



# MINNDEPENDENT

## June 2022 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education:

MINNDEPENDENT annual membership renewal begins on July 1. If you are a current member, THANK YOU. We hope you will remain a member of a growing and engaged network of 172 schools. If you are not a current member, but have benefitted or engaged in our offerings during this year, please [contact me](#) to discuss membership.

MINNDEPENDENT is the “connector to the sector.” Our member schools are small and large, elementary and high school, urban and rural. There is strength and impact when advocating for issues that benefit private and independent schools, or ensures each schools’ unique mission is protected. Our promise is that MINNDEPENDENT will fight, defend and advocate for the students, staff and leaders in Minnesota’s nonpublic schools. Your school community amplifies the voice of all schools.

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) has confirmed the remaining/leftover ARP-EANS (EANS II) funds will be redistributed to benefit nonpublic schools. These funds, which reverted back to the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund by legislation, could be used for any identified need at the Governor’s discretion. Thanks to a concerted and combined advocacy effort from several partner organizations, Governor Walz chose to meet the original intent of these federal relief funds to benefit the nonpublic school community. Over the next few months, a process and further details will be provided once known. We thank Governor Walz and his administration for this positive outcome.

As you likely heard, the Frontline Workers Pay Program application opened on Wednesday, June 8. MINNDEPENDENT confirmed with the Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry that teachers and staff of nonpublic schools qualify for this program. The program provides a one-time payment of up to \$750 to eligible workers. The application opened on June 8 and closes on July 22. There are specific requirements for both eligible employers and employees.

Further details and application requirements can be found at [www.frontlinepay.mn.gov](http://www.frontlinepay.mn.gov). Notices to eligible

### We've moved

5200 Willson Road  
Suite 310  
Edina, MN 55424

MINNDEPENDENT Member  
Network

[READ MORE](#)

### MINNDEPENDENT Jobs Board

Member schools can post  
job listings for free.

[READ MORE](#)

[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](#).

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

employees must be sent within fifteen days of the opening date.

Make sure to mark your 2022-23 calendars for the [STEM Education Conference](#) on August 3 and the [School Leadership Conference](#) on September 26-28.

We wish a much needed...and well deserved...restful summer.

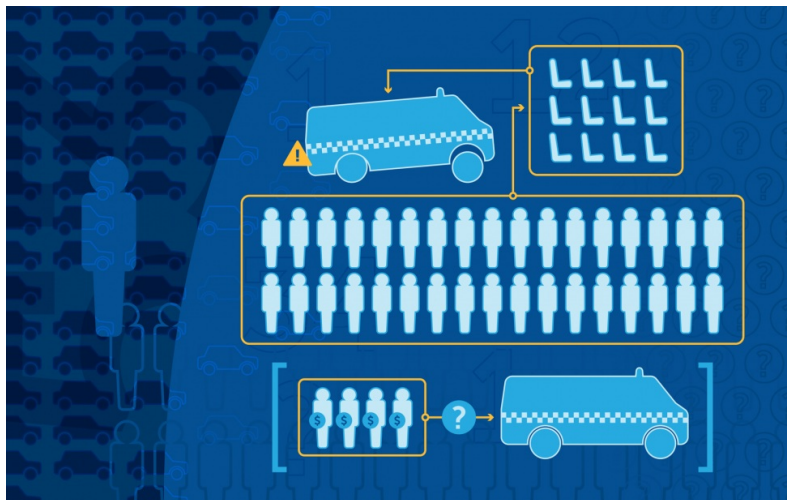


Tim Benz, President

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

**SHARE THE  
LINK**

This month's MINNDEPENDENT Newsletter is sponsored by



## Why creating problems improves student engagement

I explained to a parent that his son was apt in mathematics because of his visual and artistic nature. This parent was just one among the many that believe math is for the conventional and therefore only a small elect population will ever be successful in the subject. The view of math as unoriginal, not fun, and too difficult is a problem that extends beyond math class and seeps into most scholarly subjects. Yet, this perspective is not reflective of the extensive power and depth existing in each academic area.

[..... read more here](#)

Steve Lockwood | Sales Executive  
M: 949-682-7019  
E: [steve@gradelink.com](mailto:steve@gradelink.com)

[www.gradelink.com](http://www.gradelink.com)



**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

[Click here for conference schedule and breakout session descriptions.](#)

[\*\*Register Here\*\*](#)



## Members

> Early Bird Price (Through June 30): \$55

> Regular Price (After June 30): \$75

## Nonmembers

> Early Bird Price (Through June 30): \$125

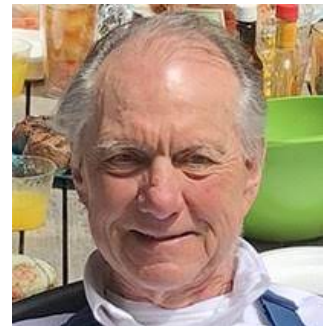
> Regular Price (After June 30): \$175

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

## 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!



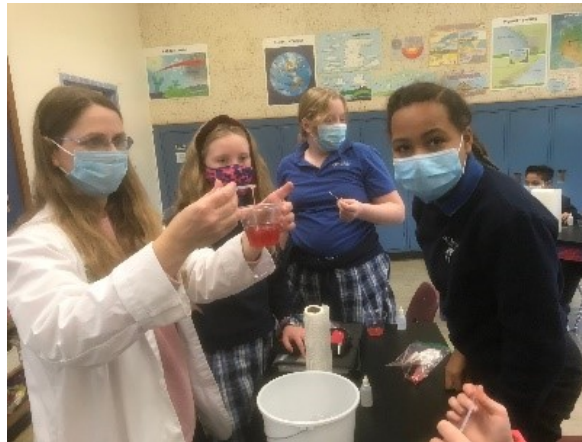
## Expiring CARES Act Funds

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The CARES Act provided over \$2 trillion in federal economic relief to protect the American people from the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19. In addition to assistance for American workers, families, and small businesses, and preserves jobs for American industries, the CARES Act included an Education Stabilization Fund, which created two major sources of funding for schools: the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund and the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund. Participating nonpublic schools opted into district-managed ESSER I and GEER I programs in the summer of 2020.

The CARES Act funds expire on September 30, 2022. Participating nonpublic schools must coordinate with their local district to ensure these funds are expended on allowable goods and services received by September 30, 2022. These dollars cannot be paid directly to nonpublic schools, rather the local district must procure all goods and services on behalf of the nonpublic school. Districts may set reasonable deadlines by which a response is needed in order to ensure these funds are spent. Nonpublic schools must meet these district deadlines; districts have the authority to use these funds for public school services if the reasonable deadlines are not met. Nonpublic schools without plans to spend the equitable share may also proactively "release" these funds to the district to be use for services in public schools. Unspent funds will be returned to the U.S. Treasury.

Nonpublic school leaders may contact their local district officials or the MDE ESEA Nonpublic Ombudsman Alicia Waeffler ([alicia.waeffler@state.mn.us](mailto:alicia.waeffler@state.mn.us), 651-852-8227) with questions about ESSER I and GEER I nonpublic equitable services.

## STEM SCOOP



### 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.](#)

---

### Siemens STEM Curriculum - Learning Engineering by Doing *Siemens Engineering Design STEM Curriculum | FREE*

Perfect introductory curriculum for middle, high school and maker spaces, this course challenges students to work in teams to solve complex design problems. Students do research, design & development, and communication of design solutions.

[LEARN MORE](#)

---





## **STEM Day at the Fair | Thursday, August 25th**

Always the best day of the Great Minnesota Get Together STEM Day at the State Fair is back for its twelfth year on August 25, 2022. SciMathMN brings together over 30 STEM education providers and business supporters on the first day of the State Fair to engage in hands-on, fun activities. It's a celebration that attracts fairgoers to the exhibit area and the adjoining stage performances.

Past years have seen as many as 17,000 people come through our exhibit area. Dan Patch Park is a prime location for visibility at the Fair and engagement with Minnesota fair-goers excited for the first day of the Great Minnesota Get Together. "Community events like STEM Day at the Fair are extremely important to the residents of our state who can visit and explore a wide variety of organizations that are working to increase awareness of the wide variety of opportunities and programs available. We truly appreciate the fact not only students as well as adults can engage directly with the future today!" - Dr. Michael G. Wulf, Minnesota STEM Partnership.

---

## **IT Exploration Info Session (STEM Fuse) WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022, 3:45 – 4:15PM CDT**

This 30 minute IT Exploration Info Session will provide you with an overview of the no cost IT Exploration Curriculum and platform. The curriculum is designed for grades 8 to 12 educators. The curriculum is a product of the Minnesota State IT Center of Excellence in partnership with STEM Fuse which provides free training and support.

[\*\*LEARN MORE\*\*](#)



**MINNESOTA STATE**  
Engineering Center of Excellence

The [\*\*Minnesota State Engineering Center of Excellence\*\*](#) has partnered with the [\*\*American Society for Engineering Education\*\*](#)'s Pre-college Division and Dunwoody College of Technology to offer a

one-day Engineering and STEM Education Workshop. The day will feature speakers, hands-on workshops, and tours of the Dunwoody campus.

[\*\*LEARN MORE\*\*](#)

---

## **Join CSTA Minnesota (for free!)**

The Minnesota Chapter of the CSTA will be the leader in getting Computer Science recognized as an important discipline in the K-12 curriculum; establishing clear state level standards; offering timely and purposeful professional development for computer science teachers.

## WE SHARE SOLAR

### *FULLY FUNDED STEM Program opportunity for Member Schools for the 2022-2023 School Year.*

In partnership with We Share Solar and generous funding from H.B. Fuller Company Foundation, MINNDEPENDENT is offering a limited number of opportunities for member schools to participate in a **fully funded** program during the 2022-2023 school year. The program, called Power2Share, is designed for students in Grade(s) 7-12 and can be implemented during the school day or as an after-school program. Learning goals focus on solar energy, climate change, social justice, and innovation. Power2Share offers teachers flexibility on when to implement the program during the 2022-2023 school year. Core lessons take approximately 5-10 hours, including hands-on lab activities.

Participating teachers will complete a self-paced, online training program to prepare for implementation with students, including tools for teaching principles of solar electricity and facilitating innovative thinking in engineering. Teachers earn clock hours upon completion.

Each participating school will receive two Solar Suitcase kits (stand-alone solar electric systems), including solar lab materials and tools. Program implementation is supported by full access to a virtual learning platform and a curriculum library that allows students and teachers to learn together, accessible anywhere and anytime. This includes 5-10 hours of core lessons plus a supplemental lesson library of 20+ hours of additional lessons that can be adapted by each teacher. In the classroom, teachers lead students through the interactive lessons and hands-on building of a stand-alone solar electric system. In addition, students learn about the impact of innovative solutions to global problems by participating in the international donation of one of the Solar Suitcase they build to an area experiencing energy poverty and lack of access to reliable electricity.

Upon completion, one Solar Suitcase will remain at the school for in-place emergency preparedness and to serve as an ongoing solar learning tool. Once the second Solar Suitcase is installed at its destination in East Africa, students will receive a high-impact placement story and photos, showing their work in action. The multi-disciplinary approach meets Next Generation Science Standards, teaches young people that they can be agents for positive change and highlights renewable solar energy as a powerful solution to some of the world's most pressing challenges.

MINNDEPENDENT is excited to offer this solar energy and community service program at no cost to schools.



Gain solar literacy.



Practice stem skills.



Be a global citizen.

**Interest Form Deadline: July 15, 2022 - Complete survey to express your interest in participating in the Power2Share Program during the 2022-2023 school year.**

**Complete Interest Application Here -Due July 15, 2022**

**Questions:** Lisa Vosbeek, Director of Development & Programs,  
[lvosbeek@minndependent.org](mailto:lvosbeek@minndependent.org), 651-424-4930.

## 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/>

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**School Leadership Conference: September 26-28**

# Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge

We're planning to come together in-person for networking, learning, conversation and FUN! Watch your inbox and [our website](#) for more information.

## CAPE News

### CAPE Outlook

Read the May 2022 CAPE Outlook newsletter [here](#)

## Important Dates

### Wednesday, August 3:

STEM Education Conference, Benilde-St. Margaret's

### September 26-28:

School Leadership Conference, Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge

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



[minndependent.org](https://minndependent.org) | [info@minndependent.org](mailto:info@minndependent.org)

MINNDEPENDENT (Formerly MISF) | 5200 Willson Road, Suite 310, Edina, MN 55424

[Unsubscribe](#) [tbenz@minndependent.org](mailto:tbenz@minndependent.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [tbenz@minndependent.org](mailto:tbenz@minndependent.org) in collaboration  
with



Try email marketing for free today!