



MINNDEPENDENT

February 2023 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Private and Independent Education:

The 2023 legislative session is moving along at an extremely brisk pace. MINNDEPENDENT and our fellow partners in nonpublic education continue a strong and unified presence at the legislature and Capitol. As a reminder, MINNDEPENDENT employs a two-pronged strategy - advocate FOR programs and services that benefit students and staff in nonpublic schools while defending AGAINST issues or items that overreach or impinge on the unique missions of nonpublic schools. To review our current agenda and additional issues our lobbyists are tracking, [click here](#). You will note a few non-educational items on this agenda – this illustrates how legislation can extend into certain sectors without it being purely education related. We will conduct periodic webinars as necessary to provide updates, engage in active outreach to legislators and source feedback.

We love hearing from our member schools on why they engage in our statewide network. Sandra Trittin, principal at [Our Savior's Lutheran](#) in Crookston passed along this very kind affirmation on why her school joined MINNDEPENDENT.

"Our school joined Minndependent during the spring of 2020. It was such a relief to have access to information quickly and with the assurance that it was accurate and applicable to our Lutheran school. At the time, I was spending way too much time trying to find answers and guidance. Minndependent provided what I needed at the time and continues to be an invaluable resource for our school."

Interested in becoming a member? [Let me know](#) and we can discuss how MINNDEPENDENT membership benefits your school community.

The 2023 School Leadership Conference is confirmed for September 25-27 at Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort. Set aside these dates for a rewarding experience of connection and collaboration, while refilling your leadership bucket.

Thank you for your commitment to our students and our schools.

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MINNDEPENDENT has negotiated a discounted rate for member schools interested in participating in the [#SocialSchool4EDU Membership Program](#).

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MINNDEPENDENT Member Network

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MINNDEPENDENT Jobs Board

Member schools can post job listings for free.

READ MORE

Tim Benz

Tim Benz, President

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](#).

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.

[**CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE**](#)

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5 Tips for Making a Great School Website

The school's website frequently is a primary contributor to creating a prospective family's first impression of the school. Needless to say, you want to make sure that first impression is a positive one! So what makes a good school website? [Read on.](#)

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STEM Scoop



**MINNESOTA
ACADEMY
OF SCIENCE**

2023 State Science & Engineering Fair

Friday, March 24, 2023, at the Saint Paul River Centre in St. Paul, located at 175 Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55102

The Minnesota Academy of Science (MNMAS) is excited to announce that the Minnesota State Science and Engineering Fair will be returning to in-person format in 2023! Since 1950, the MNMAS has celebrated excellence in STEM education and research by providing middle and high school students with opportunities to showcase their scientific research, network, and compete for state-level awards.

LEARN MORE -

<https://www.mnmas.org/2023-state-science-fair-details>



Summer Program for High School Students

Level up by becoming a coder this summer with [Girls Who Code](#)! Choose your own adventure through two free virtual programs and get the skills, network, and lifelong college

and career support you need to change the world. All high school girls are welcome to apply, including past participants!

- In our 2-week Summer Immersion Program for current 9th-11th graders, you'll join live virtual classrooms hosted by industry-leading companies like MetLife, Bank of America, and Accenture. By the end of the program, you'll learn the fundamentals of game design, UX, the iterative design process, and more, as you build out a suite of short games using p5.js, a JavaScript library for creative coding. You can even apply for laptop and hotspot access and grants of \$300 for financial support!
- In our 6-week Self-Paced Program for current 9th-12th graders, you'll learn to code through independent study and real-world projects. By the end of the program, you'll earn beginner-level certificates of completion in HTML, CSS, or JavaScript for web development or intermediate-level certificates of completion in Python for cybersecurity or data science.

Don't miss your chance to be a part of a sisterhood that supports you for life!

Get started at girlswhocode.com/summerapply or [attend a webinar](#).

Make sure that you indicate that you are affiliated with MINNDEPENDENT on the application.

Standards and Assessments

Integrated STEM education intentionally links the [Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards in Science \(2009\)](#) and the [Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards in Mathematics \(2007\)](#), as well as standards for Literacy in Science and Technical subjects included in the [Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards in English Language Arts \(2010\)](#).

The STEM Teachers Center is a unique online resource for Minnesota teachers. [LEARN MORE](#)

Minnesota STEM Teacher Center

Social Justice in the Science Classroom

Resources from the National Science Teaching Association, asserting that “science education can be used to support more just, sustainable, and culturally thriving futures—especially for those who have historically been and continue to be disenfranchised from science”. Of special interest are:

[Practice Brief 15: How can we promote equity in science education?](#)

[Practice Brief 67: Focusing Science and Engineering Learning on Justice-Centered Phenomena across PK-12](#)

Private & Independent Education Awards
Sunday, April 30, 2023
4:00 - 7:00 PM
Mendakota Country Club, Mendota Hts.



Registration Begins Soon

STEM Grant recipients will be announced at the event, and awards will be presented in the following categories:

Behind the Scenes
Community Champion
Program
Leadership
Honor Teacher

[Click here to look at photos from last year's event.](#) Watch your inbox

Consultation & Equitable Services

A 3-Part Webinar Series

February 14, 21, 28, 2023
10:00 am - 11:30 am
Virtual/Zoom Session

NOTE: You are registering for all 3 sessions

Presenter:
Jason Botel
VP Strategic Partnerships
FullBloom



This 3-part webinar series provided by **Catapult Learning** will help school leaders learn how to navigate the ins and outs of the federal education programs for the students and teachers. Information will be provided on programs providing equitable services under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) including Title I, Title IIA, Title IIIA, Title IV, Part B & IDEA in this series.

Part 1 – Consultation Overview (February 14, 2023 | 10:00 – 11:30am)

Consultation is the process through which the public school district (LEA) makes decisions with the input of the private school officials. In this webinar, participants will learn the keys to effective consultation with public school counterparts.

Part 2: Title Funds Overview (February 21, 2023 | 10:00 – 11:30am)

Participants will learn what services can be provided, how funding is determined, and what to do if equitable services are not forthcoming. The webinar will provide participants with a review of the following title funds.

- I – Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged
- IIA – Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High – Quality Teachers, Principals or Other School Leaders
- III – Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students
- IVA – Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants

Part 3: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Overview (February 28, 2023 | 10:00 – 11:30am)

IDEA provides federal program benefits to private school students found to have a disability. Participants will learn about the benefits and limitations of federal services, the child find process, and how to begin and advance the program of ensuring services for students with disabilities.

EARN 4.5 BOSA APPROVED CLOCK HOURS

COST

Member schools: Free

Nonmember schools: \$175 (check with your LEA about using Title Funds for registration.)

Jason Botel serves as Vice President of Strategic Partnerships at Catapult Learning. Prior to joining the Catapult team, Jason served as Senior White House Advisor for

Education and Acting Assistant Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education. Previously, Jason served as a public school teacher and principal; a board member of the Center for Jewish Education in Baltimore; an education nonprofit executive; and an education policy advocate. Jason holds a bachelor's and master's degree in English from the University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree in education administration and supervision from National-Louis University.

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Important Dates

Tuesday, February 14, 2023 (6:00 pm deadline):

Due date for STEM Grant applications for project implementation during the 2023-2024 school year

Sunday, April 30, 2023:

*Private and Independent Education Awards
Mendakota Country Club*

August, 2023, Date TBA:

STEM Education Conference

September 25-27, 2023:

School Leadership Conference, Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge

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