



MINNDEPENDENT

July 2025 Newsletter

Dear friends of private and independent education,

We hope you're enjoying a well-deserved break, with time to rest and recharge. This month's newsletter is intentionally brief to honor the quieter pace of summer, but we look forward to reconnecting with you in August as we gear up for the STEM Education Conference and the new school year!

Membership renewal is in full swing. Thanks to those members that have already renewed – and welcome to our newest members! Not yet a member? There's no better time to join the largest network of private and independent schools in Minnesota. Check out the details below!

Last week, schools may have received notice from your LEA that the release of \$6.8 billion in federal education funding expected on July 1 will not occur. The following programs are affected:

- Title I-C for migrant education
- Title II-A for professional development
- Title III-A for English-learner services
- Title IV-A for academic enrichment
- Title IV-B for before-and after-school programs

We have been in contact with our national [Council for American Private Education](#) on this issue. They are working closely with the US Department of Education, in partnership with other national private and independent educational organizations on the impact to our schools. CAPE has specifically asked for specific examples about the types of programs that will be harmed, how they serve kids and support educators/staff. [Please reply to this email](#) with your feedback and the impacts this funding has on your school communities.

Thank you for your support and investment in private and independent education.

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](#)

MINNDEPENDENT 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!

[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](#)



Stay Connected. Amplify Your Voice. Renew Today.

Renewal season is here, and invoices have been sent to all member schools. (Please [contact us](#) if you haven't seen yours yet.) As we look ahead, we invite you to renew your membership and continue this journey alongside 182 fellow private and independent schools. Together, we form a dynamic, mission-focused network committed to strengthening education in Minnesota.

Your support fuels everything we do—from shaping policy to amplifying your school's voice at the Capitol. **This year, that collective voice delivered a big win: full protection of nonpublic pupil aid and transportation services. Victories like this remind us what's possible when we stand united.**

We know every school faces unique challenges, and your voice helps guide our work. We welcome your feedback, your insights, and your ideas. Because ultimately, our success is rooted in serving you—and doing it better every year.

Thank you for being part of MINNDEPENDENT. Your partnership empowers our statewide impact through strategic collaboration, innovative programming, and meaningful advocacy. **If you know a school that could benefit from being part of this growing community, please [connect them with us](#).**

Let's keep building on our shared commitment to high-quality education. Together, we're shaping what comes next for Minnesota's private and independent schools.

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FOCUSED.**

**MEANINGFUL
PARTNERSHIPS.**

**MEASURABLE
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At Opus, our clients are at the center of everything we do. Through meaningful collaboration and our integrated design-build delivery model, our experts provide you with exceptional results every time.

Read how we delivered a new activity center for Our Lady of Grace ahead of schedule.

[OLG PROJECT STORY →](#)

Let's talk about how we can deliver on your mission.



Scott Shifflett
952.656.4471
scott.shifflett@opus-group.com



OUR LADY OF GRACE, EDINA, MN



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](#)

Session Highlights

Agriculture in Every Day (Grades K-12)

Where does our food come from? What about clothing, building materials, and renewable energy? Learn about no-cost lesson resources that can bring agriculture-related content to your students, no matter the grade or subject area. Teachers will come away with ready-to-use classroom materials and lesson ideas to add to their teaching toolkits.

Demystifying Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (Grades 6-12)

This session will explore "Professor Nimble," a project designed by students for students that helps illustrate key principles of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. Professor Nimble is an entirely mechanical machine that learns to play a simple game. The machine was designed to be very visual, making it possible for students to see it learn over time and observe the principles of machine learning in action. Along with illustrating AI and machine learning concepts, it also engages students with probability, chance, ratios, and proportions. By the end of the session, attendees will see how they could make their own Professor Nimble. Professor Nimble is also willing to travel if attendees would like to schedule a visit to their schools.

AI-Powered Projects for Elementary Learners (Grades 1-5)

Looking for ways to safely and responsibly embed AI into your elementary school curriculum? Get inspired to "dial up" your use of AI with sample activities to teach AI literacy and example projects where students use AI as a bridge to boost creativity, critical thinking, and communication.

Conference Schedule

8:00 - 8:30 AM - Registration and Breakfast

8:30 - 9:15 AM - Welcome and Keynote

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM - Session One

10:50 AM - 11:50 AM - Session Two

11:50 AM - 12:50 PM - Lunch

12:50 PM - 1:50 PM - Session Three

2:10 PM - 3:15 PM - Session Four & Conference Evaluation

3:15 PM - 3:30 PM - Pick up CEU certificates

COST REGISTER EARLY AND SAVE!

Member Schools

\$50 Early-bird registration (through July 13, 2025)

\$75 Regular registration (after July 13, 2025)

Nonmember Schools

\$100 Early-bird registration (through July 13, 2025)

\$150 Regular registration (after July 13, 2025)

**CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND
REGISTRATION**

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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





Summer is a great time to get Financially Fit!

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.
- Studies say that people spend 80% more when using credit cards!

Increase personal financial clarity for you, your staff, and parents with Thrivent's FREE (really and no sales pressure) money coaching service called **Money Canvas**.

Benefits of **Money Canvas** by Thrivent?

- See where your money goes each month
- Improve your spending habits
- Free up money to put toward your priority (saving, paying off debt, starting to invest)
- Feel more in control of your money!

[Introduction to Money Canvas \(3 min.\)](#)

Register for your first Money Canvas session below and include **Mindependent** as how you learned about Money Canvas in your registration.

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



Sue Furry
Assistant Manager of Engagement
Sue.furry@thrivent.com
651-666-8695



Bruce Plautz
Senior Engagement Leader
Bruce.plautz@thrivent.com
1-920-851-7298

MINNDEPENDENT Preferred Partnership Spotlight



Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

The core of MNSAA's mission is to enhance the quality of education

<https://mnsaa.org/>

Vicki Kalina Marvin
Executive Director
507-222-9205
vicki.marvin@mnsaa.org

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.



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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MINNDEPENDENT | 5200 Willson Road Suite 310 | Edina, MN 55424 US

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