



MINNDEPENDENT

A Trusted Partner For Private & Independent Schools

2024-2025 Annual Report



2025 Leadership Conference

OUR MISSION

MINNDEPENDENT connects and strengthens Minnesota’s private and independent schools through programming, partnerships and public policy so members can be student-centered and mission-driven.

OUR VISION

A vibrant educational ecosystem that promotes success for all Minnesota students.

OVERVIEW OF OUR WORK

ADVOCACY

We protect and advocate for the interests of private and independent schools at the state and federal level.

MEMBER RESOURCE HUB

We are a reliable helping hand for schools: a source for the latest information, a clear communicator and connector of opportunities, and a trusted advisor when navigating uncharted territory.

PARTNERSHIPS

We cultivate meaningful relationships with trusted partners to fulfill our mission and foster value exchanges that benefit all.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We match schools with exceptional content providers to inspire learning, fuel innovation and create transformative educational experiences.

INNOVATION: STEM

We empower schools to fulfill their missions by connecting them to opportunities for funding, support and know-how to expand and improve their STEM programs.

MINNDEPENDENT.ORG

Dear Friends of MINNDEPENDENT,

We are pleased to present the 2024–25 Annual Report, an opportunity to extend our deepest gratitude to the many advocates, donors, funders, members, and partners who make our work possible. With 181 member schools, MINNDEPENDENT remains the largest and most connected organization serving Minnesota’s private and independent school communities.

In a year filled with accomplishments—our highest membership to date and expanding partnerships—the most significant impact came during the 2025 legislative session. One of our core beliefs is that “we advocate with a focused and united voice for the interests of private and independent schools, ensuring that local and state policymakers understand and support policies and practices that strengthen Minnesota’s private and independent schools.” That belief was put to the ultimate test.

When a proposal emerged to eliminate an array of essential services supporting nonpublic students and families—including nursing, counseling, transportation, and learning materials, MINNDEPENDENT led a coalition to activate, advocate, and mobilize school communities statewide. Together, we delivered a resounding message, generating more than 12,000 communications to elected officials urging protection of these vital resources. The result? Remarkable! All services to nonpublic school families and students were fully protected. A powerful testament to the resilience and passion of our school communities.

Looking ahead, 2026 marks the 50th anniversary of MINNDEPENDENT’s founding—a milestone that celebrates both our legacy and our future. Throughout the year, we’ll honor this occasion with opportunities to engage, celebrate, reflect, and elevate MINNDEPENDENT into its next half-century of service. We hope you’ll join us in raising a glass to fifty years of collaboration, advocacy, and impact.

In short, we have quite the success story from our 49th year to celebrate as we enter our 50th year.

Thank you for standing alongside MINNDEPENDENT to empower our small, but mighty organization.

Sincerely,



Michael Lamb
Chair, Board of Directors



Tim Benz
President

2024-2025 Member Schools

MINNDEPENDENT member schools represent a strong cross-section of faith affiliations, educational philosophies, and geographic and cultural diversity.

During 2024-2025 MINNDEPENDENT's membership network consisted of 181 schools serving 41,352 students.

CLICK HERE for a list of member schools and associate members



2024-2025 MINNDEPENDENT Staff

Tim Benz

President

Michele Skare

Administrative Assistant

Lisa Vosbeek

Director of Development & Programs

Consultant

Beth Murphy Ph.D.

STEM Program Manager

2024 – 2025 Board of Directors

Rev. Dr. Timothy Berner, *Executive Director*, Concordia Academy, Roseville

Michael Brennan, *President*, Holy Family Catholic High School

Dean Broadhead*, *Chief Executive Officer*, Broadhead

Jennifer Cassidy, *Director of Catholic School/Church Partnerships*, Lake Area Discovery Center

Shana Duininck, *Parent and Volunteer*

Heidi Gallus, *Principal*, St. Michael Catholic School

Jim Hansen, *Business Executive and President*, Hill-Murray (Retired)

Josh Killian*, *Vice President, Marketing*, Patterson Dental

Michael Lamb*, **EVP**, *Chief Delivery Officer*, Xcel Energy

Joel Landskroener*, *Executive Director*, Mayer Lutheran High School

Anna Lima, *Attorney/Owner*, Lima Law Office PLLP

Brian Lynch*, *Chief Financial Officer*, Benilde-St. Margaret's

Teri McCloughan*, *Attorney*, Stapleton & McCloughan, PLLC

Blake Nelson, *Attorney*, Hellmuth & Johnson

Kelly Regan, *Vice President & Marketing Director*, Premier Banks

Kate Wollan*, *Principal*, Nativity of Our Lord School

BOARD MEMBER EMERITUS

Rosa Miller, *Vice President*, 3M Latin America (Retired)

OFFICERS

Michael Lamb, Chair

Kate Wollan, Vice Chair

Dean Broadhead, Secretary

Brian Lynch, Treasurer

Tim Benz, President

* Executive Committee

MINNDEPENDENT’s STEM Advisory Committee engages representatives from the community who have expertise and a vested interest in high-quality STEM education. This committee serves as the review panel for the STEM Grant Program.

Members of the 2024-2025 STEM Advisory Committee:

Jacob Beveridge, Ph.D., *Advanced Product Development Specialist, 3M Abrasives Systems Division, 3M*

Jazmine Darden, *Senior Principal Specialist, Medtronic Foundation*

Anne Dougherty, *STEM Educator, Self-Employed*

Jenna Finsel, *PreK-5 STEAM Teacher, Nativity of Our Lord Catholic School*

Vikram Ghosh, *Futures Trader, Self-employed*

John Henderson, *Data Scientist/Central Lab, Product Informatics & Modeling, Solventum*

Michael Lamb, EVP, *Chief Delivery Officer, Xcel Energy*

Sarah Krieger, *Senior Chemist, Operational Innovation RD&E, Ecolab*

Debbie Monson Ph.D., *Professor, Department Chair, Teacher Education, University of St. Thomas*

Justin Spencer, *Director of Education, The Bakken Museum*

Jorge Ulate, *Senior R&D Manager, General Mills*

Thomas P. (Tom) Wallisch, *Group Lead, 3M Abrasive Systems Division R&D, 3M*

2025 Private & Independent Education Awards

LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Heidi Foley

Principal

**Academy of Holy Angels
Richfield**

Brian Ragatz

President

**Saint Thomas Academy
Mendota Heights**

HONOR TEACHER AWARDS

Jennifer Klobe

3rd Grade Teacher

**Avail Academy
Blaine**

David O'Connell

English Teacher,

Model UN Advisor

**Saint Thomas Academy
Mendota Heights**

EDUCATION AWARDS HONOREES

Behind the Scenes Award

Chris and Rachel Young

Volunteers

**Holy Trinity Catholic School
Pierz**

Program Award

STEM Club

**Community of Saints
Regional Catholic School
West Saint Paul**

Community Champion Award

Nick Minardi

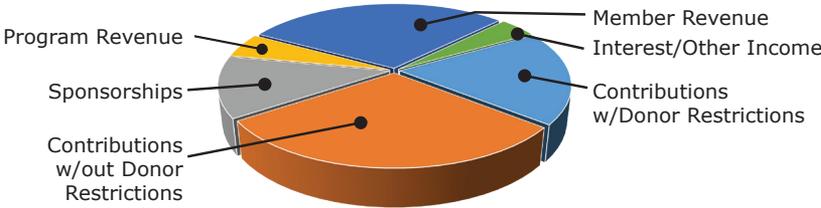
Volunteer

**Stella Maris Academy
Duluth**

Financial Activity 2024-2025

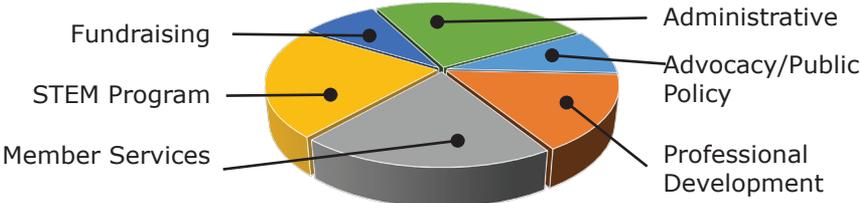
Revenue and Support

Contributions-without donor restrictions	\$138,688
Contributions-with donor restrictions.....	\$217,968
Sponsorships	\$90,305
Program Revenue	\$36,645
Member Revenue.....	\$214,613
Interest/Other Income	\$30,315
Net Assets released from restrictions and/or satisfaction of program restrictions	\$196,997
Total Revenue and Other Support	\$728,534



Expenses

Program Expenses	
Advocacy/Public Policy	\$63,414
Professional Development	\$107,893
Member Services	\$141,667
STEM Program.....	\$156,316
Fundraising.....	\$59,807
Administrative.....	\$169,410
Total Expenses	\$698,507
Change in Net Assets	\$30,027
Net Assets-Beginning	\$892,584
Net Assets-Ending	\$922,611



2024-2025 Donor Recognition

MINNDEPENDENT would like to thank the special donors who graciously support private and independent education through gifts of cash, stock, and in-kind donation. The following businesses, corporations, foundations, and individuals made contributions between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

\$100,000 AND ABOVE

Schott Foundation*

Teri and Kevin McCloughan Family Fund of the Catholic Community Foundation*

Premier Banks*

\$25,000 - \$99,999

3M*

Hardenbergh Foundation*

Helen Harrington Charitable Trust*

Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation*

Rosa M. Miller*

Xcel Energy Foundation*

\$1000 - \$2499

Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Athwin Foundation

Battenkill Foundation

Tim and Anastasia Benz*

Bethel University*

Broadhead

Chuck Spaeth Ford*

Donald's Uniform*

Eight Moon

Escale Advisors

Hellmuth & Johnson PLLC

Kenneth and Linda Holmen*

Doug and Laura Jaeger*

Randy and Rachel Kroll and the Kroll Family Giving Fund of the National Christian Foundation*

\$5,000 - \$24,999

Catapult Learning, LLC

Robert and Joan Cummins

Mr. & Mrs. William B. Frels/
Frels Family Foundation*

James W. Hansen

Langer Construction

Science from Scientists

Thrivent

We Share Solar

Lakeshore Learning

Michael and Ellen Lamb

Mathiowetz Construction Company*

McClung PR

Blake and Kris Nelson

North Risk Partners

Pheonix School Counseling LLC

Philip J. and Constance Paquette*

\$2500 - \$4,999

Dean and Cheri Broadhead

Canopy IT Solutions*

Cognia

The Jeremy and Shana Duinick Family Legacy Fund

Enquiry Tracker

FACTS

Mairs & Power*

Pope Design Group

Redpath and Company*

We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this publication. If we have omitted, misplaced, or misspelled any name, please accept our apologies. For corrections, please contact the MINNDEPENDENT office at 651.297.6716 or office@MINNDEPENDENT.org.

Kelly Regan*
Patrick O. and Mary K. Regan
Renaissance
Revolution Sporting Goods
Slow Road Photo
Solid Rock Construction
Sowles Company*
The Earliest Edge
The Mark E. and Mary A. Davis
Foundation*
The Opus Group
Tools for Success
Ulteig*

\$500 - \$999

Care Counseling
Creative Learning Systems
Fenworks
Heidi Gallus
Groves Learning Organization
High Tech Kids
Chuck and Mary Killian
Josh and Sue Killian*
LeiningerCPA, LTD
Larkin and Hoffman
Anna and Jason Lima
Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting
Association (MNSAA)
NATIV3
National Checking Company/NCCO*
Park Street Public
William H. Sadlier, Inc.
Saint Thomas Academy
Josh and Sara Schultz
Science from Scientists

Teq
Kate Wollan

\$100 - \$499

Academy of Holy Angels
Avail Academy
Tim Berner
Andy & Anne Biebl*
Michael Brennan
Jennifer and Ed Cassidy*
createMpls
Mike Dickson
Joel P. Landskroener*
Thomas D. Larson D.D.S.*
M. William Lower*
John McCall*
Mary and Michael Partington
Minnesota Zoo
Marshall and Michele Skare*
Stella Maris Academy
VentureEd Solutions
Chris and Lisa Vosbeek

UNDER \$100

James D. and Patricia A. Heydon
Frances Murnane
Rosemary Schwartz

IN-KIND GIFTS

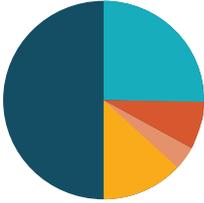
Eight Moon

MATCHING GIFTS

Best Buy Foundation*
Xcel Energy Foundation*

* Denotes donors who have supported MINNDEPENDENT for 10 or more years.

181 member schools
39% of market share



- 50% Catholic
- 29% Lutheran
- 13% Inter-Denom (Christian, ACSI, CSI, Evangelical)
- 6% Independent/Non-Denom, Montessori
- 3% Other religious (Jewish, Islamic, SDA)

55%

Member schools are located in the metro



45%

Member schools are located in the greater MN

17

Schools participated in the STEM Community Partnership Program with Science from Scientists and We Share Solar which allocated an additional **\$77,500** in STEM resources to schools

\$1,933,631

STEM support awarded to member schools to date

10 new member schools

**16 STEM
Grants**



awarded in
2025
totaling

\$44,449

95%

Retention rate
w/ Member Schools



228

Average number
of students at
member schools

40,993 Students
55% of market share



92%

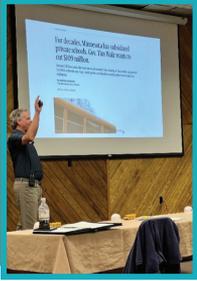
Engagement rate
with 181 member schools

346

STEM Grants awarded
to member schools
since the program
began

A TRUSTED PARTNER

For Private & Independent Schools



School Leadership Conference

"Although the topics and presenters change each year, there is one thing that never changes - the connections. As always, it was so valuable to reconnect with people I already knew and make new connections, too. Thank you!" **Vicki Marvin**,

Executive Director, Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

"I started attending a few years ago and this was the best and most relevant conference for my needs. I will be back and will highly recommend and encourage other administrators to attend. It's better than many conferences and the cost is minimal. I'm not sure how you manage to do that." **Mona Passman**, **Principal, Cretin-Derham Hall – St. Paul**

"Thank you for giving me an opportunity to connect with other school leaders in a comfortable and non-intimidating setting. This conference is the perfect blend of professional development and relaxation and connection that we all crave and need." **Maggie Dawson**, **Principal, St. Vincent de Paul – Brooklyn Park**

STEM Education Conference

What Conference Attendees Said About the Annual STEM Education Conference...



"As a second year teacher who is focused on not only better learning my curriculum but also how I can help all of my students learn, this conference really aided in that process." **Conference Attendee**

"This is a great conference for any STEM teacher looking for practical ways to engage with students." **Sarah Pagmano**, **Minnetonka Christian Academy**

"Workshop provided good practical information for the classroom with hands on activities." **Karl Terhaar**, **All Saints Academy – St. Cloud**

"Mindependent does a wonderful job supporting educators in STEM. It's wonderful to have so many options for breakout sessions. It's hard to pick just one!!" **Eileen Moening**, **Carondelet Catholic School – Minneapolis**



STEM Grant Program

"We desire to empower all students, in particular those underrepresented in STEM, to see themselves as successful in current and future STEM pursuits." **Kari Marsh, Principal, Most Holy Redeemer Catholic School – Montgomery**



"We were able to set up an area for assembly of aircraft components. This has given us the first steps towards adding vocational options in our school. This grant extends our aviation classes (also supported by MINNDEPENDENT) from flight-related careers in aviation to aircraft maintenance careers. Some of our students had never seen a rivet gun nor assembled components from drawings." **Gene Poole, United Christian Academy – Bloomington**

"The MINNDEPENDENT STEM Grant has had a transformative impact on our students and school community through the Ken Melrose Technology Lab (M-Lab). Every Cristo Rey student—100%—uses the M-Lab in each of their six classes, giving them consistent, hands-on exposure to technical tools and concepts. Consistent access ensures students exploring careers in manufacturing, automotive, healthcare, and information technology gain valuable real-world experience that directly aligns with Minnesota's growing demand for skilled professionals." **Cristo Rey Jesuit High School – Minneapolis**

STEM Community Partnership Program (Science from Scientists)

"Joyful learning; seeing the women scientists show our students, especially our girls, how being smart and really into a topic is cool and worth striving for; teachers energized to do more science with students." **Anne Gattman, Principal, St. Jerome School – Maplewood**

"Science from Scientists has been really helpful in providing additional science exposure to my students. As a classroom teacher, I struggle to provide enriching science lessons for my students due to the lack of resources and funding. This program has been able to offer that exposure to STEM careers to my students that they wouldn't have known about without these resources." **Jessica Castillo, St. John Paul II Catholic School – Minneapolis**



STEM Community Partnership Program (We Share Solar)

"The We Share Solar Program Partnership allows students who might usually struggle with concepts to be a leader in this hands-on project. This also provides an amazing opportunity for students to connect with people outside of their community. The students are able to see how people in other countries live." **St. Jude of the Lake Catholic School – Mahtomedi**



What School Leaders Value the Most About Their Membership with MINNDEPENDENT.

*The value of a MINNDEPENDENT membership is the opportunity to connect with other non-public and private school leaders to address, think about, and design solutions to the problems that we face that are unique to the independent world. As well as having an organization that can advocate for private schools and non-public schools here in the state of Minnesota. There's a lot going on in the world right now. Especially here in the state of Minnesota and to have colleagues that can be trusted to reach out to for support for guidance to be able to have a whole network is invaluable. **David Sorkin, President, Academy of Holy Angels - Richfield***

*I think the unspoken value that I have benefited from MINNDEPENDENT is the ability to gain relationships with school leaders from around Minnesota, who I would not otherwise have relationships with. I have colleagues that are in Lutheran schools and in Jewish schools and in Catholic schools and there's a richness and depth to those relationships where we have this inter-reliance on each other. School leadership can be very lonely if you don't have and build those relationships and MINNDEPENDENT has been the conduit for me to have that opportunity. **Andrew Hilliker, President, Stella Maris Academy - Duluth***



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