



Director's Update

Jim Zacchini, Executive Director



Greetings,

Spring marks new beginnings—budding trees, warmer days, and summer's approach. It's a season of growth, reflection, and transition.

Reporting and evaluation are important this time of year. Please remember: May 30, 2025, is the deadline to complete and email the FY25 Special Education Self-assessment form to MDE. You can find the link to the form in the calendar reminder section of the newsletter.

This month, we're spotlighting Career Pathways! Take a moment to explore the newsletter's

dedicated section to learn more about their impactful work and contributions.

We're thrilled to hear about our board members' visits to your schools and the wonderful updates they've shared about the incredible work you do each day for our students. Thank you for welcoming them so warmly and for your ongoing dedication and hospitality.

With gratitude,

Jim



ADHD & Executive Functioning Coaching
Support for Your Student Who Struggles with ADHD or Executive Functioning Challenges

The ADHD & executive functioning coaching services at Groves Learning Center are designed to help students ages 6 and up develop the skills they need to succeed in school and beyond.

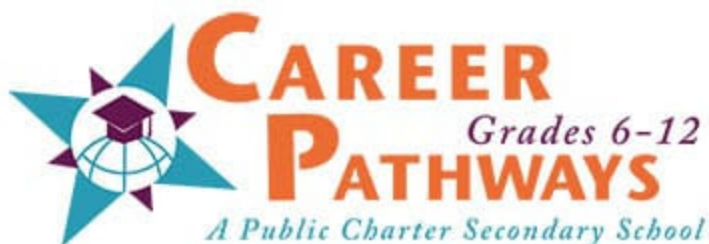


Webinar Recording- “ADHD- It’s a Family Affair!” by [Groves Learning Organization](#)

[LISTEN TO THE BLOG CLICK HERE](#)

Groves Community Events & Education Series Presented by Judy Richardson-Mahre, MA, LMFT, ADHD-CSSP with Kaleidoscope Counseling

Do you have a partner or child with ADHD? Are you struggling with behaviors you don’t understand, stressful family events, or relationship conflicts that feel out of control? ADHD impacts everyone in the family. Learn all about practical tools and strategies to deal with a variety of situations for neurodiverse family members as well as those who are not.



[This month we are proud to spotlight Career Pathways.](#)

Mission: Career Pathways works to include underserved and disenfranchised students who don't achieve well in traditional settings, but who will flourish in this unique multi-age/multi-graded environment which promotes application of learning. Research shows that all students learn better when they experience the real-life responsibilities of the job.

Vision: Career Pathways vision is that with multi-teaching/learning approaches, hands-on/experiential learning, concurrent high school and college credits, credentialed career pathways, each student will leave CPATH ready for life, employment ready, and prepared for post-secondary.

From the Board: "Our school board recognizes the human rights crisis of violence against and murder of Black people in our community and stands firmly on the side of justice. As educators we work for our students and families and want to be held accountable when we are not doing something right for them or the community."

Our Developmental Design based middle school 6-8 grade offers small classes and personalized learning that prepare students for high school while opening their eyes to career possibilities.

The benefits of a combined middle and high school include the inter-age learning opportunities.

Groups of students of all ages learn cooperatively and from each other and create an atmosphere of respect and empathy.

"Career Pathways gave my daughter a safe place... I am very happy I found the school. It brought out a better side of my daughter, one that I haven't seen in a while." ~ Middle School parent survey response



Our Career Pathways high school 9-12 grade programing highlights career and work experience, with internships and dual credit / college coursework. We meet students where they are and build a program that keeps them goal focused, learning, and in school.

Early graduation is offered to eligible students.

HEALTHCARE, TRADES, CHILD CARE, HOSPITALITY



Here's your opportunity to jumpstart a healthcare career or just learn some great job skills in the healthcare program while you are still in high school.

Here are some of the healthcare opportunities CPATH has to offer:

- Nursing Assistant Registered (NAR)
- First Responder program
- Medical office work

TRADES

Learn the trades and take advantage of advanced training and internships that give you a head start on a career or college. This program gives you direct work experience and certification in the building and trades field.

- Youth Build/Tree Trust program
- Building upkeep & rehabilitation
- Green building maintenance
- Building upkeep and rehabilitation
- Bricklaying
- Habitat for America

CHILDCARE

Interested in running your own childcare center, or working with children? This childcare and child development study program will prepare you with experience and training.

- Child development assistant training at day care
- Child development teaching assistant, level two
- Day care manager assistant, level 3
- Teen parenting and family management program

HOSPITALITY

Get training and experience in the hospitality industry while you are earning your high school diploma. This hands-on program gives you skills and training you can put to work immediately.

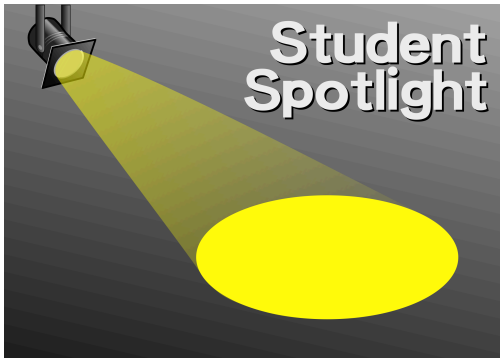
- Restaurant service areas
- Basic culinary
- Hotel administration – office and reception
- Green housekeeping
- Events management

Internship/Work Credit & PSEO

Earning college credit in high school cuts your college costs and gives you a head start on your career. CPATH will work with you to meet your personal education needs by enrolling you in college classes that build toward your high school and college graduation at once.

From the staff “We like working here because everyone’s opinion is heard; openness is encouraged, impartiality and documentation keeps things honest and fair.”

[Career Pathways VIDEO](#)





teacher-powered schools
student-centered learning

"Uplifting the expertise of all educational partners in community schools through shared leadership"

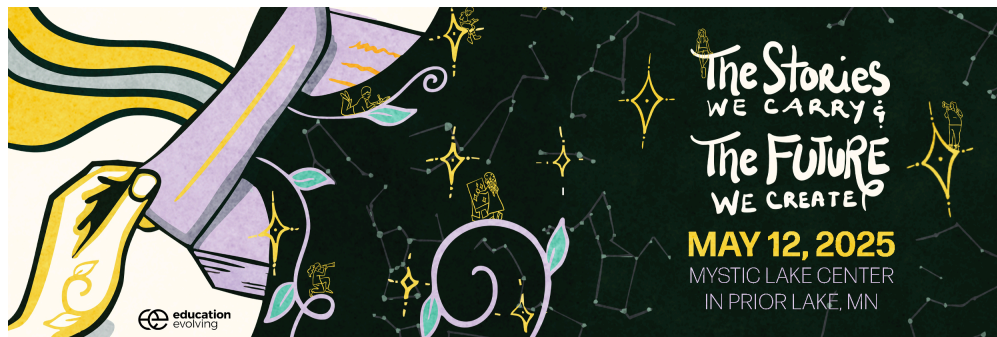
BLOG POST

The executive order on K-12 "indoctrination": What's at stake for MN schools?



A recent executive order tells schools: stop indoctrinating students or lose funding. The order targets schools practicing "gender ideology and discriminatory equity ideology."

[This post](#) takes a look at the federal dollars schools count on, the limited authority the president actually has over them, and how lawmakers and—more importantly—schools are feeling about it all.



Just a friendly reminder to secure your free tickets to Student-Centered Learning for Equity 2025: The Stories We Carry & The Future We Create, before it's too late!

It's a difficult time in education. All the more important to take time to be together in community.

[Learn more & get tickets](#)

BLOG POST ~ [Read Sujana's blog post](#)

'Let's find the answer together!': How my community school grows confident community leaders



UCLA Community School senior Sujana Sabnam shares how the K-12 span school creates a culture of care that affirms students' whole selves—strengthening the broader school community.



"An approved authorizer working in collaboration
with the Minnesota Department of Education"



Charter School Board Training

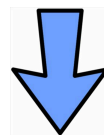
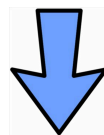
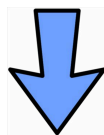
Welcome to Minnesota Charter Board Training and Development!

Minnesota Statutes, section 124E.07, subdivision 7, states: "Every charter school board member shall attend annual training throughout the member's term. All new charter board members shall attend initial training on the board's role and responsibilities, employment policies and practices, and financial management. A new board member who does not begin the required initial training within six months after being seated and complete the training within 12 months after being seated is automatically ineligible to continue to serve as a board member."

Minnesota Statutes do not dictate how many hours or minicourses a board member must complete, but a board member is responsible for knowing all of the statutes reviewed in the minicourses in the three required areas: board role and responsibilities, financial management, and employment policies and practices. Ready to begin training? It's as easy!

1. Register for the next training session.

[Click here to register.](#)



May 30, 2025 : Deadline for MDE FY25 Special Education Fiscal Monitoring Self-assessment that was sent to you on January 13, 2025 is still outstanding. The submission date for the self-assessment is before May 30, 2025.

Once your team has completed the self-assessment, please email the completed self-assessment form and signed attestation to SpEdFiscalMonitoring.MDE@state.mn.us (preferably as a PDF attachment). We will keep this information on file. Please note that you will not receive a final report from MDE.

[Click here for Self-Assessment Report to complete](#)

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”
– Nelson Mandela

MN Guild Partners & Resources

Leading the way to excellence



Educator Edition

MDE Announces the Adoption of Rules Relating to Academic Standards in Mathematics

The new 2022 K-12 Academic Standards in Mathematics were adopted on April 7, 2025. The new rules include data analysis, spatial reasoning, as well as patterns and relationships.

The new 2022 Mathematics Standards will be fully implemented in the 2027-28 school year.

Please see the [Math Standards Implementation](#) page for more information.

Recap of the Recent Rulemaking Process

On Tuesday, February 25, 2025, Office of Administrative Hearings the Honorable Judge Suzanne Todnem approved the proposed rules relating to Academic Standards for Mathematics.

The Commissioner of Education signed a Notice of Adoption on February 28, 2025.

The rules were then filed with the Secretary of State, as required. The Secretary of State, in turn, filed them with the Governor's Office, thus triggering a 14-day review during which the Governor could veto the rules. There being no veto, the adoption was published in the [State Register](#) on April 7, 2025.

To see the judge's order, as well as other rulemaking steps formally documenting the process leading up to this exciting advancement in education, please visit the department's [K-12](#)

Personal Finance Guidance

During the 2023 Legislative Session, a graduation requirement for personal finance was passed into law. The law requires all Minnesota high school students, beginning with the class entering ninth grade in 2024, to take a course for credit in personal finance in order to graduate.

A statewide working group was convened to develop guidance on the implementation of this new requirement. The [guidance](#) was developed with the aim of recognizing and appreciating local community values and local control of educational content among Minnesota public schools. More information on the requirements and the guidance document are available on the [MDE website](#).

Updates from MDE: Curriculum Director Meetings

MDE will host three virtual Curriculum Directors Meetings in 2024–25; there are two time slots for each session. The second upcoming 2024–25 Curriculum Director Meeting will take place in May. Please register to attend the meetings:

- [Curriculum Leaders Webinar Link May 13, 7:30–8:30 a.m.](#)
- [Curriculum Leaders Webinar Link May 13, 4–5 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Opportunities

MDE Boot Camp Schedule and Registration Link

- Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

[Charter School MDE Resource Link](#)



Management ~ Board's Role in Student Success

VOA Conference in Bemidji

[The 2025 Annual Minnesota Charter School Leadership Conference Registration](#)

June 9-12, 2025

Bemidji, MN

MSBA's Charter School Board ~ Workshop covers all topics required in your first year as a board member in one comprehensive session including:

- Board Roles and Responsibilities
- Employment Practices
- Open Meeting Law
- Data Practices Law
- Public School Funding and Management
- Board's Role in Student Success

Registration Opens: May 1, 2025

Registration Closes: June 1, 2025

Resources:

[WORKSHOPS & EVENTS click here](#)





[The 2025 Annual Minnesota Charter School Leadership Conference Registration hosted by Whova](#)

June 9-12, 2025
Bemidji, MN

2025 MACS Awards Luncheon Registration

Thursday, May 8, 2025

MN Humanities Center | St. Paul

11:00AM - 1:00PM

Join us at the beautiful Minnesota Humanities Center as we celebrate and award this year's Innovation and Leadership Award recipients. The cost is \$35 per person. A payment link will be sent in your confirmation email. [Click here to register](#)

School Leadership

"Leadership is about being able to afflict the comfortable, and to comfort the afflicted."

Afflicting the comfortable and comforting the afflicted is the essence of the roles and responsibilities for a leader in any organization, especially if leadership is about moving an organization, cause or movement forward.

A leader must be able to challenge things as they are and those who are comfortable with the status quo, and at the same time assure those who are afraid of the unknown that they have the ability to move through uncertain times and that the future will ultimately be better.

A leader of a charter school needs to be able to do these things within the context of three very distinct roles: as a social entrepreneur and innovator; the chief academic officer; and the chief executive of a nonprofit organization which is operating a public enterprise - all within an environment that is limited in terms of administrative staffing.

[Code of Ethics for Charter School Leaders](#)

DEI and Title 1 Funding Letter to Local Education Agencies and State Education Agencies

In [a letter to state leaders](#) across the country, the U.S. Education Department said Title I fund, which is targeted to schools with a high proportion of low-income students, would be threatened if schools failed to follow its interpretation of civil rights laws. School and state officials are required to sign a certification letter attached to the memo and return it to the department within 10 days, proving that they are complying with the directive. In Minnesota, schools are waiting for guidance from MDE and are currently advised to consult with their legal counsel.

Supreme Court

The Supreme Court of the United States is hearing a case regarding the potential elimination of the federal E-rate program, officially known as the Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund. The E-rate program helps eligible schools and libraries obtain affordable telecommunications and internet access. If the federal E-rate program were repealed, the entities most impacted would be schools and libraries, particularly those serving low-income and rural communities.

[Upcoming Events and Registration Link:](#)



[**Save the Date: NACSACon 2025**](#)

NACSACon is headed back to Houston, Texas for some more sunshine and new conference content and events!

Join us October 20-23 for inspiring sessions, actionable insights, and networking opportunities that will equip you with tools and connections to do your best work. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details. We can't wait to see you there!

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Listen to experts in education discuss critical topics that will help to answer questions like, "What can be done to ensure families have access to high-quality education for their children? How can school leaders allow educators the autonomy they need to best serve students? How should schools be held accountable for their performance? And when we say 'quality,' what does that really mean?"

[Addressing America's Learning Crisis](#) [All Episodes](#)



**Education
Next**



A Comprehensive Look at School Quality

Erik Robelen features NACSA President and CEO, M. Karega Rausch, Ph.D., in his most recent piece in [Education Next](#), highlighting the importance of a comprehensive approach to understanding

school quality. The piece shines a light on how site visits and observations play a crucial role in understanding a school's true impact—[read more](#).

[View All News](#)

Challenging the Status Quo

Family engagement is a key component of any school community, and the ongoing dialogue about family choice presents an opportunity for authorizers and school leaders to reimagine how they engage families.

Guerschmidt Saint-Ange, COO at NACSA, dares readers to rethink traditional models of family involvement and move toward creating a more collaborative and impactful learning environment for students in her latest blog, No More Participation Trophies for Family Engagement.

[Rapid Rewind: Family Participation vs Family Empowerment podcast](#)

Families: The Most Important Element of School Quality

What's the difference between family participation and family empowerment? Catch up in under 10 minutes with last month's [Rapid Rewind](#).

Then, learn more from NACSA's COO, Guerschmidt Saint-Ange, on the importance of identifying and centering the individual and collective experiences, knowledge, and perspectives of families on [LinkedIn](#).



rethinking schools

Rethinking Schools promotes equity and social justice in education through publications and activism.

Black Teachers: A Pedagogy of Organized Resistance
May 5 at 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm CDT



Black Teachers: A Pedagogy of Organized Resistance

May 5 / 4 PM PT / 7 PM ET



Jarvis Givens and Imani Perry in conversation with
Jesse Hagopian and Cierra Kaler-Jones

Teach the Black Freedom Struggle online class

zinnedproject.org/teach-freedom

A digital portal centralizing materials created by professional organizations of African American educators, historically referred to as Colored Teachers Associations (CTAs)., [Black Teacher Archive](#) Historians Jarvis Givens and Imani Perry, in conversation with Teaching for Black Lives co-editor Jesse Hagopian and Rethinking Schools executive director Cierra Kaler-Jones, will discuss the

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

girls who CODE



Code for Impact: A New Activity for High School Clubs

Girls Who Code's brand-new activity, [Code for Impact: GWC Core Values in Action](#), invites 9th-12th grade Club members to explore how they can make a positive impact through coding—in their Club and beyond.

Club members will hunt for GWC's core values of Sisterhood, More Than Code, and Relevance + Impact as they explore standout projects from last year's Summer Programs participants—real high school students just like them! They'll learn what they can create when they participate in our [Summer Programs](#) and discover real-world applications of game design, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and web development before applying to this year's Summer Programs together as a Club.

Summer Programs Info

- SIP Round 1 Dates: July 7-July 18
- SIP Round 2 Dates: July 28-August 8
- Pathways Dates: June 30-August 8
- Open to high school girls and non-binary students, including Summer Programs alums!
- No application or program fees!

[VIEW ACTIVITIES](#)

Save the Date. The next Community Partner Webinar will be on Wednesday, April 23rd, at 3 PM ET. The webinar will feature a panel of Community Partner representatives from school districts, after-school networks, and community-based organizations across the country. [Register here](#) to join the conversation!



Clubs Facilitator Workshop. Share [the registration](#) for our interactive session, A Day in the Life of a GWC Club, taking place on Thursday, April 24th, at 5:15 PM ET. Participants will explore different Club models and hear directly from experienced Club Facilitators who will share insights and practical advice for running a Club.

AFT | Share My Lesson

Mission - AFT is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

PROTECT
OUR KIDS

The Trump administration wants to make painful cuts to education and healthcare in order to slash taxes for billionaires. The administration's plan to "block grant" federal education programs and gut the U.S. Department of Education would rob 26 million students living in poverty of critical services and 7.5 million students with disabilities of special education support. It would eliminate career and technical education for 12 million students, threatening their future job opportunities. Slashing Medicaid and student loans could strip healthcare coverage from 10.3 million people and end access to student loans, making college unaffordable for another 10 million working-class families.

By highlighting the harmful consequences of these attacks on public schools and students, we aim to build public pressure on policymakers and amplify the voices of those directly impacted.

We must:

- Pressure decision-makers: Urge elected officials at both the federal and state levels to oppose cuts to federal funding and block grants, both of which will hurt kids.
- Raise awareness: Educate the public about the devastating consequences of dismantling the Department of Education, gutting federal education funding and providing no-strings-attached block grants.
- Mobilize support: Engage a broad coalition of stakeholders—including educators, students, parents and community members—to participate in actions nationwide.
- Drive media coverage: Generate media attention through storytelling, coordinated events, rallies, etc.
- Lift up our stories: Highlight how these cuts disproportionately harm vulnerable students, including those from underserved communities and students with disabilities.
- Take action in our communities: Wage this fight in the communities where students will lose services they rely on, not just in Washington, D.C.

Tell Congress: No Cuts To Education

The Trump administration's plan to gut federal support for public schools and give tax cuts to billionaires at the expense of loans for students to make college affordable and health care services for those who need it the most (including disabled children) sends a terrible, symbolic message.

[Write to Congress now](#)

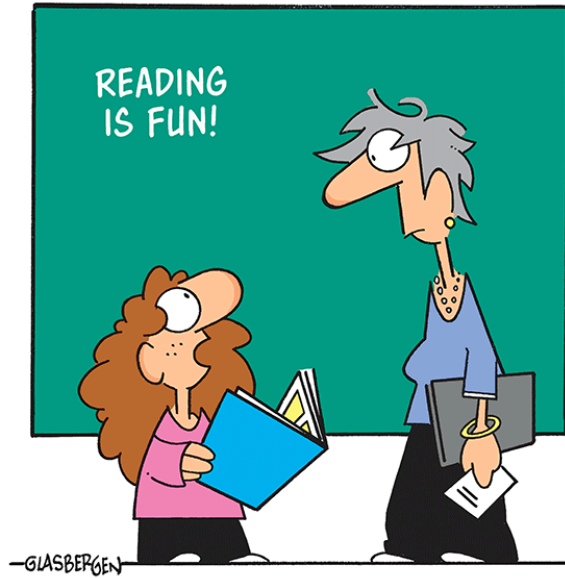


**Embrace
the grind.**

Welcome to the light side... this section has been added to bring a little light and levity to your day.

Enjoy!

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"I tapped the page, but nothing happened!"

We Want to Hear from 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.



Our Vision:

The Minnesota Guild of Public Charter Schools advances positive educational outcomes for students that lead 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.

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



 No alternative text description for this image



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Visit our website:
<https://www.guildschools.org>

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You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

