

Original research

- The big goal
 - MISF connects and strengthens Minnesota's independent schools through exceptional training, resources, and advocacy.
- Professional development resources
- Networking/connecting
 - Supporting leaders
 - Part of a larger body
- Advocacy
- STEM grants and resources

Needs assessment

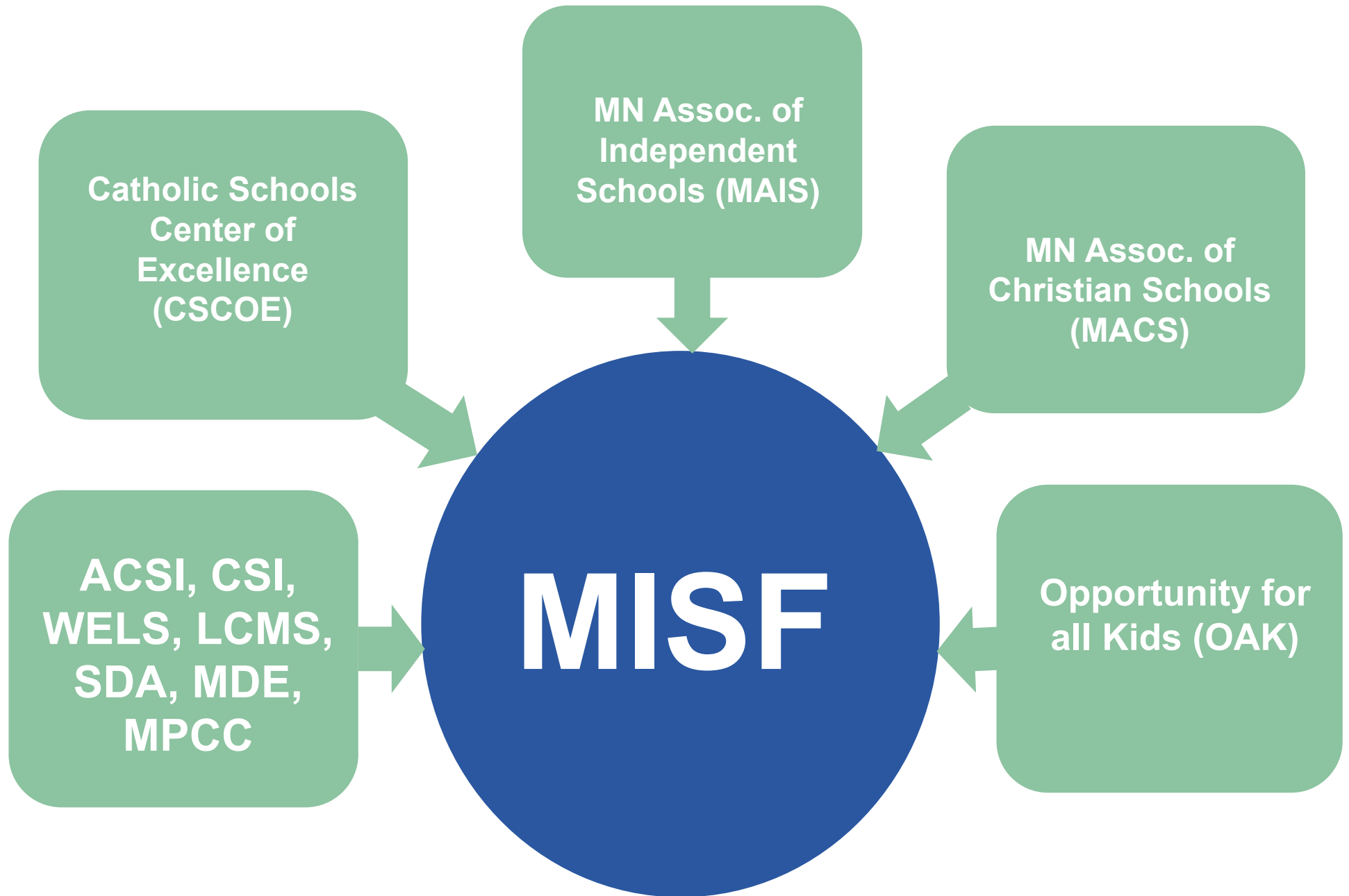
- Needs assessment – 116 responses (September, 2019)
 - STEM
 - Educational technology (apps, drones, robotics), makerspaces
 - Admissions
 - enrollment best practices – what's working?
 - Social media comm./marketing
 - Development
 - general development/advancement topics
 - utilizing events in a fundraising strategy
 - Leadership
 - building an effective team
 - cultural competencies
 - Other
 - student mental health resources
 - social emotional learning

Program/PD opportunities

- STEM
 - Grants, community partnerships, education and resources
- Admissions/marketing
- Fundraising/development/advancement
- Leadership
 - Conference, alternate mid-year gathering
- SEL and mental health
- ESSA, Nonpublic pupil aids
- Teacher relicensing needs

Topics with future impact

- Funding changes and challenges (corps and foundations)
 - Restricted, designated, funder directed(narrow)
 - Underserved, under resourced (definition)
 - Geographic focus (+/- as a statewide org.)
 - Gen op support
- Employee engagement or involvement
- Heavy reliance (historical) on limited pool of funders/donors
- Small individual donor pool
 - Need for a “door opener” event



Who else and how does it fit together?

- Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE)
 - Elementary Catholic schools in the Archdiocese
 - Mission - enhance excellence and increase enrollment in our 79 preschool-8th grade Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis in Minnesota.
 - ...sharing innovative ideas, sound business practices, proven strategies, and financial resources to help meet each schools' individual goals.
 - 41 schools are members of MISF

Who else and how does it fit together?

- MN Association of Independent Schools (MAIS)
 - Mission ...support and connect Independent Schools in Minnesota
 - Working to foster and preserve the independence and freedom of choice in education.
 - Providing a forum for professional development and the exchange of ideas among faculty and staff.
 - Fostering communication, collaboration, and support across leadership at member schools.
 - Promoting the features and benefits of Independent Schools to prospective families and employees
 - 17 schools – 3 are members of MISF

Who else and how does it fit together?

- MN Association of Christian Schools (MACS)
 - Purpose - to aid in promoting, maintaining and improving the moral, spiritual and academic standards of Christian schools in the state of Minnesota...combating those forces which would attempt to hinder or destroy the freedom of Christian schools to exist and flourish.
 - A state-wide fall Teachers' Convention, Academic, Fine Arts, Music, Speech & Bible Festivals, State-wide athletic organization, Boys soccer & basketball, Girls volleyball, basketball, soccer, Legislative monitoring and state-wide phone tree, Annual Legislative Breakfast, Newsletter (Aug., Oct., Dec., Feb., April, June), Free Consulting Service for schools' questions and needs.
 - 17 schools – no MISF members

Who else and how does it fit together?

- MN Conference of Seventh Day Adventists
 - Local office, 2 members (13 schools), long connection to MISF
- Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS)
 - Office staff, strong connection to MISF, 18 members (50+ schools)
- Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
 - Local volunteer rep, strong connection to MISF, 8 members (20 schools)
- Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
 - Local volunteer rep, good connection to MISF
 - Tend to be more independent
- Christian Schools International (CSI)
 - Local volunteer rep, 4 members (5 schools)

How do we?

- Elevate our difference
 - advocacy, all inclusive
- Expand membership in a shrinking market
 - Fewer schools and students
- Define “market share”
 - What matters more - schools or students?
- Build on the engagement journey
- Define org outcomes

How do we?

- Expand our base of support
 - “MISF does not have any graduates”
 - What you get vs. what you are part of
- Define and ensure long-term viability of MISF
 - What happens if MISF isn't there?
- Partner for business purposes
- Fund it all