



MINNESOTA
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL FORUM

September 2021 Newsletter

Be Independent, Not Alone

Be sure your school's faculty and staff have subscribed to our newsletter!

Important information about STEM grants, Professional Development sessions, advocacy, conferences and more.

[Share the link.](#)

MISF STEM Learning Community

[Read more](#)

MISF Jobs Board

Member schools can post job listings for free.

[Read more](#)

School Leadership Conference

Learn more and register today!

[Read more](#)

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education:

A warm welcome back to the 2021-22 school year! While it's not exactly "business as usual," MISF commends school leaders, educators and families in all their efforts to bring a sense of normalcy to this school year.

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) submitted the state application to the US Department of Education (USDE) for the second round of Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools (EANS II or ARP-EANS). The state is awaiting formal approval from USDE. It's no secret that portions of the EANS programs are quite restrictive and make it difficult to get the help your school needs. MISF worked very closely and consulted with MDE to develop the application while ensuring the maximum amount of eligible schools. More information will be shared once MDE receives approval.

Key difference in between EANS I and EANS II are:

- EANS II does not allow for reimbursement of previous expenditures. Participating schools must submit any reimbursable expenses from their EANS I allocations
- Greater emphasis on nonpublic schools that "enroll a significant percentage of students from low-income families" – this is where MISF encouraged an alternate calculation to maximize participation
- Applications to eligible schools must be distributed 30 days after the state plan is approved. Eligible and participating schools will have 30 days to complete their application
- More information in ARP-EANS can be found https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/07/ARP-EANS-Application-7.7.21_FINAL.pdf

The MISF School Leadership Conference remains the premier gathering of private and independent school leaders. More information can be found below. Take the time to register today to join a growing list of leaders attending.

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

Tim Benz
President

This month's newsletter is sponsored by



[ToucanTech](#) welcomes you back to school! To help make sure your team has the tools it needs to succeed this year, ToucanTech is giving every MISF school \$100 worth of stationery when they receive a 45 minute demo of the ToucanTech development and enrollment software before the end of September. [Learn how ToucanTech can make your workday a little easier and get in touch today.](#)



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2021 SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



After a one year hiatus, the [16th Annual MISF School Leadership Conference](#) is on and registration is open. The conference is an **exclusive member benefit** and the premier gathering for private and independent school leaders.

Topics for this year's conference are designed to build off the remarkable strength, agility and success shown by nonpublic school leaders and communities over the past 18 months. We

invite you to immerse yourself into this unique opportunity to connect and network with other leaders, receive high quality professional development and recharge after a busy start to the school year.

Receive 5.5 BOSA-approved clock hours for attending.

Special pricing for first-time attendees is available!

Dates: September 27-29, 2021

Location: Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort, Deerwood, Minnesota

Deadline to register is Wednesday, September 22nd. Cancellations received after that date are not refundable, but are transferable.

Conference topics include

- Digital Wellbeing
- Managing Stress From the Inside Out
- Moving toward Growth Mindset
- Working with the Media: Your Role, Your Mindset, Your Message
- Advocacy 101: Your voice matters at the State Capitol

[Click here for the conference agenda](#) (tentative - times subject to change)

[Click here to register](#)

STEM SCOOP

Are you feeling overwhelmed about integrating STEM into your already packed school day? If so, you may want to read this article to see if any of these myths of STEM education are getting in your way.

[Seven Myths of STEM](#)

MnSTA's Annual Conference on Science Education

Save the date and plan to share your great ideas. Presenters get a 50% discount on the fee. More Information. [MnSTA - MnCOSE21: Save the Date!](#)

*Be recognized for going green: Green Ribbon Awards

The Green Ribbon Schools Award from the U.S. Department of Education honors schools, districts and higher education institutions that save energy and reduce operating costs, create environmentally friendly learning spaces, promote student health, and incorporate environmental sustainability into the curriculum. Awardees receive a plaque for the school, local recognition, and an invitation to the national award ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Schools compete an application that documents their accomplishments and submits it to the MN Dept. of Education by early January. Most Minnesota schools that submit a quality application receive the national award. More Information and application materials. [Green Ribbon Schools \(mn.gov\)](#)

More Support for Going Green

Picture this: One step at a time... , teams of schools, districts, students, parents, and a supporting community of volunteers, non-profits, businesses, and local and state government agencies all working together to help schools and their community take actions and build their capacity to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future: preparing children for a changing economy, protecting our environment and community health, and harvesting the benefits of a clean energy future—all with guidance, assistance, and recognition from MN GreenStep Schools.

Minnesota GreenStep Schools program a free and voluntary statewide best practices framework, community of practice, and recognition program for public and private K-12 schools and districts to reduce environmental impact and costs, improve health and well-being of students and staff, and provide effective environmental and sustainability education. More Information [MN GreenStep Schools \(google.com\)](#)

Reach for the Stars

Many competitions, out-of-school programs and field trip opportunities are listed in the [Reach for the Stars Catalog of Programs and Activities.](#)

Minnesota Forests: Ojibwe and Dakota PLT Lessons

Use Minnesota forests as your "window to the world" to integrate indigenous Ojibwe and Dakota content into your K-8 curriculum. Your students will love the hands-on learning and connections to the real world!

MN Project Learning Tree has developed [seven lessons](#) to help meet Minnesota's academic standards in science, social studies, and ELA, while sharing relevant, place-based knowledge about the people who have inhabited our state for hundreds of years. The webpage also includes important teacher tools for understanding about [Indian lands in](#)

[Minnesota](#), [treaties](#), [vocabulary](#), and pronunciation guides, and more.

FREE STEM Resources



PBS Learning Media has free videos, interactive lessons, lesson plans, and more for preK through grade 12 teachers. All resources are aligned to Minnesota and national standards.

pbslearningmedia.org

KQED, San Francisco's PBS station, has free professional development courses focused on media literacy, including photography, podcasting, story-telling, and critical media use. They also have youth-focused courses on critical thinking and media making for students in grades 6 – 12.

kqed.org/education

TPT Learn is Twin Cities PBS's source for all things education in Minnesota. Here you will find curated and localized media content, as well as events and professional development opportunities, and ways to get involved. tpt.org/learn/educators

Membership Renewal

MISF's membership year is July 1 to June 30. For the 2021-2022 school year, dues are \$5.00 per student, or \$275 for schools with 55 or fewer students. Associate membership dues are \$275.

Invoices were emailed to all member schools and associate members on July 1. If you need a copy of your invoice, contact our business manager, Debbie Kaliszewski, at dkalis@misf.org.

There are incentives for new members! If you'd like to learn more about MISF membership, [visit our website](#) or contact Tim Benz at tbenz@misf.org.

We look forward to serving you in the coming school year.

MDE & MDH Updates



COVID-19 Coordinator Contact Information

As we get ready for the upcoming school year, we ask that superintendents, charter directors, tribal school leaders and nonpublic school leaders submit email addresses for their School COVID-19 Program Coordinators so that we can share important information with the appropriate staff. Complete the [2021-22 School COVID-19 Coordinators](#) contact information form.

BCA to Launch App for Reporting Threats to Schools

We wanted to be sure you are aware that later this month, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) will be launching an app through a national crime tip platform to provide a statewide method for reporting threats of school violence in our state.

[See the full message](#) from Drew Evans at the BCA. Additional information will be provided for school leaders soon. No action is needed from you at this time, this message is just for awareness.

Host a Community COVID-19 Vaccination Event

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), local health departments, vaccine providers, and community partners are working together to provide local community vaccination opportunities. Community vaccination events bring vaccines to people who would otherwise have a hard time getting vaccinated

For more information about hosting a vaccination event, [click here](#).

COVID Communication Guidelines from #SS4EDU



Tips from Andrea Gribble, Social Media Storyteller and Founder of [#SocialSchool4EDU](#)

Are you overwhelmed with COVID updates and mask protocols?

Are you struggling with the best way to communicate these things with your school community?

I know you're shaking your head "yes." The entire #SchoolPR world is nodding along with you.

I've got a quick tip that should help:

Celebration = Social Media Information = Direct Communication

Experience has shown that posting COVID/mask updates on social media can quickly get out of hand. Folks sometimes don't realize they are arguing underneath a post on a district or school's Facebook page. Other times, they are well aware of what they are doing.

Such discussion is best left off of an official page and best had one on one. Furthermore, not everyone is on social media and due to the algorithm, not everyone will see that piece of information in a timely manner.

For more tips from Andrea and more information about #SocialSchool4EDU, [head to her website](#).

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.](#)

Important Dates to Remember

- Monday, September 27- Wednesday, September 29: School Leadership Conference