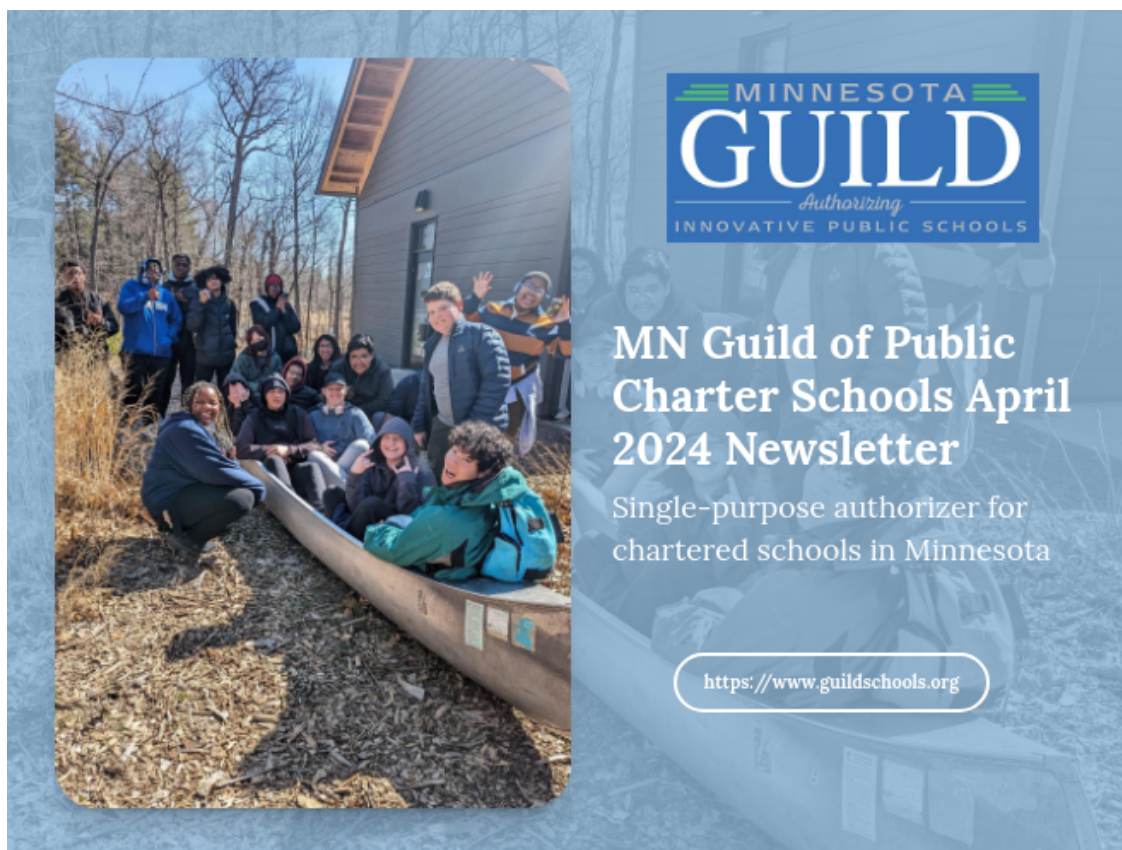




Our Vision:

The Minnesota Guild of Public Charter Schools advances positive educational outcomes for students that leads to success in life.

Our Mission:

The Guild advocates for teacher leadership, professional autonomy, and the creation of innovative schools for student engagement and the ownership of learning. The Guild strives to support students, families, and communities most affected by the achievement gap and low graduation rates.

Director's Update

Jim Zacchini, Executive Director



This month brought with it a lot of hope for new beginnings as we transitioned into spring and celebrated both Earth Day and Arbor Day. As this school year enters its final months, we hope that you have found joy in your students' successes. This leads us to a shout-out for Exploration High School, referenced below. They had an exciting opportunity to share on MPR their trendsetting program which goes beyond the Ethnic Studies components codified in Minnesota law last summer. We highly recommend that you listen to the featured teachers and students as they provide interesting and informative insights. Lastly, please take a moment to read through Buddy's Google Classroom submission reminders so schools can close out the school year in full compliance.

Happy Spring, --Jim

Google Classroom Submission Tips by Buddy Ferrari

A friendly reminder to all schools to make sure to get caught up on any missed Google Classroom submissions as FY24 draws to a close! FY25 will start the cycle anew and we will be sharing FY25's updated Submission Requirements list soon as well. Having to deal with outstanding FY24 submissions while also making FY25 submissions is best avoided if possible, so we strongly recommend tying up any loose ends before the next year of submissions begins in late July.



Google Classroom

ACRONYM OF THE MONTH:

SLIFE - Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education (SLIFE) data collection.

ADMWE - Average Daily Membership Web Estimates (ADMWE) system for these calculations until actual ADM calculations are available.



The MN Guild is proud and excited to spotlight Exploration High School this month.

On March 18, MPR News gathered teachers and students already participating in ethnic studies and asked them to share their experiences, with the goal of imagining the future as ethnic studies is incorporated into schools across the state.

Ethnic studies will roll out to Minnesota K-12 classrooms in 2026. The content area was [added to the state social studies standards this winter](#), joining history, geography, economics and government as major themes.

The Minnesota Department of Education is [still working on a final framework](#) to guide curriculum. But some districts aren't waiting.

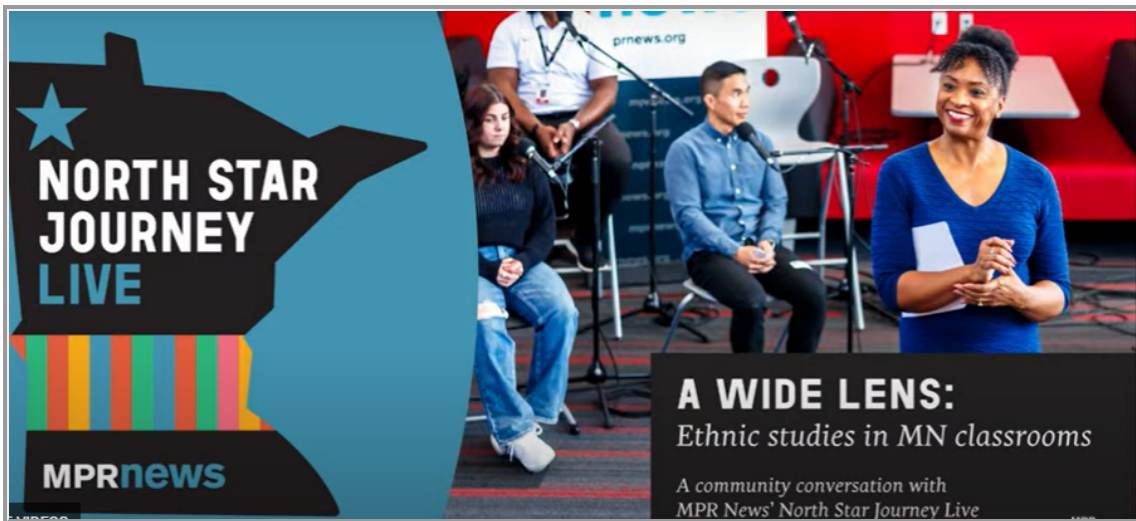
In 2022, both [St. Paul](#) and [Minneapolis](#) public schools added ethnic studies as a high school class required for graduation. Other districts have had ethnic studies style classes in place for even longer.

David Heighington, Exploration High School School Director shared the following:

"Kudos to Alycia (SS Facilitator) and JaLayla ('27) for an amazing MPR session talking about Ethnic Studies in the classroom. Something to [listen to this weekend](#) (click here to listen to interview).

Alycia has been doing some phenomenal projects and work alongside students, and I'm glad they could shine a light on what's happening at Exploration!

Thanks, Alycia and JaLayla, for sharing your story and being you!"





As your authorizer we want you to know we are here to support you. If you would like to bounce ideas off someone, or need a sounding board, we are happy to be that person. Please feel free to email us whenever you need additional support, we are here to listen.

Please send an email to one of the addresses listed below:

Jim Zacchini,

MN Guild Executive Director

jim.zacchini@guildschools.org

Debbie Weckman,

MN Guild Administrative Assistant

debbie.weckman@guildschools.org

Buddy Ferrari,

MN Guild Project Tech

buddy.ferrari@guildschools.org

Thank you and as always, we appreciate all you do.



The MN Guild is looking for volunteers to join our board. The only requirements are to have interest in supporting the charter school community, share your time and talents and support our vision and mission. We hold a board meeting on a monthly basis (with exceptions for holidays) in person and virtually. We are looking for individuals with a passion for education and support the philosophy that all children and teachers deserve a positive educational environment and opportunity.

If you are interested, please email Jim Zacchini at jim.zacchini@guildschools.org



NASA's Astronomy Picture of the Day

MN Guild Partners & Resources

Leading the way to excellence



[2024 Education Minnesota Legislative Agenda link](#)

Enrollment Estimator Tools

The largest share of the education finance appropriation, general education aid and other categorical aids, depend on Average Daily Membership (ADM) to calculate many funding formulas. MDE uses estimated ADM from the Average Daily Membership Web Estimates (ADMWE) system for these calculations until actual ADM calculations are available. Once actual ADM data is available from Minnesota Automated Reporting Student System (MARSS), the aid calculations will move away from ADM estimates (ADMWE) to actual student ADM data as reported in MARSS.

Therefore, it is extremely important that the most precise estimates are correct in the ADMWE System for the upcoming school years. Please review

and update the district or charter school's three-year estimates for both ADM and English Learners (EL) as MDE will use those for forecasting purposes.

The Charter Enrollment Estimator and District Enrollment Estimator tools have been updated for estimating FY25 enrollment. They can be found on the Average Daily Membership webpage using the following the path or link: [MDE>Districts, Schools and Educators>, School Finance>MARSS Student Accounting>Average Daily Membership](#).

Please view the document [Estimating Average Daily Membership \(ADM\) Reference Guide](#) which provides valuable information on October 1 counts, ADM Served, General Education Revenues and Charter School Revenues and much more.

Contacts

For assistance with how to use the Estimator Tool for Charter Enrollment Estimates, contact [Kristine Anderson](#) (651-582-8544).

For assistance with the ADMWE system and general ADM estimate questions, contact [Jeanne Krile](#) (651-582-8637).

For assistance with how to use the Estimator Tool for District Enrollment Estimates, contact [Kateri Little](#) (651-582-8857).

School Nutrition Program

Food Safety Inspection Report Guidance for School Year 2023–24

USDA released a memo with guidance on food safety inspection report requirements for School Year (SY) 2023–24. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, requires state agencies to report the number of annual food safety inspections in schools to the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). For more information, [review the State Agency Food Safety Inspections Report for SY 2023–2024](#).

School Food Authorities (SFAs) Must Report Health Inspection Dates

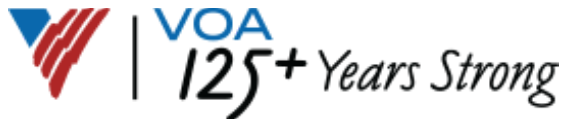
Nutrition Program Services is required by the USDA to collect data on health inspections for every school site that participates in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.

- Every sponsor participating in these programs will receive an email with a link to the report that must be completed for SY 2023–24 by June 30, 2024.
- The email will be sent to the SFA contact listed in the sponsor application.
- The sponsor will need to report the date each health inspection occurred between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024 for each approved site in The Cyber-Linked Interactive Child Nutrition System (CLiCS).

Additional information and instructions will be included in the email sent to the SFAs. Questions? Please contact us at mde.fns@state.mn.us.

State Aid Breakfast Reimbursements Restarting

The legislative update to the appropriate amount for the state aid portion of the Free School Meals attributable to breakfast has been completed. Minnesota Free School Meals program participants have begun receiving reimbursements for the state aid portion of breakfast.



2024 MN Charter School VOA Leadership Conference - June 10 - 12, 2024

Please join us for two and a half days of relevant and timely breakout sessions for Charter School Leadership, Board Members, and Authorizers. The focus will be on equipping charter leaders with the knowledge and skills needed on their journey of furthering excellence in charter schooling. Your conference itinerary encompasses opportunities to network and socialize with your charter school leadership peers and industry professionals all while enjoying pristine and uplifting Lake Bemidji.

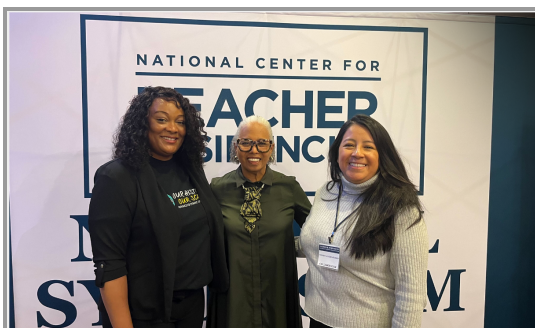
Our 2024 MN Charter School Leadership Conference agenda is now available. [Event Website \(whova.com\)](https://www.whova.com). Go to the landing page and then “agenda.”

Administrative CEU's have been approved and will be awarded at the completion of the conference.

Link for information and to registration: [Event Website \(whova.com\)](https://www.whova.com)

Please register and spread the news! Everyone is welcome





We were honored to be named collaborators by the National Center for Teacher Residencies for their first ever National Symposium last week in Chicago.

Amy Junge joined a panel to share how teacher-powered schools recruit, prepare, and retain teachers.

Our colleague Danyika Leonard moderated a panel on centering educator well-being in teacher prep.

PHOTO: Danyika Leonard and Wendy Salcedo-Fierro with renowned education researcher Gloria Ladson-Billings. Danyika and Wendy both served on the symposium design team.

Amy, Wendy, and TPS leaders Jeff Austin and Julie Cook facilitated a breakout session about teacher-powered schools.



2024 Innovation and Leadership Award Luncheon

Date: Thursday, May 9, 2024

Time(s): 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Location: MN Humanities Center / St. Paul

Join us at the beautiful Minnesota Humanities Center as we celebrate and award this year's Innovation and Leadership Award recipients. All schools are encouraged to attend and all school leaders, faculty, staff, and board members are welcome.

The cost is \$35 per person. A payment link will be sent in your confirmation email upon registration.

[Click here to register!](#)

CHARTER SCHOOL DAY @ ST. PAUL SAINTS – JUNE 9TH

With baseball season around the corner, we're happy to announce that our third annual Charter School Day at the St. Paul Saints will take place on Sunday, June 9th. Join Minnesota's charter school community for an afternoon of great baseball action, entertaining field events, and spirited fanfare as the Saints take on the Syracuse Mets.

Tickets for this year's game are at a discounted rate of \$21, which includes a free St. Paul Saints baseball cap.

All charter school families are invited to attend. Please share [this information](#) with your staff, board, parents and students – you can use [this flyer](#). We look forward to seeing you on June 9th in Lowertown St. Paul at CHS Field!

SENATE EDUCATION FINANCE COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Senate Education Finance Committee also unveiled their Omnibus bill, followed by public testimony and amendments. Much like the House Education Finance bill, the bulk of the spending was for implementing the Read Act and expanding the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program.

The bill includes the following highlights:

- \$3 million to extend Safety Aid to charter schools in onetime aid of \$44 per pupil ***Included due to the MACS Safe Schools Bill and member school testimony & advocacy***
- \$34 million for the Read Act (\$25 million for teacher and substitute compensation for training)
- Working group on teacher and paraprofessional compensation
- Attendance improvement pilot (9 school districts) and chronic absenteeism working group
- Requires statewide health standards by 2026
- Special education apprenticeship programs in intermediates

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Celebrating Earth Day and Arbor Day

Celebrating Earth Day and Arbor Day

Happy Earth Day and Arbor Day. Here are lessons and activities covering a wide variety of topics, including recycling, water conservation, renewable energy and our earthly ecosystems for you to share with your students and teachers.

[Click here for lesson ideas](#)

"If you want
to go fast
go alone.
If you want
to go far
go together."
-African Proverb



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Visit our website:

<https://www.guildschools.org>

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