

May 2025 Newsletter



Dear friends of private and independent education,

I feel like a broken record about the primary topic of my letter this month, but it's too important not to be clear about the urgency.

"What do you think will happen?" "Anything change?" "If this goes through, when would it take place?"

These are just some of the questions we receive with great frequency regarding the [proposed elimination of nonpublic pupil aids and nonpublic transportation services by Governor Walz and the Minnesota Senate](#). Currently, these services are protected in the House Education Finance bill.

Last week several hundred parents, students, advocates and friends of nonpublic schools showed up at the Capitol for the Advocacy Day and Rally for Nonpublic School Students, sponsored by MINNDEPENDENT and the [Minnesota Catholic Conference](#). It was an inspiring gathering and a resounding message was sent to the Governor and lawmakers these services must be protected and eliminating them will only cause harm and disruption to students. When the rally was finished [we hand delivered our message](#) to Governor Walz and lawmakers.



There seems to be a sense these funds "subsidize" nonpublic schools. This is not correct. Here's a few key points:

ASK THE PRESIDENT

Have a question about issues like school transportation, Title funds, current legislation, etc.? Want Tim's take on the Twins' hitting woes? Ask the President! Click the button below.

[Ask Tim](#)

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

[READ MORE](#)

MINNDEPENDENT Jobs Board

Member schools can post job listings for free.

[READ MORE](#)

Hats & Mittens is a nonprofit committed to providing hats and mittens for local children in need. Learn more and get involved!

- These funds are dedicated specifically for these essential services – learning materials, nursing, counseling and transportation. These are available to ALL – and have been for more than 50 years - Minnesota students, regardless of their educational setting.
- The programs and services are managed, administered and provided oversight by the local public school district – there are clear checks and balances.
- These services have never been proposed for elimination – regardless of Governor, legislative makeup or state budget deficits.

If you have not reached out to your local elected officials, **now is the time to ACT**. Engage your entire schools community - staff, parents, alumni/ae, grandparents, donors and church bodies. MINNDEPENDENT has made it very easy to facilitate sending a message to your local legislators. Visit, and link, to our [Advocacy page](#) where people can send a message to their legislators to stand up for students and protect these services.

"How are you feeling?" is another frequent message in my inbox. My answer is consistent - I am hopeful, but quite concerned that it continues to remain an issue.

In the end, our nonpublic school community cannot afford to have any "what if's" or "if only we would have" questions when this issue is resolved. Please make sure your voice is heard!

As we wind toward the end of the 2024-25 school year, we wish everyone rewarding and memorable final weeks. To the educators, leaders, staff and volunteers who give their energy and talents, we extend a sincere "THANK YOU" for shaping the lives of students.



Tim Benz President

[READ MORE](#)

Share your school's news!

Whether it's a noteworthy student achievement, a remarkable teacher initiative, or a collective success that deserves recognition, we want to share it! Drop us line below.

[EMAIL US](#)



Member Survey & Needs Assessment

It's time for MINNDEPENDENT's annual [member survey and needs assessment](#). We ask all members to complete this brief survey to ensure we are meeting the needs of your school community and assist in planning our programming for the coming years. Not a current member? What are you waiting for? It's time to

get on board – remember everything MINNDEPENDENT does on behalf of nonpublic schools is critical and an expanded membership provides important "horsepower" to our advocacy efforts. Get connected to our network of 181 member schools. Having a unified voice for our nonpublic school community has never been more important. [Send me a message and let's discuss](#)

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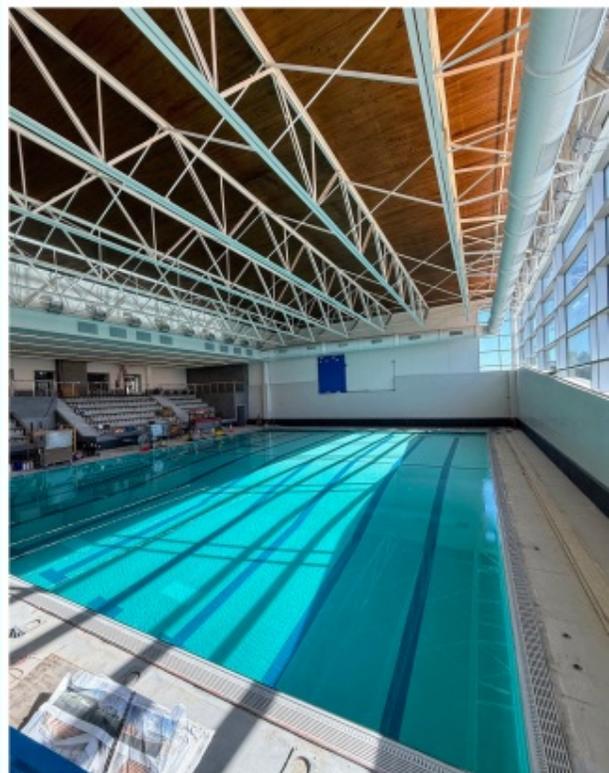
Let's talk about how we can deliver exceptional results for you.



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SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY & VISITATION
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2025 STEM EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Wednesday, August 13, 8:00 am - 3:30 pm

Heritage Christian Academy, Maple Grove

Get ready for an exciting day filled with innovation, inspiration, and meaningful connections!

Come together with other educators, STEM specialists, and school leaders to gain new insights, discover new resources, and bring innovative ideas back to your school to promote imaginative learning and engagement for your students.

- Expand your knowledge with a variety of 1-hour breakout sessions.
- Learn from sessions led by MINNDEPENDENT member teachers, including presentations about STEM grant projects.
- Immerse yourself in hands-on experiences to regain student perspectives
- Earn 4.75 BOSA approved CEUs

[**VIEW THE BREAKOUT SESSIONS HERE**](#)



COST REGISTER EARLY AND SAVE!

Member Schools

\$50 Early-bird registration (through June 20, 2025)

\$75 Regular registration (after June 20, 2025)

Nonmember Schools

\$100 Early-bird registration (through June 20, 2025)

\$150 Regular registration (after June 20, 2025)

[**CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND
REGISTRATION**](#)

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STEM Scoop



[Northern Lights Collaborative for Computing Education](#)

Join us for an exciting 3-day computer science PD!

As a participant, you will have the opportunity to choose from one of five **[workshops](#)** that best align to your experience and professional learning goals. Along with the workshops, there will be whole group events for participants to connect with other educators and organizations working to expanding computer science education across the state.

Dates: August 5-7, 2025

Location: TBD, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Cost: \$50 for CSTA members, \$100 for non-members (includes CSTA membership for one year)

Stipends & Travel Reimbursement: A \$630 stipend is available for Minnesota K-12 educators who attend all 3 days and complete workshop requirements. Limited [travel reimbursements](#) will be available to educators not local to the Twin Cities.

STEM Day at the Fair 2025

[STEM Day at the Minnesota State Fair](#) brings together several dozen STEM education providers, leading Minnesota corporations, award-winning teachers, and thousands of families to explore and celebrate all things STEM. It's an opportunity for youth and their families to take time to play, learn, and discover in ways that might surprise and delight them.



This year's theme is You Belong in STEM, assuring everyone that they have a place in the STEM community and in a STEM career. We will be celebrating the diversity of roles and individuals in STEM today and the opportunities for tomorrow.

Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025

Location: Dan Patch Park, Minnesota State Fairgrounds

The MINNDEPENDENT Newsletter is sponsored by

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Did you know...

- 70% of Americans have less than \$1000 saved.

- The avg. American overspends by almost \$7,500 per year.
- 59% Don't have a budget.
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[Introduction to Money Canvas \(3 min.\)](#)

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[Learn more and register for Money Canvas](#)



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Way to go on making it to the end of another beautiful school year! It's time to embrace a Slow Road summer break filled with Minnesota lake life, flip flops, and popsicles! We will see you in the fall as we partner together to shine a light on the invaluable spark of every person at your school. And if we aren't Picture Day partners yet, let's schedule a time to chat about what it looks like to bring Slow Road Photo to your school for all your photography needs. We are built for Minnesota's Private and Independent Schools, and it would be an honor to serve you!

"From the office team to the photographers and assistants, every member of their team exemplified the utmost professionalism and dedication to their craft. They prove that excellence in service goes hand in hand with empathy and compassion." - Susan Reader, Yinghua Academy

Learn more about Picture Day with Slow Road here:
<https://www.slowroadphoto.com/experience>.

Preferred Partnership Program

This exclusive program recognizes the top 30% of our partners who have demonstrated a strong commitment to our mission and member schools. By partnering with Preferred Partners, schools can access a comprehensive ecosystem of trusted resources to provide the best possible products and services to their communities.



Renaissance
See Every Student.

Member School News





Magnuson Christian School

May 7 at 6:00 PM · 🌐



The 2nd graders love learning how to play the instruments in music class!

#iheartmagnuson



👍❤️ 16

1 comment 1 share

[From Magnuson Christian School's Facebook page](#)

Important Dates to Remember

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

STEM Education Conference

Heritage Christian Academy, Maple Grove

Monday, September 22-Wednesday September 24, 2025

School Leadership Conference Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort

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