



MINNDEPENDENT

February 2022 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education:

MINNDEPENDENT school membership stands at an all time high with 172 schools from across the state. More than 98% of our members from last year renewed and another 14 schools have become members since July 1, 2021. To see our [list and map, click here](#). We are grateful for the significant level of trust schools place in our mission, programs, partnerships and public policy. If you are interested in joining for the 2022-23 school year, please reach out to me. We have special incentives for new members and can walk you through the important benefits. I can assure you, when we meet with funders, donors, advocates, legislators and partners, they are impressed by the large and diverse network connected by MINNDEPENDENT.

The nomination period for the 14th annual Private and Independent Education Awards will close on Monday, February 14th at 5:00 PM. After a 2-year hiatus, we are planning an in-person celebration to recognize and honor the people and programs that make Minnesota's private and independent school communities special. Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 1, 4:00-7:00pm at [Mendakota Country Club](#). This is our annual opportunity to come together as a community.

The Minnesota Legislature convened on January 31, 2022, with a myriad issues on the docket. MINNDEPENDENT and several other coalition partners have laid out a clear agenda for nonpublic schools:

1. Transportation funding and policy change – advocating for additional funding for public and nonpublic transportation programs while supporting a policy modification that would allow school districts and non-public schools to find alternative transportation arrangements if they mutually agree
2. Nursing services - requesting a one-time appropriation to restore nursing services funding to ensure pre-pandemic base level funding for the 2022-23 school year
3. Guidance counseling and mental health services – request expansion of the Minnesota Nonpublic Pupil Aid program to extend services to all students in grades K-12

In addition, tracking any legislation that negatively impacts nonpublic schools will also be part of our legislative and advocacy strategy. We welcome your voice and active participation when issues arise that need the voice of Minnesota's nonpublic students, educators and leaders.

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

We're Hiring!

MINNDEPENDENT is seeking a part-time Accounting and Business Manager. Read more about the

The 2022 [School Leadership Conference](#) will take place September 26-28 at Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort. Make sure to place this on your schedule today and don't miss the premier gathering of private and independent school leaders.

Thank you for your commitment to private and independent education.



Tim Benz, President

position [here](#). Please send a cover letter and resume to jobs@minndependent.org. Applications accepted until position is filled.

Hats & Mittens is a 26-year-old all volunteer Minnesota non-profit. Their curriculum, focused on volunteering and philanthropy for students of all ages, is being offered free of charge to schools, churches, and youth organizations. To learn more and find out how you can use this in your school, [click here](#).

This month's MINNDEPENDENT Newsletter is sponsored by



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Private & Independent Education Awards

NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED THROUGH MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH AT 5PM

MINNDEPENDENT is now accepting nominations for the 2022 Private & Independent Education Awards. All private and independent schools in Minnesota are eligible and encouraged to participate, and anyone from your school community can submit a nomination: faculty, staff, parents, families and friends!

Nominations are being accepted for the following categories*.

- **Behind the Scenes**
 - This award recognizes the quiet and essential work of an individual who supports the school outside the classroom. These individuals go out of their way to make the school environment welcoming, friendly, and caring. School staff, coaches, volunteers and other behind the scenes workers may be nominated for this award
- **Community Champion**
 - This award celebrates the work of an individual or group that has benefited a school and the community in which the school is located. Board members, donors, and other school supporters may be nominated for this award.
- **Program**
 - This award highlights an innovative or successful program that supports engagement and academic achievement for the school, students, or faculty.
- **Leadership**
 - This award recognizes the hard work and dedication of school heads, presidents, principals, superintendents, or executive directors
- **Honor Teacher**
 - This award recognizes that special teacher at a school, who has a passion for students and education. They're creative, innovative, fair and compassionate, and they model integrity and excellence. They are involved in their communities, and they achieve exceptional outcomes.

*to review the nomination form prior to submitting one, [click here](#).

NOMINATION FORM

SAVE THE DATE! The 14th Annual Private & Independent Education Awards

Sunday, May 1
4:00 - 7:00 PM
Mendakota Country Club

STEM Scoop

**Save the Date & Call for Presenters
for the MINNDEPENDENT STEM Education Conference
to be held Wednesday, August 3, 2022
at Benilde-St. Margaret's**

We are excited to be planning an in-person STEM Education Conference this year! We invite individuals and groups of teachers from MINNDEPENDENT member schools to submit proposals for breakout sessions. This conference is an exceptional opportunity for teachers to share effective resources, expertise, lessons, and strategies. We know from conference evaluations that attendees value presentations that include innovative and practical ideas

and resources they can implement in their classrooms. **We also love featuring programs and projects that have received MINNDEPENDENT STEM Grant funding.**

We welcome breakout session proposals that focus on one or more of the STEM disciplines or link them with other subject areas such as language arts, creative arts, social studies, and more. In addition, we are interested in sessions that link STEM with topics such as innovation, social entrepreneurship, social-emotional learning, social justice, and preparing students for college and careers. To support the launch of new science standards in Minnesota, we are also eager for session proposals that connect to these new standards. **Breakout sessions are one hour in length, with participation limited to 25 attendees.**

If you have an idea for a panel presentation – but need help finding additional teachers to serve on the panel – reach out to STEM Program Manager Beth Murphy at bmurphy@minndependent.org or 612-270-0194.

All interested presenters must complete the session proposal form, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YYY5R62> before March 28, 2022, so we can provide a complete conference program when registration opens on May 11, 2022.

Reminder - STEM Grant Applications*

**STEM Grant applications must be received by
Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 6:00 PM.**

*NOTE: Must have an approved Letter of Interest to be eligible to submit a STEM Grant Application

Resources and Materials for Educators

Learning opportunities that bring our collections, research, and exhibits together for educators to incorporate into their learning environments.



[Explore resources](#)



Explore IT & STEM Education Resources

Minnesota has an abundance of IT and STEM education resources for students, teachers, families, job seekers and employers. Explore the resources below by clicking the link to open the lists.

- COMPUTER SCIENCE & INFORMATIONAL TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES
- STEM EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE RESOURCES
 - <https://mntech.org/talent/getstem/>

Professional Development Webinar

THRIVE RATHER THAN SURVIVE

7 Strategies to Retaining and Attracting Students

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

11:30am - 1:00pm



Presented by
Mike Motyl, President,
St. Joseph Academy
Brownsville, TX

Consultant,
Northshore Coaching
& Consulting

School enrollment is driven by two key factors: Keeping the students you already have and attracting new students. This webinar will provide school leaders with tools and strategies that can be immediately implemented to meet your school's enrollment and retention goals. By strengthening your school's retention efforts and increasing the number of your prospects you can shift your school from surviving to thriving!

COST:

Members: FREE

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

Michael specializes in enrollment management, marketing, and developing long-term, strategic, planning for K-12 schools. He currently serves as President at Saint Joseph Academy and Guadalupe Regional Middle School in Brownsville, TX. During his 12 years in Texas as a school principal and then president, he has been successful in mapping courses for organizational success focusing on: marketing, strategic planning, communication, enrollment management, and advancement. Michael is a two-time graduate of the University of Notre Dame and has received an honorary degree of Doctor of Science in Education from Boston College in 2015 for his exceptional leadership in Brownsville.

**Click here to
register**



Deadline Extended for Vault Saliva COVID-19 Tests

Schools that are using [Vault Saliva COVID-19 tests](#) that were received during the 2020-21 school year can now use these tests until July 31, 2022. Schools cannot order new Vault tests from the State of Minnesota. However, schools can continue to [order Vault test supplies](#) such as mailing bags and biohazard bags from the state.

KN95 Mask Distribution Updates

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is working closely with the Minnesota Departments of Administration and Health, as well as the Minnesota Service Cooperatives to distribute the 550,000 KN95 masks allocated for school districts, charter, tribal and nonpublic schools. Due to extremely high demand for these supplies, school districts and

schools will receive a smaller allotment than previously shared. Updated [allocations](#) are available for review.

School districts and schools will be contacted directly by a representative from their Minnesota Service Cooperative with information on how they will receive their supplies by the end of this week. MDE expects that all school districts and schools will receive their KN95 masks by the end of the month.

Important Dates

Tuesday, February 15:

Due Date for STEM Grant Final Applications

Wednesday, February 16:

Thrive Rather than Survive (11:30am - 1:30pm)

Sunday, May 1

Private & Independent Education Awards, Mendakota Country Club

Wednesday, August 3:

STEM Education Conference, Benilde-St. Margaret's

September 26-28:

School Leadership Conference, Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge

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