each stage of that ride, the better they will be at meeting parents' needs and concerns. Empowered by the insights of parents, schools can create a process that is meaningful and satisfying, which in turn will help with schools' enrollment.



Dave Taibl, Director of Business Development at The Enrollment Management Association, has truly “done it all” at independent schools. Since he joined our team in 2012, his nearly two decades’ experience in schools has strengthened his work with – and on behalf of – schools. Starting in 1993, Dave worked as dorm parent, coach, English teacher, director of admission, dean of students, and assistant head of school (responsible for enrollment management and fund-raising) at Christchurch School, St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes School, and Stuart Hall, all in Virginia.

He has also used his experience in community-building and education in serving as general manager of an adaptive reuse, commercial real estate development project in Staunton, Virginia; in that role, he oversaw the renovation and marketing to promote and align the company’s objectives with broader community goals for the city’s original high school building. Dave holds a bachelor’s degree in English literature from Washington College and a master’s of education from the University of Virginia’s Curry School of Education.

Click here to
REGISTER

MDE Federal/Title Programs Update

Unspent Title I, Title II, Title III, and/or Title IVA funds are carried into the school next year when a Local Educational Agency (LEA) does not

spend the full nonpublic equitable share in a given year. These unspent funds will remain reserved for services to the original nonpublic school to use until they expire (after 27 months) or unless the nonpublic school declines the use of the funds. LEAs are encouraged to consult with nonpublic school officials to create a plan for using funds in a timely way. If a nonpublic school is not on track to use the services funded by the equitable share, then the LEA may request the nonpublic school consider releasing funds to be used for services at other nonpublic schools within the LEA boundaries.

Nonpublic school officials are strongly encouraged to consider their needs and, if they will not use all of the services, release funds to be used elsewhere in order to avoid having funds returned to the federal government.



For additional information, contact Alicia Waeffler, ESEA/ESSA Nonpublic Ombudsman,

Radon in Nonpublic Schools: 2021 Updates

This announcement about radon in schools is intended for nonpublic school officials, service providers and other stakeholders.

Radon testing in schools is not required, but it is recommended (currently). Service providers and school staff must have a MDH issued radon license to conduct testing or mitigation (except if they own or lease the property and are not compensated for the radon work). To be exempt from a license, the individual would need to do the radon work for free and their name would need to be listed on the title, deed, lease, or equivalent legal document. It is unlikely school staff would meet the exemption. This license requirement is a result of the enactment of the MN Radon Licensing Act (MRLA).

We have updated the state's school 'Radon Testing Plan'. School districts that receive authority to use long-term facilities maintenance revenue to conduct radon testing must follow the state's 'Radon Testing Plan'. School districts must report radon test results to MDH. Except for the licensing requirement, nonpublic schools that choose to test should use this testing plan as best practice. The school radon guidance has also been updated. The updated information is available on the [MDH Radon in Schools](#) website.

MDH is hosting a webinar about radon in schools on May 18, 1 – 2 pm. The agenda includes radon basics, test results reported to MDH, and updates to the testing plan and reporting form. You will need to [register for the webinar](#).

Please contact the MDH Indoor Air Unit with any questions.

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New Member Benefit THE VAULT

MISF is proud to announce a partnership with **CARE Counseling** to bring member schools invaluable resources to **teach social and emotional learning (SEL) as well as practice self resiliency**.



The VAULT is a customized online portal uniquely created for MISF member schools. Think of this as an “on-demand” library of videos to support your vocation as a leader, educator, or school staff. **This is a NEW member benefit that we hope you will find helpful.**

SEL provides a foundation for safe and positive learning, and enhances students' ability to succeed in school, careers, and life as well as provides additional support to LEADERS, EDUCATORS, AND STAFF.

- The Vault is a FREE RESOURCE for MISF member schools
- Each individual user will create their own username and password so they can work through the modules at their own pace
- Videos are divided by topic
- New content will be added monthly
- On-demand, self-paced video resources
- Earn CEUs - certificates will be generated upon completion of each module

[Click here to read more about this new member benefit.](#)

Join the MISF Member School Network

We would like to invite MISF members to join us on the MISF Member School Network, a private, personalized MISF Group, in partnership with ChangeMakers for Impact.

Participation in this collaborative network is a NEW member benefit that we believe will be of high value as we continue to navigate an ambiguous educational environment. There has never been a greater need for leaders to have a place online where they can connect and be resourced that is accessible anytime.

This NEW member benefit will provide member schools with FREE access to our private group - MISF Member School Network and the larger **ChangeMaker for Impact Network**.

[Click here for more information on this member benefit.](#)

Important Dates to Remember

- Thursday, June 17: Admissions Professional Development Workshop
- Tuesday August 3 - Wednesday, August 4: STEM Education Conference
- Monday, September 27- Wednesday, September 29: School Leadership Conference