



## May 2022 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education:

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Private and Independent Education Awards was a great success. After being virtual for two years, it was wonderful to gather as a community and celebrate the 2022 honorees. To learn more about those recognized, check out the [Education Awards page](#), including the honoree videos. Thank you to the event sponsors and partners for a wonderful celebration and congratulations to this year's award recipients.

The legislative session is in its last two weeks, with wide gaps in policy and spending priorities between the House and the Senate. Two important provisions for nonpublic schools are still "in play." These include the expansion of counseling to grades K-6 ([HF3506 / SF925](#)), and a modification to nonpublic transportation that allows greater flexibility in transporting students ([HF3937 / SF3745](#).) Keep your eyes open for action alerts to raise up the voice of private and independent school communities for these thoughtful and important provisions.

Interested in joining a growing [network of 172 private and independent schools](#)? Consider joining MINNDEPENDENT for the 2022-23 school year. Over the last two years, 22 new schools have become members, while 98.7% of schools remained members from last year to this year. You read that right, only 2 member schools from last year chose not to renew! The cost is very manageable, the benefits are exceptional and it ensures a robust, unified voice for the private and independent sector. Having issues with your nonpublic textbook or counseling services? Not sure if you are maximizing your equitable services in your title programs? That's why we're here! [Let me know if you are interested](#), and let's discuss our new member incentives.

We extend our best wishes for a successful conclusion to another school year like no other!

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

### We've moved

5200 Willson Road  
Suite 310  
Edina, MN 55424

MINNDEPENDENT STEM  
Learning Community

[READ MORE](#)

### MINNDEPENDENT Jobs Board

Member schools can post  
job listings for free.

[READ MORE](#)

**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](#)

*Tim Benz*

Tim Benz, President

This month's MINNDEPENDENT Newsletter is sponsored by



### Cross Curricular Standards Based Grading

We've supercharged Gradelink with advanced functionality for configuring, assessing and tracking performance in any set of national, state, local or custom educational standards.

Now it's easy for teachers to use standards without learning a whole new process or tackling "another thing." We've integrated standards tracking with the assignments teachers enter every day. And all this is at your fingertips with just a few clicks.

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**STEM Education Conference**  
**Wednesday, August 3, 2022**  
**Benilde-St. Margaret's School, St. Louis Park**

We are excited to be back in-person for the 2022 STEM Education Conference. The conference provides an exceptional opportunity for teachers, STEM specialists and school leaders to learn about innovative and practical ideas and resources they can implement in their classrooms and schools.

This year's conference features:

- A selection of traditional one-hour breakout sessions and longer (135 minute) intensives
- Sessions by teachers from MINNDEPENDENT member schools, including presentations about STEM grant projects
- Sessions linking STEM to Social-Emotional Learning
- Earn CEUs

Registration opens the week of May 16. Watch your inbox and [our website](#) for more information.



#### Members

> Early Bird Price (Through June 16): \$55

> Regular Price (After June 16): \$75

#### Nonmembers

> Regular Price: \$175

\* Check with your LEA about using Title Funds for registration

## Nonpublic Equitable Services in ESEA Title Programs - Nonpublic School Officials

Join members of the MDE Student Access and Opportunity Division for a training on nonpublic equitable services in ESEA Title programs. This session will address spring consultation topics, the LEA's authority for setting reasonable deadlines throughout the year, spending requirements and related carryover provisions. MDE is offering two sessions with the same content: one for Nonpublic School Officials and one for LEA Officials.

- May 18, 2022 from 11:30 to 12:30
- No registration is required. [Join via MS Teams](#).

## Jim Field Memorial Party



A memorial party for Jim Field will be held on Sunday, June 26th from 3:00 - 7:00 pm at [Shamrock's Bar and Grill](#) (995 West Seventh St., St. Paul, 55102.) Live music will be provided by the Mouldy Figs starting at 5:30. Please bring stories to share!





## MINNDEPENDENT's Community Partnership with Science from Scientists Program Opportunity

Would you like to bring real scientists into your classrooms to teach high-quality, hands-on STEM to students? Are you looking for professional development opportunities for teachers to prepare for the new science standards? Find out how you can bring Science from Scientists' unique program to your school; virtual or in-person.

As part of our long-standing STEM education partnership with [Science from Scientists](#), MINNDEPENDENT is offering MEMBER schools a special \$1,000 discount on the Scientist-Teacher Partnership program for the 2022-2023 academic year.

[Read more about this opportunity here.](#)

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## Our online tools help bring your climate lessons to life

Science Museum educators have made it easier than ever to bring knowledge from our collections, research, and exhibits right into your classroom. [Our free virtual lessons](#) about topics at the heart of climate science tie to academic standards and get students thinking about solutions.

### Water for Life

[https://new.smm.org/educators/lessons/water-is-life?utm\\_source=educator-enews&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=action-for-earth&utm\\_content=ed-online-resources-4-12](https://new.smm.org/educators/lessons/water-is-life?utm_source=educator-enews&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=action-for-earth&utm_content=ed-online-resources-4-12)

### Energy Connections

[https://new.smm.org/educators/lessons/energy-connections?utm\\_source=educator-enews&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=action-for-earth&utm\\_content=ed-online-resources-4-12](https://new.smm.org/educators/lessons/energy-connections?utm_source=educator-enews&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=action-for-earth&utm_content=ed-online-resources-4-12)

### Turn the Crank

[https://new.smm.org/educators/lessons/turn-the-crank?utm\\_source=educator-enews&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=action-for-earth&utm\\_content=ed-online-resources-4-12](https://new.smm.org/educators/lessons/turn-the-crank?utm_source=educator-enews&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=action-for-earth&utm_content=ed-online-resources-4-12)

**What's in your stream?**

[https://new.smm.org/educators/lessons/whats-in-your-stream?utm\\_source=educator-enews&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=action-for-earth&utm\\_content=ed-online-resources-4-12](https://new.smm.org/educators/lessons/whats-in-your-stream?utm_source=educator-enews&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=action-for-earth&utm_content=ed-online-resources-4-12)

### **Science lessons come to life**

Bring the science to your classroom virtually or in-person with assemblies, residencies, and live streams! [Find out more about these exciting opportunities for grades K-5](#)

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## **Spring Education Programs at the Bakken Museum**

Give kids the opportunity to tinker, make, and build using tools and technology this spring. Each program offers a chance to learn STEM concepts with guidance from the museum's expert educators and volunteers.

[Learn MORE](#)

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## **MNCodes Cohort – free CS PD Opportunity**

We are in the middle of a coding revolution! Computer science (CS) education plays an important role in preparing students of all ages for success in a wide variety of areas. In an effort to expand equitable and engaging computer science learning opportunities for all MN students, [Code Savvy](#) is seeking K12 and community educators to participate in the sixth year of the [MN Coding in the Classroom Leadership Cohort](#), which was honored to receive an MHTA Tekne Award in 2017 for Innovative STEM Education. The purpose of the Cohort is to empower a network of visionary educators with knowledge, skills, resources and support so that we can expand equitable and engaging computer science education to all students in Minnesota. We are working together to make Minnesota a leader in CS education!

The Cohort explores the concepts and practices within CS, as well as strategies for integrating CS into any subject area. We emphasize equitable teaching practices that interrupt and counteract gender and racial gaps in CS, while exploring a variety of coding platforms and resources and gaining insights into the IT industry through site visits and guest speakers. Participants develop, evaluate and share computer science curriculum that integrates CS into academic content areas and meets MN K-12 Academic Standards and [CSTA K-12 Standards](#). Additionally, participants share their knowledge and resources with at least 10 other educators by creating and delivering professional development related to CS education.

**Participants:** Any K-12 or community educators who are involved with or interested in CS education are invited to apply. We encourage all experience levels!

**Dates:** A 2-day kick-off event will be held August 8th and 9th, 2022, followed by monthly sessions from [September, 2022 - May, 2023](#), both in-person and online (we will adjust meeting format to follow recommended health guidelines). The majority of cohort meetings will be online however to help build community we hope to host a few in-person meetings throughout the year, always following CDC and state health guidelines. The Cohort experience will include participation in the [MNCodes Summit](#) in May, 2023, and MNCodes CS Educator workshops in Nov, 2022. Most Cohort sessions will take place evenings or weekends - [see the preliminary schedule here](#).

Note: A travel stipend is available for those who live 50 miles or more outside the Twin Cities

**Stipend & Credit Option:** Cohort participants will receive a \$250 stipend upon completion of the Cohort requirements and will have an option to earn 3 graduate



credits through the College of St. Scholastica. The graduate credits will be offered at a discounted workshop rate.

**Contact:** Please contact us at [educators@codesavvy.org](mailto:educators@codesavvy.org) with any questions.

**Interested in changing the course of computer science education in MN?**  
**Apply here!** <https://mncodes.org/cohort/>

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, with a priority deadline of June 1st, 2022.

## Scholarships for the Hormel Foundation Gifted and Talented Education Symposium: June 14-16

Scholarships to the Hormel Symposium are **now open to all** educators, psychologists, counselors, administrators, school board members, specialists and paraprofessionals working in Minnesota schools

A one-time-only donation will fund 20 scholarships to the 2022 Virtual Hormel Foundation Gifted and Talented Education Symposium. A maximum of two individuals per school may be awarded free registration to the symposium. Applicants must be working in a Minnesota school. Awardees must:

- Agree to attend the entire symposium, June 14-16 (Tuesday 8:30 a.m. – Thursday 4 p.m.)
- Agree to report on their experience at a fall building level staff meeting

Scholarships will be allocated on a first come first serve basis until all funds have been dedicated. Applicants must send a statement of their interest including the name of their school and district. Applications will only be accepted by email with the subject line Hormel Scholarship sent to: [wendy.behrens@state.mn.us](mailto:wendy.behrens@state.mn.us). This offer is available until May 16 or when all funds have been allocated.

## Important Dates

**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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