



Learning Matters highlights the most important issues coming out of the Minnesota Department of Education including press releases, policy announcements, grant and scholarship opportunities and other items of interest.

Please forward this newsletter to others in the education field who may be interested in Learning Matters. [Subscribe to Learning Matters](#).

If you do not wish to receive Learning Matters every week, send us an e-mail: mde.unsubscribe-learningmatters@state.mn.us

Minnesota's Application for Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge

Good News! The application for Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge has been released by the federal government, and Minnesota is well poised to provide a strong response on behalf of Minnesota's children.

Your voice and input remain absolutely crucial to the success of this application. The best way to review the guidelines, provide input and vote on your favorite suggestions is through the template we have created on the United Front Race to the Top web page. [Visit the site and provide your feedback](#).

You may also register to join us September 9, at one of seven locations around the state for an in-depth overview of the application, to share feedback and connect with peers. [Register now as space is limited](#).

Grant Opportunity for Environmental and Outdoor Education (EOE) Integration

Funding from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund is for the purpose of designing and implementing innovative environmental and outdoor education programs that bolster student achievement in middle school or high school science, physical education, social studies and/or mathematics.

The Minnesota Department of Education anticipates selecting six grantees with grant amounts up to \$5,000 each. Applications must be received by September 30, 2011, midnight, Central Time. [View the application](#) (Competitive – State EOE1 – Environmental and Outdoor Education Integration) Questions? Contact Jeff Ledermann at 651-582-8602 or jeff.ledermann@state.mn.us.

U.S. EPA Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) Web Academy – September 15

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will present Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) Web Academy: Green Chemistry 101 in Schools, September 15, 2011, 1-2:30 EST. Green Chemistry, also known as sustainable chemistry, is the design of chemical products and processes that reduce or eliminate the use or generation of hazardous substances. Green chemistry applies across the life cycle of a chemical product, including its design, manufacture and use. Hear from two leading experts as they discuss the principles of green chemistry and some of the challenges and applications to school chemical clean outs and K-12 curricula development.

-Green Chemistry 101 and its Connection to School Chemical Clean Out –
Dwight Peavey, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, U.S. EPA Region 1.

-Green Chemistry 101 and its Connection to School Curriculum –
Kate Anderson, Director K-12 Education, Beyond Benign: Green Chemistry Education.

[Visit the EPA SMM website.](#) [Register for the September 15 Web Academy.](#)

United States Senate Youth Program Applications Available

The U.S. Senate Youth Program is a nationwide program that provides high school students with a hands-on introduction to the functions of the federal government. Selected students will participate in a weeklong, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., March 3-10, 2012, to learn about the United States Senate and meet with government leaders. Students are also eligible for a \$5,000 scholarship. Application Deadline: October 14, 2011. The program is sponsored by the U.S. Senate and funded by The Hearst Foundations. [For more information, visit the U.S. Senate Youth Program website.](#) [Access the application form.](#)

2011 AYP Release Questions and Answers

Preliminary Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) determinations will be released to the public no later than September 30. MDE is working hard to get determinations finalized as soon as possible and has created a document to answer the most frequently asked questions. [Read the AYP FAQ.](#)

Final Assessment Results Timelines

MDE is still evaluating the specific timelines for the release of the Reading and Mathematics MCA, MCA-Modified, and MTAS results. While we understand that not having a specific date makes it difficult for your planning purposes, we are holding some flexibility in the event we are able to complete our work and release results earlier than late September. Once a final determination is made, we will provide one week's notice before results are released. We thank you for your patience as we continue working through the challenges created by the government shutdown.

United States Constitution Day – September 17

September 17 is Constitution Day/Citizenship Day, commemorating the September 17, 1787, signing of the U.S. Constitution. To assist students and educators in their studies, free online resources are available from the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Resources for Educational Excellence (FREE) website, as well as the National History Education Clearinghouse and the National Archives and Records Administration. [Find this information on the U.S. Department of Education website.](#)

ED Review – A U.S. Department of Education Newsletter

ED Review provides a bi-weekly update on U.S. Department of Education activities relevant to the Intergovernmental and Corporate community and other stakeholders. [See the latest posting.](#)

Minnesota Computers for Schools – Monthly Promotion

[Minnesota Computers for Schools \(MCFS\)](#) refurbishes donated computers and provides them to schools at a minimal charge. Watch for their monthly specials under the Purchase Computers tab.

Learning Matters is produced by the Communications Office at the [Minnesota Department of Education](#)

If you have questions about the information contained in this newsletter, please contact:
mde.contactus@state.mn.us

Issue 12, Volume 7, 9/2/2011