



MINNDEPENDENT

September 2022 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education:

The deadline to register for the [2022 School Leadership Conference](#) is Sunday, September 18. This conference is a great opportunity to connect, network and recharge after a busy first month of school. I am confident you will find it very rewarding. Sign up today and join the 65 leaders already scheduled to attend. Check with your district about using Title funds for registration.

Wonder if membership pays? Below is part of an email exchange with a member school that was having issues with their Title programs and their LEA. This happened two days before the start of their school year. Many times, we can make important connections or get clarification on an issue to take a little off your plate.

"I first want to thank you for the fast response and action on your part...It sounds like as of today, we will be receiving our funding back as originally decided for Title I, II, and IV...I greatly appreciate your support!"

The deadline to apply for EANS III funding is September 30, 2022. Please see the article below for further information.

A special welcome to new member schools Shakopee Area Catholic Schools, Central Lutheran School (Rochester) and Assumption Catholic School (Hibbing). Interested in becoming a member? Send me an email and we can discuss new member incentives and benefits of membership.

Best wishes for a great start to your school year.

Tim Benz, President

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](#).



Key Strategies to Deeper Learning

My optimism says that in 40 years my students will thank me. I long to transport to this future to confirm whether the work I do now will make a difference, but in my inability to time travel, I choose to trust the experience of the teachers whom I admire and who have gone before me. [Read more here.](#)

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School Leadership Conference September 26-28 Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge

Registration Ends on September 18th!



Join us in-person at beautiful Bay Lake for learning, conversation, networking and reconnection. This year's session topics are better and more pertinent than ever. Registration ends this Sunday... don't miss out!

Sessions include:

- Communications and Advocacy: Learn Effective Messaging and Advocacy Strategies for Your Local Communities and at the State Capitol
- The Future of Leading & Learning is Creative, JOY-filled & Human-Centered
- Addressing the Mental Health Crisis for School Leaders
- Retaining Great Teachers: Proven Practices that Help Schools Support and Retain Effective Teachers
- Resolving Conflict Heart-to-Heart

[Click here for session descriptions and conference agenda](#)

Special pricing for first-time attendees! Register today to reserve your spot!

[Click here for more information and to register](#)

STEM SCOOP



MINNDEPENDENT is excited to announce a partnership with Girls Who Code!

Girls Who Code is on a mission to close the gender gap in technology and to change the image of what a programmer looks like and does. When you start a free Girls Who Code Club and enroll 3 or more members, you'll be eligible to receive up to \$300 to purchase materials and supplies for your Club. There's no obligation, and every Club gets access to 120+ hours of plug-and-play programming with CSTA standards-aligned coding lessons. **Indicate that you are a member of MINNDEPENDENT on the Clubs application**, and you'll unlock additional support, access to special events, and exclusive opportunities for swag. No coding experience is required!

Want to learn more? Check out these [live and on-demand webinars](#) from the Girls Who Code team and [sign up here](#)!

MnDOT has many transportation-related activities and offerings for you to explore. Students and families can download activities and teachers can connect with MnDOT ambassadors for virtual classroom presentations or in-person classroom activities. MnDOT is dedicated to providing high quality activities and initiatives to help promote science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in schools across Minnesota.

[Explore STEM K-12 Activities](#)





[Activities and Resources.](#)



Bring the World to Your Classroom

TPT and PBS have curated FREE, standards-aligned videos, interactives, lesson plans, and more for teachers like you. The STEM Education Resource Center is a site that provides nearly 4,000 resources of STEM for PreK-5 and 6-12. The website is also targeted at teachers, who have access to self-paced, free modules on how to teach global climate change to students in middle school and high school. [Explore Classroom Resources](#)

EANS III Funding Information

The deadline to [apply for EANS III funding](#) is September 30, 2022. These funds are the remainder amount following the initial round of EANS II (ARP-EANS). Some important points on these funds:

- All nonpublic schools are eligible for these funds, except for schools that received funds in the first round of EANS II
- Funds must be spent in the designated areas identified by MDE
 - Mental health services to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Professional development assist staff in addressing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Partnership with college education departments to develop educator training programs
 - Counseling of K-6 grades to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Resources to help nonpublic schools further research test/assessment data in regard to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on students' learning loss
- Funds are available until September 30, 2024
- Allocations for each school will be finalized following the application period. MINNDEPENDENT anticipates funding will be approximately \$300/student
- Schools that accepted a second round PPP loan are eligible to participate

Specific questions should be directed to Anita Tayson, EANS Program Manager at eans.mde@state.mn.us.

Social Emotional Learning CEUs from CARE Counseling

CARE Counseling, in collaboration with MINNDEPENDENT, is thrilled to announce continuing education - ten online modules totaling six CEUs - that is approved by the Minnesota Board of School Administrators. [Read more here.](#)



Membership Renewal

MINNDEPENDENT annual membership renewal invoices have been emailed to schools. 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 have not yet received your invoice, [click here to let us know](#).

If you are not a current member, [but have benefitted or engaged in our offerings](#) during the past year, please contact [Tim Benz](#) to discuss membership. New member incentives are available.

Internal Revenue Service Increase in 2022 Teacher Deduction

From the Office of Nonpublic Education

As the new school year begins, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) reminds teachers and other educators that they'll be able to deduct up to \$300 of out-of-pocket classroom expenses for 2022 when they file their federal income tax return next year. This is the first time the annual limit has increased since the special educator expense deduction was enacted in 2002. For tax years 2002 through 2021, the limit was \$250 per year. The limit will rise in \$50 increments in future years based on inflation adjustments.

For 2022, an eligible educator can deduct up to \$300 of qualifying expenses. If they're married and file a joint return with another eligible educator, the limit rises to \$600. But in this situation, not more than \$300 for each spouse. Educators can claim this deduction, even if they take the standard deduction.

Who Qualifies?

Eligible educators include anyone who is a kindergarten through grade 12 teacher, instructor, counselor, principal or aide in a school for at least 900 hours during the school year. Both public and private school educators qualify.

What is Deductible?

Educators can deduct the unreimbursed cost of:

- Books, supplies and other materials used in the classroom.
- Equipment, including computer equipment, software and services.
- COVID-19 protective items to stop the spread of the disease in the classroom. This includes face masks, disinfectant for use against COVID-19, hand soap, hand sanitizer, disposable gloves, tape, paint or chalk to guide social distancing, physical barriers, such as clear plexiglass, air purifiers and other items recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Professional development courses related to the curriculum they teach or the students they teach. But the IRS cautions that, for these expenses, it may be more beneficial to claim another educational tax benefit, especially the lifetime learning credit. For details, see [Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education](#), particularly Chapter 3.

Qualified expenses don't include the cost of home schooling or for nonathletic supplies for courses in health or physical education. As with all deductions and credits, the IRS reminds educators to keep good records, including receipts, cancelled checks and other documentation.

For more information, visit the IRS [website](#).

School Indoor Air Quality Plan Training

Minnesota Department of Health is offering school IAQ plan trainings in fall 2022, in-person statewide and a webinar. This training will discuss the state's best practices for school IAQ management plans. School staff, service providers, and others are welcome to attend. The training is free. Registration is required. See [MDH School IAQ Plan Training](#) for details and registration.

Share the Link!

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**

A TRUSTED PARTNER

For Private & Independent Schools



minndependent.org | info@minndependent.org

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