



## MDE Weekly Superintendent Mail

TO: Superintendents  
FROM: Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Commissioner  
DATE: January 12, 2011

### MDE NEWS AND INFORMATION

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

- ***Commissioner's Dialogue with Superintendents – January 18***

The next conference call is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 9:30-10:30.

One of the topics we will talk about relates to point four of Governor Dayton's 7-Point Plan for Achieving Excellence — "Reading Well by Third Grade." Kari Ross, MDE's reading specialist, will be present to talk about the "Reading Well by Third Grade" initiative and the resources and information that is available for Minnesota schools to use as tools in developing comprehensive literacy programs and practices that lead to increased student achievement at all levels.

Call-in instructions will be sent to you next week prior to the conference call.

#### PRESS RELEASE

- ***Governor Mark Dayton to Hold First American Indian Education Summit***

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, Governor Dayton convened the first Governor's American Indian Education Summit. The summit brought together tribal and state education leaders, as well as key stakeholders, to address barriers and challenges currently facing the state's Indian students and begin developing shared strategies to improve student achievement and outcomes for Indian children. [See the January 6 press release.](#)

#### MISCELLANEOUS

- ***Reading Well by Third Grade FAQ Webinar – January 23, 2012***

A series of information sessions on the “Reading Well by Third Grade” initiative were offered in the fall and are [available on the MDE website](#). The next event will be a webinar from 9-11:00 a.m. on Monday, January 23, to address frequently asked questions about requirements of local literacy plans, and updates on data submission and plan outlines will be presented. If a district has not yet participated in these events, now would be a great time to get involved. [See the registration form](#).

Questions can be addressed to Kari Ross, State Reading Specialist, at [kari.d.ross@state.mn.us](mailto:kari.d.ross@state.mn.us) or 651-582-8455.

- ***Pretest Editing Deadline for Minnesota Assessments***

All public school districts and charter schools should be making edits in the Pretest Edit window in Test WES. Superintendents will want to confirm with their District Assessment Coordinator that they have information from staff across the district to complete these tasks to ensure students have the appropriate tests and administration is able to begin on time. The deadline to complete many of the Pretest Editing tasks for spring assessments is **Friday, January 27**. By this date, the following tasks must be completed:

- Confirm test administration mode (paper or online) by school for the grades 3-8 Mathematics MCA under Test Administration Options; the mode will default to what was selected last year.
- Review test assignment and accommodations by student. On January 27, test assignment and accommodation information will be sent to AIR for the initial orders shipment, which includes regular and accommodated test materials for paper administrations and accommodated materials for online administrations.
- Indicate sort order for paper administrations if you want preprinted answer documents or labels to be organized in a particular way when shipped.

A user guide for Pretest Editing is available on the [Test WES page](#) on the MDE website. By January 27, District Assessment Coordinators also need to complete Supplemental Information in [AIR's TIDE website](#) to provide information on shipping, test administration, and reporting. Refer to the Assessment Update for more detailed information.

- ***Access to National Repository of Online Curriculum (NROC) Courses***

Through a partnership between the Minnesota State Colleges & Universities, the University of Minnesota, and the Minnesota Department of Education, the Minnesota Learning Commons has been established as a clearinghouse of online resources available to students and educators in Minnesota.

In addition to the resources available on the Minnesota Learning Commons website, the partnership has negotiated an agreement with NROC to provide select downloadable NROC

courses to Minnesota schools who wish to download these courses to their individual or hosted Moodle sites. See the below memorandum attached to this document.

- ***Voluntary Paraprofessional Credential***

In compliance with Minnesota Law, the Minnesota Board of Teaching is pleased to announce that Minnesota paraprofessionals may now apply for Voluntary Paraprofessional Credential that will recognize additional training and preparation in working with Minnesota students. The guidelines and competency grid are available on the [Board of Teaching website](#).

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

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

- Brigham, Rebecca (FF# 403546) Ms. Brigham's teaching license was suspended on January 6, 2012, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 270C.72, until she meets requirements of the Board of Teaching.
- Daniels, Michael (FF# 373687) On January 9, 2012, the teaching license of Mr. Daniels has been reinstated.
- Ericson, Mary (FF# 327303) Ms. Ericson's teaching license was suspended on January 6, 2012, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 270C.72, until she meets requirements of the Board of Teaching.
- Guyer, Timothy (FF# 319846) Mr. Guyer's teaching license was suspended on January 6, 2012, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 270C.72, until he meets requirements of the Board of Teaching.
- Heinrich, Donna (FF# 340687) Ms. Heinrich's teaching license was suspended on January 6, 2012, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 270C.72, until she meets requirements of the Board of Teaching.
- Hoffman, Paula (FF# 392871) Ms. Hoffman's teaching license was suspended on January 9, 2012, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 270C.72, until she meets requirements of the Board of Teaching.
- Sautbine, Dale (FF# 283063) Mr. Sautbine's teaching license was suspended on January 9, 2012, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 270C.72, until he meets requirements of the Board of Teaching.
- Yoney, Erika (FF# 448754) Ms. Yoney's teaching license was suspended on January 9, 2012, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 270C.72, until she meets requirements of the Board of Teaching.

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**TO:** Minnesota Educators  
**FROM:** Minnesota Learning Commons Partnership  
**SUBJECT:** Access to National Repository of Online Curriculum (NROC) Courses  
**DATE:** January 12, 2012

Greetings! We are writing to you because we think you may be interested in online content that is now available to Minnesota schools through a statewide agreement with the National Repository of Online Courses (NROC) and the Minnesota Learning Commons partnership. We know many Minnesota schools are seeking more online opportunities for their students and NROC provides high-quality course content.

NROC is a growing library of high-quality online course content for students and faculty in higher education, high school and Advanced Placement. This non-profit project, supported by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, is an Open Educational Resource (OER) and facilitates collaboration among a community of content developers to serve students and teachers worldwide. Visit [the NROC website](#) for more information.

The Minnesota Learning Commons represents a partnership between K-12 education, the Minnesota State Colleges & Universities, the University of Minnesota, and the Minnesota Department of Education. Through this partnership, the Minnesota Learning Commons has been established as a clearinghouse of online resources available to students and educators in Minnesota. Please visit the [Minnesota Learning Commons website](#) to explore resources available on the Learning Commons.

In addition to the resources available on the Minnesota Learning Commons website, the partnership has negotiated an agreement with NROC to provide select downloadable NROC courses to Minnesota schools who wish to download these courses to their individual or hosted Moodle sites. These courses are available for download from Intermediate School District 287 at the [Intermediate District 287 NROC Courses website](#). There are instructions on the site for downloading the courses, a technical along with terms of use, an agreement form you must complete in order to download the courses.

We strongly encourage you to check out these resources for your schools. If you have any questions about the NROC offerings, the Minnesota Learning Commons, or about downloading courses to your Moodle site, please contact the Minnesota Learning Commons at (877) 881-6652 or write to [mnlc@custhelp.com](mailto:mnlc@custhelp.com) and we will get you the information you need.