

## MDE Weekly Superintendent Mail

**TO:** Superintendents  
**FROM:** Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Commissioner  
**DATE:** December 1, 2011

### MDE NEWS AND INFORMATION

#### PRESS RELEASE

- ***Minnesota Department of Education Launches New Website***

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) launched a new website today designed to provide educators, parents, and the public with an intuitive, easy-to-navigate tool to learn about Minnesota public schools. [Read the news release.](#)

#### ACTION ITEMS

- ***MDE Weekly Superintendent Mail***

As we have transitioned to the new website, know that we will continue to announce the MDE Weekly Superintendent Mail via e-mail to you and post it to the website. For this week's mailing, however, it is contained within the e-mail, but not yet posted to the website. To locate the new Superintendent Mailing area on the website, from the [MDE Home Page](#), select "Welcome to MDE," "Office of the Commissioner," and "Superintendents" in the left column. [Here is the direct link to the Superintendents page.](#) You will be able to see past issues, and the current issue will be there soon. Thank you for your patience while we shift to a new Web-posting procedure.

- ***Final 2011 Payable 2012 Levy Limitation and Certification Report***

See the [memorandum](#) from Tom Melcher, director of Program Finance. The final version of the 2011 Payable 2012 Levy Limitation and Certification Report (ED-00111-33) for each school district has been posted to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) website. The school board must adopt the final property tax levies no later than five working days after **December 20 (effectively December 28)**.

For assistance with questions concerning Truth in Taxation procedures, contact Shawn Wink, Department of Revenue, at (651) 556-6095. Other questions should be directed to Terri Yetter at (651) 582-8868.

- ***Are you Receiving the MDE Integration Bulletin?***

MDE integration staff send e-mail bulletins to all superintendents in districts receiving integration revenue. These bulletins convey critical information—reporting requirements, submission deadlines, or technical assistance specific to the integration revenue program. If your district receives integration revenue and you have not received the latest MDE Integration Bulletin (sent 10/21/11), please check your junk mail filter to see if the bulletins are being stopped there. You may also check with your district's IT department or contact

[support@govdelivery.com](mailto:support@govdelivery.com) for further assistance regarding e-mail delivery problems. To request a copy of the October 21 MDE Integration Bulletin, please contact program staff at [mde.integration@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.integration@state.mn.us).

## MISCELLANEOUS

- ***Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserves Institute – December 6-7, 2011***

Learn how to support military families and youth. The next training, Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserves Institute, will be held in Bloomington at the Embassy Suites Minneapolis Airport December 6-7, 2011.

The Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserves Institute focuses on information needed to raise community awareness about the issues faced by children when a parent is deployed. Through a combination of direct instruction, group work and interactive activities, participants develop strategies and the framework of an Action Plan to support these children of the "suddenly military."

School counselors and other professional educators; school nurses; family support personnel of the National Guard and Reserves are encouraged to attend. CEUs are available. [Access registration and more information.](#)

- ***2012 National STEM Video Game Challenge***

Inspired by the Educate to Innovate Campaign, President Obama's initiative to promote a renewed focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education, the [National STEM Video Game Challenge](#) is a multi-year competition, with the goal to motivate interest in STEM learning among America's youth by tapping into students' natural passion for playing and making video games. The National STEM Video Game Challenge was launched in partnership with Digital Promise, a new initiative created by President Obama and Congress, supported through the U.S. Department of Education. The initiative is designed to unlock the promise of breakthrough technologies to transform teaching and learning.

The contest is open to students and game designers in four levels: middle school, high school, college and graduate students, and educators. Entrants have until March 12, 2012, to submit their ideas and games.

- ***2012 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay/Spoken-Word/Poster Contest – Deadline Extended***

[See the letter of invitation from Cheryl Chatman](#), contest chair. [Please visit the event website for further information including the contest entry form.](#) The submission deadline has been extended. Entries must be postmarked **December 21 or earlier.**

For more information or clarification, please contact Cheryl Chatman ([chatman@csp.edu](mailto:chatman@csp.edu), 651/603-6151), Essay/Spoken-Word/Poster Contest Chair, or Yvonne Wells-Ellis, Coordinator of the MLK Event ([ywellsellis01@hamline.edu](mailto:ywellsellis01@hamline.edu), or at the Council on Black Minnesotans' office line at 651/642-0811).

- ***Minnesota Board of Teaching Licensure Actions***

The Minnesota Board of Teaching has taken the following licensure actions:

- ***Terwilliger, Pamela (FF 390174)*** On November 18, 2011, the Board of Teaching denied the renewal application of Ms. Terwilliger for three years and until she meets the requirements of the Board.
- ***Rolfes, Trevor (FF 415104)*** Pursuant to Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order adopted by the Board of Teaching on November 18, 2011, Mr. Rolfe's teaching license is suspended for one year.
- ***Kosch, Stacy (FF 414939)*** On November 18, 2011, the Board of Teaching adopted a Stipulation Agreement suspending her license for one month.
- ***Holm, Mark Steven (FF 293652)*** On November 23, 2011, the teaching license of Mr. Holm has been permanently revoked.

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