



MDE Weekly Superintendent Mail

TO: Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Commissioner

DATE: February 24, 2012

MDE NEWS AND INFORMATION

PRESS RELEASE

- ***Recommendations Released for Developing New Principal Evaluation System***

When it comes to evaluating principals, Minnesota teachers say that parents, students, staff and the community need to have a voice in the discussion. This idea is one of 10 key recommendations offered by teachers according to a new report released by the Dayton Administration, Education Minnesota and The VIVA Minnesota Teachers' Project. [Read the February 22 press release.](#) [Read the report: 360 Degree Leadership.](#)

ACTION ITEM

- ***FY 2012 Concurrent Enrollment Program Aid Application Process***

See the attached memorandum from Jessica Espinosa, dual enrollment specialist, regarding the above-mentioned matter. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.091, Concurrent Enrollment Program Aid, districts are eligible to receive aid in fiscal year 2012 if they are offering a concurrent enrollment course according to an agreement under section 124D.09, subdivision 10, from an eligible postsecondary institution.

For assistance with questions about the form or process, please contact Jessica.espinosa@state.m.us.

MISCELLANEOUS

- ***2011-12 School Spotlight Awards***

The Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation (MAEF) invites schools to apply for a 2011-12 School Spotlight Award. The purpose of the award is to identify schools that have demonstrated excellence in one of three areas—

- Attaining Excellence by Closing the Achievement Gap;

- Achieving Excellence through Innovation; and
- Realizing Excellence through Community Involvement.

Up to three awards will be given for each category. Awardees will receive recognition on both a statewide and local level as well as a certificate of recognition signed by the MAEF Board Chair and the Commissioner of Education. Schools may receive recognition in consecutive years. Schools interested in applying in multiple categories should complete a separate application for each category.

The MAEF SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT AWARD communicates that the accomplishments and hard work of schools are valued. Schools that have excelled in promoting the achievement of all students are highly encouraged to apply. Schools must demonstrate substantial achievement in student learning, such as having high levels of growth according to the Minnesota Growth Model or meeting AYP standards. All public, charter and private schools that participate in Minnesota's statewide assessments (MCA-II) or use other nationally recognized assessments are eligible. A panel appointed by the MAEF board will review the applications.

Visit the [scholarships and recognition page](#) on the MDE website to download an application. Applications are accepted via e-mail only, by **4:30 p.m. on March 5th**. Contact Wendy Behrens wendy.behrens@state.mn.us, or call 651-582-8786 with questions.

- **2012 Gifted and Talented Education Symposium – June 11-14**

Registration is now open for the 2012 Hormel Foundation Gifted and Talented Education Symposium to be held in Austin, Minnesota, June 11-14. A Pre-conference will be held on June 10th and Administrator Day will be held June 11th.

This opportunity for educators, psychologists, counselors, administrators and parents is made possible through a Hormel Foundation grant in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Education and Austin Public Schools.

A one-day session for administrators, school board members and counselors will be held on Monday, June 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with an optional session to observe STEM Camp from 2:45 to 4:15 p.m. Administrator Day includes: The Future of Intelligence on the Network by Eric Calvert, Muskingum University and Ashland University in Ohio; Grading and Assessment for Highly-Able Students by Mary Slade, James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia; Total School Cluster Grouping: Plans and Perspectives for Administrators by Marcia Gentry, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana; and STEM Camp: The Lab (optional) by Doug Paulson, Minnesota Department of Education in Roseville and Cathy Kindem, K-5 Science Specialist at Cedar Park STEM Elementary School in Apple Valley, Minnesota. The registration fee is \$55 and pre-registration is required.

Visit the [symposium website](#) to view complete information about all symposium events and register. For more information, contact Wendy Behrens at 651-582-8786 or wendy.behrens@state.mn.us.

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TO: Superintendents, High School Administrators
FROM: Jessica Espinosa, Dual Enrollment Specialist
DATE: February 23, 2012
SUBJECT: FY 2012 Concurrent Enrollment Program Aid Application Process

The process for receiving concurrent enrollment aid has changed for FY 2012. If your high school's concurrent enrollment courses are offered in partnership by the postsecondary institutions listed below, your school district does not need to complete the concurrent enrollment aid application this year. School districts offering concurrent enrollment in partnership with the colleges and universities listed below will automatically receive their aid based on the enrollment data provided by the postsecondary institutions.

The concurrent enrollment courses offered by the district must be accredited by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships, in the process of being accredited, or are shown by clear evidence to be of comparable standard to accredited courses. Please note that technical courses within a recognized career and technical education program of study approved by the commissioner of education and the chancellor of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities may also be eligible for this aid.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.091, Concurrent Enrollment Program Aid, districts are eligible to receive aid in fiscal year 2012 if they are offering a concurrent enrollment course according to an agreement under section 124D.09, subdivision 10, from an eligible postsecondary institution.

For purposes of this aid, concurrent enrollment is defined as a course taught by a secondary teacher or a postsecondary faculty member at a secondary school according to an agreement between a public school board and an eligible public or private postsecondary institution. An eligible institution is defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.09, subdivision 3.

Only high schools who are partnering with postsecondary institutions that are NOT accredited by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnership (NACEP), nor in the process of becoming accredited must complete this application in order to receive concurrent enrollment aid.

The completed application is due **March 15, 2012**. This date has been extended from the original March 1 due date.

[Click here to download the application.](http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/EDExc/CollegePlan/index.html)

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NACEP Status of Postsecondary Institutions Minnesota 2012

NACEP Accredited:

Mesabi Range Community and Technical College

Minnesota State University – Mankato

Riverland Community College

Southwest Minnesota State University

University of Minnesota – Crookston

University of Minnesota – Duluth

University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

In the Process of Accreditation:

Anoka Ramsey Community College

Central Lakes College – A Community and Technical College

Lake Superior College

Minnesota West Community and Technical College

Northland Community and Technical College

Normandale Community College

Ridgewater College

St. Cloud Community and Technical College

St. Cloud State University

If you have questions about the form or process, please contact Jessica.espinosa@state.mn.us.

If you have questions on the processing of payments of concurrent enrollment program aid, please contact your business office or Steve Etheridge at the Minnesota Department of Education, 651-582-8771 or Steve.etheridge@state.mn.us.