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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.

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LEARNING MATTERS

PRESS RELEASES

- *Minnesota Receives Race to the Top Grant*

As one of nine states to receive the grant, the Department of Education will receive \$45 million to develop a better aligned system of accountable and effective early childhood education. [See the December 16 news release.](#)

- *Commissioner's Statewide NCLB Waiver Meetings – Schedule Update*

Commissioner Brenda Cassellius and department staff continue their statewide tour to present information about Minnesota's No Child Left Behind waiver request. [Read the December 6 press release.](#)

Public meetings are scheduled for:

- January 4, 3:00 p.m. – Mankato, Intergovernmental Center (Minnesota River Room)
- January 17, 3:30 p.m. – Marshall, Marshall High School Theatre (Schwan Center for the Arts)

MISCELLANEOUS

- *Q Comp Conference –January 27, 2012*

The 2012 Q Comp Conference will be held on Friday, January 27, at the Minnesota Department of Education Conference Center B. Its theme, **Growing for Success: Every Teacher and Every Student**, will provide educators with transformation stories occurring in Q Comp districts concerning efforts to increase teacher effectiveness and student achievement. The conference will provide sessions on how the Minnesota Q Comp program has become an important school reform instrument in building collaboration within the district, school and teams to reach higher levels of students success. [For more information and to register for the conference, visit The Prep Center website.](#)

- *Portable U MEMO Conference – January 27, 2012*

The Minnesota Educational Media Organization (MEMO) is hosting this mini-conference focusing on issues and training relating to one-to-one initiatives, such as iPads, e-book readers and other mobile devices. The conference will be held at TIES in Roseville. [Visit the MEMO website for more details and registration information](#). The MEMO organization serves school media and information technology professionals in Minnesota.

- *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 Special Deals under the Buy Computers tab](#).

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

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