

LEARNING MATTERS

News from the Minnesota Department of Education

February 11, 2013

Issue 1, Volume 9

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, [send us an e-mail](#).

We Day Kick-Off at Patrick Henry High School

Last week at Patrick Henry High School in Minneapolis, Co-founder of Free the Children Marc Kielburger and Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius announced that We Day is coming to Minnesota in October. Actress Mia Farrow and the Jonas Brothers were present to help launch Minnesota's We Act/We Day program; a year-long educational service-learning initiative for youth, and the inspirational We Day event that will be held on October 8, 2013, at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. [View more information and sign up for We Act on the We Day website](#). [See the article on the StarTribune website](#).

Congratulations to Minnesota's Celebration Schools!

The Minnesota Department of Education announced that 57 schools are being designated as Celebration Schools. As part of Minnesota's new waiver, schools that receive a Multiple Measurement Rating that falls between the 60th and 80th percentile are deemed Celebration-eligible and were invited to apply for this recognition. These schools have demonstrated significant progress in their efforts to increase student achievement. [Read January 25 news release for complete list of celebration schools](#).

Governor Releases Budget

Governor Dayton released his budget proposal for the next biennium. The budget affirms his commitment to fairness, responsibility, and smart investments that will strengthen our education system, grow jobs and reform state government to make it work better for Minnesotans. Included is a \$343 million investment in E-12 education—the largest the state has seen in over five years.

[View budget on the Minnesota Management and Budget website](#).

[Read January 22 press release on Governor's website](#).

Commissioner Cassellius Kicks-off Your Choice, Your Future Series

Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius kicked off a series of forums focused on getting students college-ready. Your Choice, Your Future is an initiative geared toward Minnesota eighth-grade students, asking them to start thinking about higher education and a career as they prepare to register for high school classes this fall. [Read January 8 press release.](#)

Minnesota Department of Education Issues Guidance for Early Learning Programs in Charter Schools

The new guidance provides information that will effectively communicate opportunities, instructions and accountability expectations for charter schools and authorizers. [Read January 7 press release.](#)
[Learn more about the new guidance for early learning programs in charter schools.](#)

Application Available for 2013 Summer Food Service Program

The Minnesota Department of Education is seeking organizations to sponsor the 2013 Summer Food Service Program to provide free meals to Minnesota children ages 18 and under during the summer when school is out. [Read January 7 press release.](#)
[Learn more about the Summer Food Service Program.](#)

Minnesota to China Teacher Exchange Program 2013-14 – Application Deadline February 15

Since 1986, Minnesota has had a teacher exchange with the Hangzhou Foreign Language School, a select high school located outside the city of Hangzhou. Hangzhou is one of the seven ancient capitals of China and approximately three hours south of Shanghai.

Minnesota teachers from any subject area are eligible to participate in either a semester or full-year program. Under the program, teachers from Minnesota teach conversational English and American culture in grades 7-12. Teachers from the Hangzhou Foreign Language School who come to Minnesota schools teach Chinese language and culture during their stay. Teachers in both countries receive compensation and living accommodations.

[Learn more about the Minnesota to China Teacher Exchange Program.](#) Application deadline is **February 15, 2013**. For assistance with questions or to request an application, [contact Ursula Lentz](#), World Languages Content Specialist (651-582-8664).

Minnesota eLearning Summit – July 29-30, 2013

The Minnesota eLearning Summit will be held July 29-30, 2013, at Northwestern College in St. Paul. The 2013 Summit theme, “eSynergy: Bringing it All Together,” is designed for K-12, college and university educators, innovators and education technologists across the continuum of education.

The Minnesota eLearning Summit is sponsored by the Minnesota Learning Commons: a collaboration of the University of Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Education, and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. **Submit your proposal by March 15** to lead a Summit session or hands-on workshop. [Access further information and online registration on the Minnesota eLearning Summit 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 ED Review posting on the U.S. Department of Education website.](#)

Learning Matters is produced by the Communications Office of the [Minnesota Department of Education](#).
If you have questions about the information contained in this newsletter, please contact: mde.contactus@state.mn.us.