



## November 2021 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education:

Since July 1, 2021, 12 schools have joined as new members of MINNDEPENDENT. This growth has increased our current membership to 167 schools – the highest number of members in the organization’s history. These schools have found great value in being connected to our statewide network. Common reasons for joining include timely information and communication, a consistent voice at the state level and a place to make valuable professional connections with fellow leaders. We are grateful and humbled by the trust placed in MINNDEPENDENT by so many schools. If you’re not currently a member, [email me](#) and we can discuss how membership will support you and your school community.

The feedback on our new brand, identity and organizational name has been very positive. Please forgive a bit of “dual personality” as we formally transition from MISF to MINNDEPENDENT. We are actively working to align our physical and digital presence under one common identity, over the coming weeks.

Thank you to the 91 nonpublic schools that have completed our advocacy enrollment survey. The information gathered in this survey helps us to plan our 2022 legislative and advocacy strategies. The survey will remain open through Friday, November 12 and takes just a few minutes to complete.

You will note the detailed information on the 2021-22 STEM Grant program calendar below. This is a very valuable member benefit and has made significant impact on schools across our diverse membership.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to private and independent education.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tim Benz'.

Tim Benz, President

### We've moved!

5200 Willson Road  
Suite 310  
Edina, MN 55424

**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](#)

MINNDEPENDENT STEM  
Learning Community

[READ MORE](#)

**MINNDEPENDENT Jobs Board**  
Member schools can post job listings for free.

[READ MORE](#)

This month's MINNDEPENDENT Newsletter is sponsored by



## Drive Enrollment with Your Website

Getting families to schedule a tour at your school doesn't have to be a struggle. Gradelink school websites use proven marketing principles with a robust, easy-to-use platform to drive enrollment. [Watch a demo.](#)



## STEM Scoop

### 2021-2022 STEM Grant Program

We are excited to announce the kick-off of the **2021/2022 MINNDEPENDENT STEM Grant Program**. Once again there are three types of STEM Grants available to fit your school's needs.

- Innovation Grants - up to \$5000
- Starter Grants - up to \$1500
- Sustainability Grants - up to 20% of the original grant, not to exceed \$1500

**STEM Grant Resource  
Page**

### Resources Available on STEM Grant Page

- STEM Grant Program Calendar
- STEM Grant Guidelines
- Academic Standards and Other STEM nt Resources
- Letter of Interest (LOI) Form
- Grant Application Form
- Project Descriptions of STEM Grant Awarded Last Six Years

### How To Write a Winning MINNDEPENDENT STEM Grant Proposal

**Webinar - Thursday, Dec. 9 from 3:30 - 4:45 PM**

In this session, new and experienced grant writers will learn tips for writing stronger MISF STEM Grant applications. Beth will also share what MISF's STEM Advisory Committee often looks for when they review grant proposals and make funding recommendations.



**Beth Murphy Ph.D.**  
STEM Program Manager

**Register  
Today**

**If you have questions about the MINNDEPENDENT STEM Grant Program feel free to reach out to us.**

**Beth Murphy, Ph.D.,**

**Lisa Vosbeek**

## Getting Ready for the New Minnesota Science Standards

Self-paced online professional development in partnership with  
Science from Scientists

### Earn 6 CEUs

**\$75 for MISF Members**  
use discount code MISF75  
Regular Price: \$89

### REGISTER NOW

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*Do I have to use PayPal to pay for the course?*

At this time we only offer online payments through PayPal. You can pay with any major credit card and do not need to have a PayPal account for this option.

*Is it possible to invoice my school?*

We allow invoicing for groups of four or more registering together. For more information please contact Renee Piersa at **renee@sciencefromscientists.org**.

In this self-paced online course, you'll engage with the Science & Engineering Practices and Crosscutting Concepts – central to MN's new science standards and the Next Generation Science Standards – and explore how they transform science teaching and learning. This course is designed for classroom educators as well as school leaders who support their work.

Upon completion, you'll receive a certificate for 6 clock hours of professional development. This course has been approved for continuing education credits by the Minnesota Board of School Administrators.

### What participants are saying

"... the online accessibility ... made it fit into my schedule and allowed me to work at my own pace."

"The descriptions of the SEPs and CCCs were awesome [and the] ... handouts helped me to look more deeply at how to implement this more clearly."

"I ... liked the discussions, to see what other educators were thinking."

"I really liked the format of this class because it has a good variety of tasks to complete."

"The handouts that were included [were valuable], because I can not only use them for my benefit but also display them in my classroom."

"The assignments made me think beyond my comfort level, which was very effective in promoting my individual growth in the science standards."

### Instructors

*Beth Murphy PhD*

Beth is an independent consultant with more than 25 years of experience designing, leading, and evaluating science and STEM education programs – including professional development for educators – in K-12, higher-ed, and out-of-school settings. Beth works with a variety of Minnesota based and national clients, including serving as MISF's STEM program manager. She also serves as a director on the boards of Science from Scientists and SciMathMN. Beth holds a PhD in experimental physics.

*Renee Nesnidal, PhD*

Renee is a lead instructor for Science from Scientists (SfS), with over 20 years' experience working in science education at K-12 and college levels. Prior to joining SfS, she worked as a consultant with several Minnesota schools to incorporate more hands-on science, lead science workshops for students and educators, and teach summer STEM camps and in-school enrichment programs for students of all ages. She holds a PHD in atomic physics, specializing in laser and optical engineering.

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## Professional Development Webinar

**FIVE KEYS TO SOCIAL MEDIA SUCCESS IN 21-22**

**Two part series: December 7 and January 11  
12:00-1:30pm**

My, how things have changed regarding school social media! While navigating the negativity can drain your energy, there is still so much to celebrate. Grab a pep talk from School PR's biggest cheerleader, Andrea Gribble. She'll break down five proven strategies for social media success this school year. You'll learn:

- How to build an army of storytellers without spending a dime
- Easy ways to save time
- How to plan your content
- How to boost engagement
- The latest social trends to help you thrive

**COST:**

**Members: FREE**

**Nonmembers: \$75 per session (Check with your LEA about using Title funds for fees.)**

Andrea's passion is helping schools recognize their daily awesomeness and sharing that story with the world. She's built a team that celebrates hundreds of schools across the country! #SocialSchool4EDU provides full social media management, offers an intensive Social Media Bootcamp, and runs a vibrant online community that provides ongoing professional development for school social media champions.



*Presented by*  
**Andrea Gribble**  
**#SocialSchool4EDU**

**Click here to  
register**



## Enrollment Survey

Over the last two years, private and independent schools have shined. There has been a resurgence and increased awareness of private and independent education across Minnesota. As we develop our 2022 legislative and advocacy strategies, we ask your school to complete a very brief survey on your 2021-22 enrollment. The information submitted is not identifiable. The official enrollment information submitted on the MDE Fall Report is not published until early 2022, so this survey will give us some preliminary data.

**[Access the Survey Here](#)**



## School COVID-19 Testing Programs

NOTE: A Minnesota Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) Certificate of

## New Vault Test Ordering Option

One of the offerings offered through the state is continuing to use Vault tests provided during the 2020-21 school year. Schools that would like to continue using Vault tests can now order tests through the state's contract with Vault. The process for ordering through the contract was explained at the [Minnesota COVID-19 School Testing Program webinar](#) on November 3.

Waiver is needed to administer COVID-19 tests. Schools can use the [How to Get Certification for In-School COVID-19 Testing](#) and the [Quick Start Guide for CLIA Certification](#) to help navigate the process.

## EANS Update

A reminder that schools participating in EANS I must submit budgets for their remaining funds to MDE by December 1. For more information, or questions, contact Anita Tayson at [anita.tayson@state.mn.us](mailto:anita.tayson@state.mn.us)

## BinaxNOW Professional Tests Available

The State of Minnesota has a supply of [BinaxNow Professional](#) rapid, antigen COVID-19 tests that are available to schools at no cost and can be shipped immediately. These rapid antigen tests can be used on students and staff in your school buildings who develop symptoms while attending and want testing before going home. BinaxNow Professional tests will be available to order through mid-November 2021 for use through December 1, 2021. Details on how to order these tests are available in the [BinaxNow Professional one-pager](#).

## Important Dates

### Monday, November 8:

STEM Grant Program information available

### Thursday, November 11:

Professional Development Webinar: Technology is not Neutral (Pt.2) (12:30-2:00pm)

### Tuesday, December 7:

Five Keys to Social Media Success in 21-22 (Pt.1) (12:00-1:30pm)

### Thursday, December 9:

How to Write a Winning MINNDEPENDENT STEM Grant Proposal (3:30-4:45pm)

### Tuesday, January 11:

Five Keys to Social Media Success in 21-22 (Pt.2) (12:00-1:30pm)

### Tuesday, January 11:

Due date for STEM Grant Letters of Interest (LOIs)

### Tuesday, February 15:

Due Date for STEM Grant Final Applications

**A TRUSTED PARTNER**  
For Private & Independent Schools



**MINNDEPENDENT**

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