



MN Guild June 2025 Newsletter ~ Featuring Lincoln International High School

Single-purpose authorizer of
Public Charter Schools in
Minnesota



Director's Update

Jim Zacchini, Executive Director



Dear Guild Community,

As another school year wraps up, we take a moment to reflect on all that we've accomplished together. With that in mind, we're excited to invite you to the Guild's Annual Summer Convening—an afternoon dedicated to board development, training, and meaningful connection.

 Date: Tuesday, July 29, 2025  Time: 12:30 PM – 4:00 PM  Location: Amherst Wilder Foundation, St. Paul

We've sent out a Save the Date, and soon you'll receive the official invitation with RSVP details. We hope you'll join us as we strengthen our leadership, build community, and explore new ways to grow together.

Your presence makes all the difference, and we truly look forward to seeing you there!

This month, we are proud to spotlight **Lincoln International High School**. Be sure to check out the "In the Spotlight" section below and celebrate the incredible achievements of Lincoln International High School.

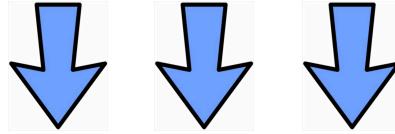
Wishing you all a wonderful summer! I look forward to seeing you at the convening.

With gratitude,

Jim



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



MN GUILD ANNUAL SUMMER CONVENING

When: July 29, 2025

Time: 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

Where: Amherst Wilder Foundation, St. Paul

Please watch your email for a calendar invite.

This year we will be focusing on BOARD TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT. Please invite your board members to attend. Thank you.



MN GUILD SCHOOL BOARD CORNER

To better support you and your school board, we've introduced a new newsletter section focused on MDE and MN State statute requirements. Each month, we'll provide updates, resources, and guidance, including webinars and training opportunities, to help you stay informed and aligned with evolving regulations. This section will also cover contractual obligations, ensuring compliance with authorizer agreements and maintaining accountability.

PELSB 2025 Board Retreat

PELSB invites you to attend the Board's 2025 retreat, the theme of which is Emerging Trends: The Future of Education. Please join us in conversation as we consider how to best serve Minnesota's students and teachers. The [PELSB Bylaws](#) govern the operating policies and procedures of the Board.

2025 Board
Retreat Guest
Speakers &
Facilitators



Minnesota Attorney
General Keith Ellison



Dr. Stacie Stanley,
Superintendent of
Saint Paul Public
Schools



Dr. Yohuru Williams,
Founding Director of
the Racial Justice
Initiative

June 16, 17, & 18
mn.gov/pelsb




[TO REGISTER AND GET SPEAKER INFORMATION CLICK HERE](#)

EARN CEU CREDITS



[BOSA Website](#), [BOSA Approved CEU Credit Course Schedule](#), [2025 Educational Leadership Consumer Guides](#)

Charter Leader Statute §124E.12, Subdivision 2 - Qualifications, Evaluation, and Training

Qualifications include a four-year degree or equivalent experience and:

- instruction and assessment
- human resource and personnel management
- financial management
- legal and compliance management
- effective communication
- board and authorizer relationships
- community partnerships
- parent relationships
- curriculum design
- professional ethics
- child development
- special education oversight
- contract management
- effective communication
- cultural competency

Licensed Administrators		Non-Licensed Administrators
First year of employment	Successive years of employment	Evaluated on qualifications (above); Must complete a minimum of 25 hours annually of competency-based training corresponding to the individual's annual professional development needs and plan approved by the charter school board of directors; Training includes but is not limited to: • instruction and curriculum • state standards • teacher and staff hiring, development, support, and evaluation • social-emotional learning • data collection and usage • assessment methodologies • use of technology for learning and management • charter school law and requirements • code of professional ethics • financial management and state accounting requirements; • grant management • legal and compliance management • special education management • health and safety laws • restorative justice • cultural competencies • effective communication • parent relationships • board and management relationships • community partnerships • charter contract and authorizer relationships • public accountability
Evaluated on qualifications (above) Must complete 10 hours of competency-based training on: • charter school law and requirements • board and management relationships • charter contract and authorizer relationships	Evaluated on qualifications (above)	
Ex-Officio Board Members New Member training		
Within 3 months of starting employment: • Roles and responsibilities • Open meeting law • Data practices law • Employment policies and practices (ch. 181) • Public school funding and financial management • Roles and responsibilities regarding student success, achievement, and performance	Annual training	

[Continuing Education Unit \(CEU\) Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)



[MACS Charter School Board Training](#)

Welcome to Minnesota Charter Board Training and Development!

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!

[Click here to register.](#)



GOVERNANCE PROGRAMMING FOR MINNESOTA CHARTER SCHOOLS

The Board Basics Series provides the 2024 legislative changes for state-mandated board training.

BOARD ORIENTATION (September 18th, 2025) Complimentary to current clients offered in preparation for our upcoming school year. We encourage new and current board members to join us. This session will provide an overview of the Minnesota charter school sector. Enjoy this interactive session and gain an understanding of the roles and responsibilities you will assume as a board member of a public entity.

[REGISTER](#)

MN Statutes, section 124#.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."



This month we are proud to spotlight Lincoln International High School.

VISION:

To provide a safe, welcoming, and cognitively stimulating learning environment. The aim of Lincoln International Charter School is to provide a high school learning environment where mostly economically and/or educationally challenged students from culturally diverse backgrounds:

- see themselves as global citizens,
- engage in cultural integration,
- develop the ability to effectively communicate,
- display their appreciation and respect for diverse communities,
- understand themselves to be substantive components of an expanding and diverse society, and
- graduate fully prepared to enter college without requiring remediation.

MISSION:

Our mission is to empower a culturally diverse student body to participate in positive continuing education and make important career and life choices upon successful completion of their academic and community endeavors at Lincoln International Charter School.

We will provide a creative and supportive learning environment where formal instruction and informal student/staff, student/student, and student-staff-parent/family relationships accelerate the building of English language proficiency, enhance literacy in core subject areas and close the learning gap; especially for immigrants and refugees who are recent arrivals in the United States.

Lincoln International High School serves grades 9-12 high school students whose mission is to educate global citizens to be effective communicators and successful members of an increasingly diverse society both in the United States and abroad.

The mission of Lincoln International High School is to inspire and challenge each individual to reach his or her full potential.

I know the power of interacting with and engaging other cultures and believe our students are poised to be local and international diplomats and leaders. I am always excited to meet with community members, potential families and students, so please stop by and visit!

Manyi Tambe, Director, Lincoln International High School

Lincoln International High School offers:

Work Groups that lead to collaboration with staff to evaluate, nurture and improve 3 core areas:

- Curriculum & Instruction
- School Climate & Culture
- Family and Community Engagement

Teachers take leadership roles and development of curriculum while offering a safe learning environment that focuses on keeping students excited while being heard and seen. Leadership feels it's important for their students to make positive career and life choices.

Courses offered

Latin Club

Free Nursing Assistant Program

Free After School Tutoring

Amazon Future Engineers Program

Credit Recovery & English Acceleration

Thank you, Lincoln International High School for all you do.

[LINCOLN INTERNATIONAL HS VIDEO](#)





Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another.
G.K. Chesterton

MN Guild Partners & Resources

Leading the way to excellence



2025 Professional Educator Licensing Standards Board Retreat

PELSB invites you to join the Board's annual retreat on **June 16, 17, and 18** in the 7-county metro area. The theme for this year's retreat is Emerging Trends: The Future of Education. Please join us in conversation as we consider how to best serve Minnesota's students and teachers.

The [Board Meetings page](#) on the PELSB website will be updated with more information and materials as the retreat dates approach.



Minnesota's Graduation Rates Continue to Rise Rates at the highest level on record, gaps between student groups shrink

More Minnesota high school seniors than ever before graduated in 2024, with 59,720 students—84.2 percent of the 2024 graduating class overall, the highest graduation rate Minnesota has ever recorded—earning their diploma and going on to careers or college. The graduation data show increases for students in the American Indian, Asian, Black, Hispanic or Latino and white student groups. Graduation rates also increased for English learners, students from low-income families, and students receiving special education services. Achievement gaps narrowed for many groups in both the one-year and five-year trends.

Upcoming Opportunities

[MDE Boot Camp Schedule and Registration Link](#)

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

[Charter School MDE Resource Link](#)



NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR
**PUBLIC
CHARTER
SCHOOLS**

Big news!

The Supreme Court issued a 4–4 decision in the St. Isidore case about religious charter schools. This decision leaves the lower court ruling in place – which means religious charter schools are not allowed to open and operate. A tie decision doesn't set a national precedent, but it offers essential clarity for the public charter school community. Charter schools will remain and continue to operate as public schools.

I am awe struck by this community. We came together to tell our story and make sure the highest court in the land knew that charter schools are something special and worth protecting. And it worked. We did this together and I am so proud to be in this work with you.

We know this may not be the last time this question comes before the Court. But today we can move forward with renewed focus on expanding access to high-quality public charter schools for every family in every community.



UPDATE: The Charter Schools Program - [GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#)

In May, the U.S. Department of Education announced a \$60 million infusion of funds into the federal Charter Schools Program this fiscal year and a new dissemination grant within the Charter Schools Program: The Model Development and Dissemination (MDD) Grants. These moves demonstrate a commitment to expanding high-quality public charter school options and supporting the innovators working to deliver them. Read the Department's press release [here](#).

MDD Grants will be awarded this fiscal year. The deadline for submission is July 14, 2025.

This grant highlights local, on-the-ground solutions developed across every stage of the charter school lifecycle, from planning to facilities, enrollment, operations, and expansion, and it gives charter school leaders the tools to share those practices nationwide.



[Virtual Student Programs](#)

The National Constitution Center provides engaging and informative educational experiences to students across the United States through our virtual programs. These programs ensure that young learners can explore history, engage in constitutional conversations, and deepen their understanding of both history and the Constitution in a dynamic and accessible way.

What Educators Are Saying: "Engaging, primary resources with rich visuals and interactive aspects. Pushes students to look at things from different perspectives and encourages civil dialogue and non-partisanship."



Groves Community Events & Education Series

Webinar: Calming the Chaos: Parenting in Times of Change

by [Groves Learning Organization](#)

This webinar explored strategies to maintain stability and calm during these often-turbulent times, focusing on how to help your children manage stress, adapt to change, and stay connected. Participants gained practical tools to create a sense of security and resilience, helping their families thrive through life's inevitable transitions.

[View Slide Deck](#)



Join Our Movement

Our education system must keep pace with a rapidly changing world. World Savvy's multi-year partnerships with schools and educators help to create inclusive, adaptive, and future-ready learning

environments where students develop the skills and dispositions they need to thrive in both community and career.

[What is Global Competence? \(Video\)](#)

Building Inclusive, Adaptive, and Future-Ready Learning Environments

A Comprehensive School Partnerships is a multi-year collaborative journey combining engaging resources and dynamic professional learning with the power of 1:1 coaching to embed global competence into teaching, learning, and school culture. Together, we'll develop essential skills and dispositions in students, empowering them to thrive in a complex and ever-changing world.



About:

[SocialJusticeBooks.org](https://socialjusticebooks.org) is a project of Teaching for Change, a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide teachers and parents with the tools to create schools where students learn to read, write and change the world. [Join our mailing list](#) for updates about new resources and events.

Book Reviews by Themes

This collection of reviews, from a [variety of children's literature websites](#), are introduced here and linked to their respective sources to read in full.

This database can provide vital guidance for teachers, parents, and librarians in their selection of books for children. Critically reviewed selection of multicultural and social justice books for children, young adults, and educators.



[Sign Up for Details](#)



teacher-powered schools
student-centered learning



Conference Information:

TEACH-TOBERFEST

"Harvesting Shared Power for School Transformation"

October 23-25 | Ypsilanti, MI

Learn together, share crisp ideas, and harvest new connections in breakout sessions at [TEACH-TOBERFEST](#), the Teacher-Powered Schools National Conference.

Sessions organize under three strands:

[View breakout sessions](#)

- Cultivating Joyful Innovation
- Sharing Power Inside and Out
- Sustaining Teacher-Powered Schools

Don't wait: [Conference registration](#) is live—early bird rates available through June 30.

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



"Living Pieces"

[A note from our policy director, Dr. Aqueelah Roberson](#)

Student-Centered Learning for Equity 2025

Student-Centered Learning for Equity 2025: The Stories We Carry & The Future We Create. The convening invites students, educators, and community members to participate in a growing movement for equitable, student-centered learning.

"The Stories We Carry & The Future We Create"

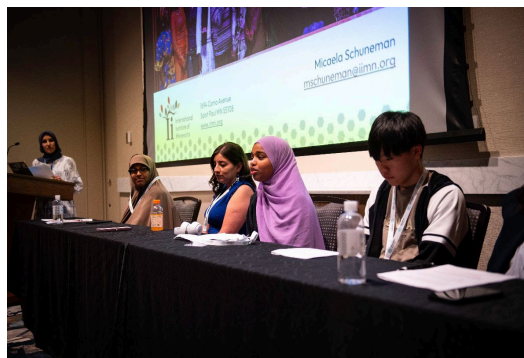
Here is a link to a [video of the plenary sessions](#) from the Student-Centered Learning for Equity 2025 conference held May 12, 2025, at Mystic Lake.

And links to videos of the virtual breakout sessions:

- [Centering Students: Actionable Insights from a Modern Classroom](#)
- [The Credentialing Opportunity for Native American Educators and Students](#)



Keynote speaker Christopher Emdin grabs a photo with student emcees from Lakota Tech High School.



A student panelist speaks in a session on empowering refugee and immigrant students in the classroom.



Community partners from [Youth Lens 360](#) ask guests to share what the event theme means to them.



Full breakout sessions share actionable tools and fresh ideas—as well as build new connections.



Students participate in a fishbowl-style conversation about their education experience.



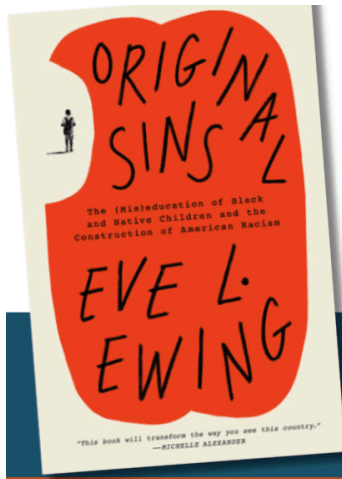
Attendees create pieces of art representing “the stories we carry” to keep and to share.

rethinking schools

[You Represent Hope in Hard Times](#)

The election results are deeply troubling, yet history reminds us of that progress often emerges despite hostile leadership. From abolitionists resisting slavery to civil rights activists challenging segregation, movements for justice have persisted and flourished. Today, educators, organizers, and activists continue that legacy, offering hope in hard times. Though the fight ahead will be difficult, resilience and solidarity remain our greatest tools.

[EVENTS](#)



Original Sins: The (Mis)education of Black and Native Children and the Construction of American Racism

September 22 / 4 PM PT / 7 PM ET



Eve L. Ewing in conversation with
Jesse Hagopian and Cierra Kaler-Jones

Teach the Black Freedom Struggle online class

zinnedproject.org/teach-freedom

 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.



READING OPENS THE WORLD



The AFT and First Book are celebrating a major milestone in our 13 yearlong joint partnership - distributing more than 10 million free books to students, families and educators serving in Title 1 schools and programs: public employees and health care professionals serving communities in need across the country. [10 million Books Video](#)

PROTECT OUR KIDS

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.
-

5 things you need to know about SNAP



As Republican lawmakers push a plan to slash \$2 trillion from federal programs — while handing more tax breaks to billionaires — millions of families could lose access to the basics they rely on. That includes food. Gutting programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program means less food assistance to American families, especially families whose children receive free and reduced-price meals at school.

[Here are five key facts about SNAP and why this fight matters:](#)



**Embrace
the grind.**

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



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.



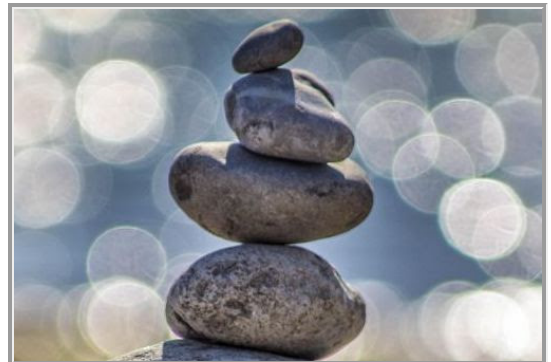
Our Vision:

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



If you don't stand
for something you
will fall for
anything.

Peter Marshall

BrainyQuote

Visit our website:

<https://www.guildschools.org>

Want to change how you receive these emails?

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