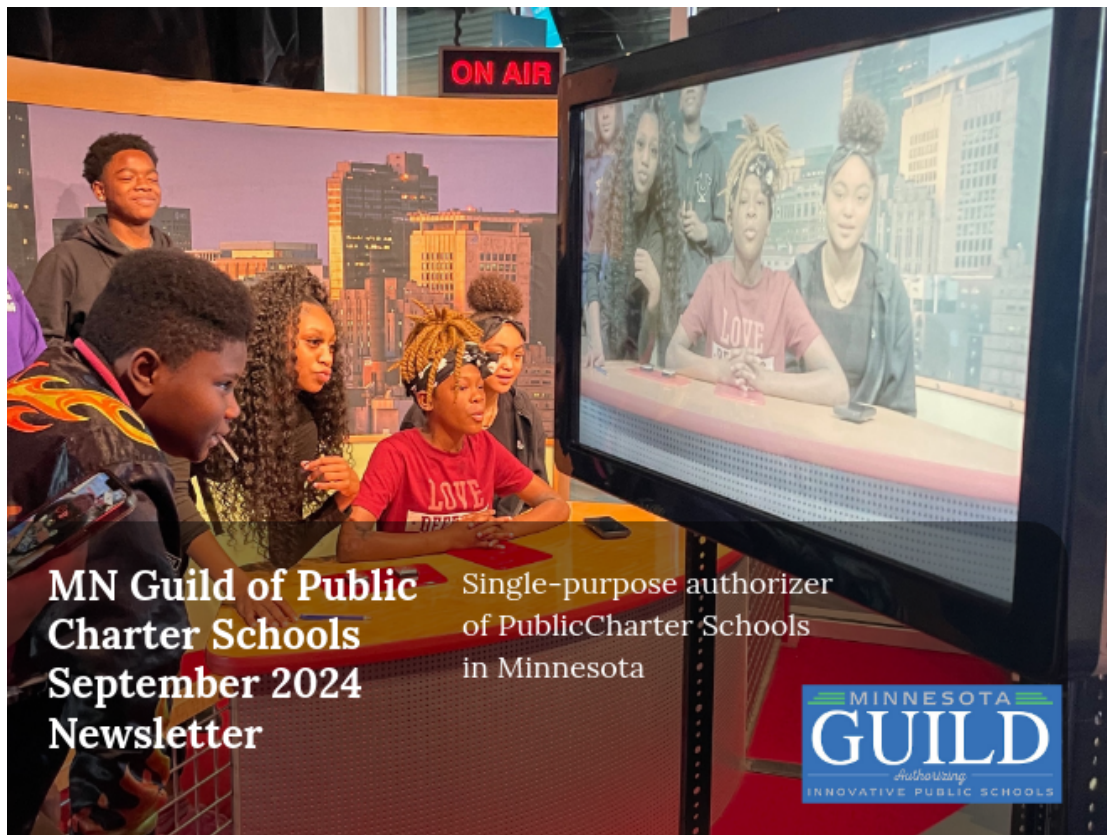




Director's Update

Jim Zacchini, Executive Director



Welcome to the 2024-25 school year. I hope you had time to relax, enjoy your break, and spend time with your family and friends.

Those of you who joined the Guild for the Charter Renewal Workshop on June 20th, or the Annual Summer Convening on August 6th may remember my mentioning that over a third of the Guild's portfolio is going through the renewal process this year. With this in mind, we're introducing a new section in the monthly newsletter to assist schools involved in this critical evaluative process. We aim to support those going through renewal this year with real-time updates and reminders and to demystify the process for those going through renewal in the future. Submitting the required documentation to the Guild, meeting deadlines, and establishing a supportive

school team on your end are crucial for securing a full five-year contract. Believe us when we say that we find Performance Improvement Plans (PIPs) as unfavorable as you do; they divert attention from student engagement to paperwork and justification. So, let's focus on the more challenging but worthwhile work up front so you can keep your focus where it belongs for the next five years.

We look forward to seeing you at various events and functions in the year ahead and for school and board observations.

With appreciation, -- Jim

MN Guild Bulletin Board - Important SAVE the Date



SAVE the DATE

FY24 Annual Report Virtual Meeting, October 1, 2024

This meeting will be held virtually and will be a time for us to gather together to discuss and work together on the annual reports that are due November 1st. More information to follow as well as a calendar invite.

Please Note:

Quarterly Billing Dates FY25

These are the dates to watch your email for your quarterly invoice from the MN Guild for your quarterly authorizer fees.

Q2: November 15, 2024

Q3: February 15, 2025

Q4: May 15, 2025

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Please be aware that we have discontinued accepting online payments via BillPay due to excessive fees that could be better used to support schools more directly. Henceforth, we kindly request that those who utilized BillPay in the past mail a paper check to our office or arrange for direct electronic transfer to the Guild. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

[FY24 Annual Reports due November 1, 2024](#)

[Minnesota District and Charter Data Reporting Calendar](#)




 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
 
 Authorizer
 
 Charter School

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



Contract Renewal Corner:

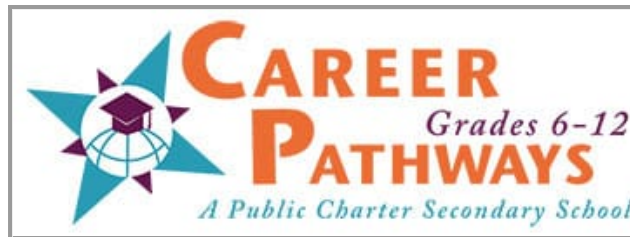
Required Reading for Renewal (and important for all schools to know!)

Updates: Standards & Indicators Framework was slightly adjusted based upon the Guild's AAP submission and is available here (use link?)

Reminders: FY24 annual reports (including the WBWF summary report) are due to the Guild on **November 1st!** This is the last annual report before a renewal rating is determined, so a complete and comprehensive report is essential.

Why Contract Renewal is Important: Contract renewal determines whether your school's charter contract is renewed and the length of the renewal term. A school must receive a final rating of "Exceeded" or "Met" for a five-year renewal term or a rating of "Approaching" for a three-year renewal term. Schools receiving final ratings of "Emerging" or "Not Met" will not be eligible for contract renewal and the school will be slated to close at the end of its current contract term.





This month the MN Guild is 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.

Our Goals: Career Pathways goals are to provide a safe learning environment that fosters the soft skills necessary to become career and college ready. We start with an emphasis on Professional, Appreciative, Thoughtful and Helpful actions that promote empathy and social justice. We work to increase students' perceptions of autonomy, belongingness, goal orientation, academic press, engagement and hope. Simultaneously we provide multiple hands-on and experiential career exploration opportunities that build skills, ignite interest, and foster self-reflection.

Our School Day: We are advisory based. Each student has a mixed age advisory and 1-2 advisors available to assist them throughout the school day. Students co-create personalized graduation plans that give them a voice in their learning. Students have opportunities to learn in a variety of ways at Career Pathways including teacher led core classes, blended learning, concurrent college enrollment, and experiential on-the-job internships.

Teacher Leadership: Management of Career Pathways is handled through teacher-led committees supported by the administrative team. Teacher-led committees manage operational and learning program duties.

While Career Pathways has an identified Executive Director, we have a teacher majority board, with teachers taking on leadership roles with school operations. One of the school's contract purposes is to "create new professional opportunities for teachers, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the school site".

Thank you, Career Pathways, for all you do.





MN Guild Partners & Resources

Leading the way to excellence



Educator Edition

TDE/Q Comp Announcements Q Comp Program Coordinator Training

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) Educator Workforce and Development Center is offering a training session for new and existing coordinators. The session will focus on the role of the Q Comp Coordinator, Q Comp revenue calculation and spending, the continuous improvement model for Q Comp, Q Comp Program Updates, setting schoolwide goals within Q Comp, and will address any participant questions or concerns.

The session will be offered at two different times on Wednesday, Sept. 18, in order to meet the needs of as many districts/schools as possible.

[Register for Sept. 18, 9-10 a.m., Q Comp Program Coordinator Training](#)

[Register for Sept. 18, 3-4 p.m., Q Comp Program Coordinator Training](#)

If you have questions or need assistance with registration, please contact [Kristie Anderson](#) (651-582-8860).

Community of Practice: Developing a Culturally Responsive Rubric

The teacher development and evaluation (TDE) statute has changed, impacting all Minnesota school districts and charter schools. The updated statute requires instructional frameworks to embed [culturally responsive](#)

[methodologies](#) by school year 2025-26. To aid with this process, we are offering an ongoing series of virtual networking sessions designed to support rubric alignment and to reflect on how to embed culturally responsive practices at your district or charter school while developing strong connections with other educators. Topics will include, but are not limited to, aligning the rubric with Standards of Effective Practice, embedding culturally responsive methodologies within a system, building culturally relevant and leadership practice, and fostering a collaborative learning culture. Dates and times for additional sessions will be confirmed during the first meeting.

Audience: School Leaders, Teacher Leaders, Teachers

Registration: Space is limited; registration is required. Registration will close Wednesday, Sept. 18, or when registration is full.

[Register for the Sept. 25, 9:30-11 a.m., Culturally Responsive Session](#)

If you have questions about this session, please email the TDE/Q Comp team at mde.q-comp@state.mn.us.

Legislative Report Update

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) collects data on a variety of topics. Select the data reporting topic you are interested in to open that page. You will find an overview of the data collection process for that topic, along with user guides or help documents, if applicable.

A link to the data collection system is also provided on the description page. Most systems require a login and password. Contact information for each system can be found on the lower left side of each page.

Minnesota District and Charter Data Reporting Calendar

- List of reporting and data entry periods of importance to districts and schools from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025, including a brief description of each.

The Minnesota Department of Education prepares reports for the Legislature, as required by statute, to inform lawmakers and the public about department programs, detail research studies conducted by the department on education issues or use as an accountability tool for programs for which the commissioner has oversight.

In most cases, reports are due to the Legislature in the fiscal year following the activity; for instance, a report completed in fiscal year 2025 includes data from the 2023-24 school year. Contact information is included in each report.

Legislative Reports Due during Fiscal Year 2025

The following reports have been posted since the last bulletin:

Fiscal Year 2025

- [Annual Report on Learning Year Programs](#)
Summary data on graduation rates, students meeting benchmarks and the success that learning year program providers experience.
- [2025 Innovation Research Zone Exemptions](#)

Learn more on the [Legislative Reports webpage](#).



Welcome to the Minnesota READ Act

The goal of the Minnesota READ Act is to have every child reading at or above grade level every year, beginning in kindergarten, and to support multilingual learners and students receiving special education services in achieving their individualized reading goals.

About the Minnesota READ Act

Minnesota Reading to Ensure Academic Development Act, known as the READ Act, was passed and signed into law by Governor Tim Walz on May 24, 2023. The goal of this legislation is to have every Minnesota child reading at or above grade level every year, beginning in kindergarten, and to support multilingual learner and students receiving special education services in achieving their individualized reading goals. The READ Act replaces Read Well by Third Grade (RWBTG) and is in effect as of July 1, 2023.

Read the full legislation, [Minnesota Session Law, Chapter 55, Article 3, READ ACT](#). Updated information from READ Act 2.0 can be accessed under [Minnesota Statutes 2023, section 120B.12](#).

Please share and subscribe to receive program updates.

Professional Development Off to a Fast Start

Minnesota has more than 32,000 educators registered for literacy professional development as part of the Minnesota READ Act statute. Providing teachers and reading instructional support staff with training on evidence-based reading instruction is a core outcome of the READ Act.

An update to READ Act 2.0 extends the deadline to complete professional development for Phase 1 educators* to July 1, 2026. Any district or charter school participating in two years of LETRS training, getting started this fall will be important in order to complete the training by July 1, 2026. Extensions will still be considered for extenuating circumstances when needed.

Phase 1 Professional Development Registration will pause October 2024 and will reopen February 2025.

Training options for Phase 2 educators* are being reviewed and are scheduled to be open for enrollment starting in February 2025.

Note: Educators who have completed professional development will need to share their certificate of completion with their district's or charter school's literacy lead/coordinator. Districts, charter schools, and tribal schools will report literacy training completions on their annual Local Literacy Plan submission.

*Visit the [READ Act Professional Development webpage](#) for definitions of Phase 1 and 2 educators.



Launch of Statewide System to Support Districts and Charter Schools

COMPASS is the statewide system through which all districts, charter organizations, and Tribal schools may receive evidence-based support. COMPASS offers professional development opportunities with various levels of support and includes a variety of resources, evidence-based practices and facilitated guidance in formats that work best for schools.

The COMPASS Statewide System of Support, inclusive of the Minnesota READ Act-funded Regional Literacy Network, establishes a team of specialists at each of the nine Regional Service Cooperatives who will work in close collaboration with MDE. These specialists will offer expertise in the areas of Minnesota Multi-Tiered System of Support (MnMTSS); literacy; math; school climate and culture; equitable access to high quality learning environments; and culturally responsive instructional leadership.

The Regional Literacy Network consists of Literacy Leads and Coaches in each of the regions who will provide the following:

- ongoing training and coaching based in structured literacy
- support with comprehensive literacy reform efforts based on structured literacy including supports for district and site level leadership teams; literacy data collection and analysis; and curriculum selection
- supports for the planning, implementation, and evaluation of Local Literacy Plan

More information will be coming to your district or charter school regarding this support.



Food Distribution Program (FDP) Fall Special Bulletin U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foods Fall Store Now Open

The fall store is now open and will close September 11, 2024, at 11 p.m. Direct Delivery and Processing are the two distribution channels being offered in this store. Your next opportunity to shop for USDA DoD Fresh will be provided in the School Year (SY) 2025–26 spring store.

- SY 2024–25 Entitlement Meal Rate for USDA Foods is \$.45.
- Sponsors' finalized entitlement for the Fall Store will be calculated using their SY 2024 meal counts.
- State entitlements will not be updated for SY 2025 with the SY 2024 meal counts until November 2024 per USDA's finalization timeline.
 - The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will work to fulfill store requests to the extent possible. Sponsors may notice a reduced quantity in their food requested due to the state entitlement amount available for this ordering period.

Update Sponsor Contact and Distributor Selection Information

- Sponsors must update their sponsor contact information and ensure they have selected and confirmed a distributor in the Cyber-Linked Interactive Child Nutrition System (CLiCS) prior to the start of SY 2024–25.

- Instructions are found in the FDP Handbook on the MDE [Food Distribution webpage](#).
- Sponsors contracting with a food service management company or vended meal provider must ensure correct distributor information is provided in CLICS.

USDA DoD Fresh Reminders

Sponsors must update their contact information in the Fruit and Vegetable Order Receipt System (FFAVORS) prior to the start of SY 2024–25.

- Sponsors must ensure at least one contact named in FFAVORS is employed by their organization.
 - Food Service Management Company (FSMC) or vended meal provider contacts are not allowed as the primary contact.
- Non-USDA users of FFAVORS must have a Login.gov account to access FFAVORS by September 30, 2024.
 - Contact the FFAVORS help desk for assistance with Login.gov.
 - Users will receive a 30-day warning email if their FFAVORS profile is set to expire.
 - Profiles expire after three months of inactivity if the user has never logged in or after 13 months of inactivity if the user has logged in.
 - Schools must receipt their USDA DoD Fresh deliveries in FFAVORS.

Farm to School and Early Care Grant Applications Are Open

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has opened the application window for Farm to School and Early Care grant opportunities for fiscal year 2025. These grants support Minnesota school districts and early care providers—both centers and family daycare providers—that want to buy and serve Minnesota grown and raised foods. **The deadline to apply is October 24, 2024.** For more information, [visit the Farm to School and Early Care grant website](#).

School Nutrition Programs (SNP) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Annual Training for Approved Sponsors

Prior to the beginning of a new school year, staff directly responsible for the FFVP operations must complete required annual FFVP training. A webinar will be held to provide an overview of FFVP, implementation plans and expectations for participating schools, as well as funding, budgeting and allowable reimbursement costs. [Register for the Thursday, September 5 webinar](#).

- If your school was awarded an FFVP grant for School Year (SY) 2024–25 and staff have not yet completed required training, plan to attend this FFVP overview webinar. If your school already completed FFVP annual training and submitted your certificate to MDE, attendance at this webinar is optional.
- Annual FFVP training certificates should be emailed to mde.ffvp@state.mn.us.

New Videos Featuring Minnesota Harvest of the Month Foods

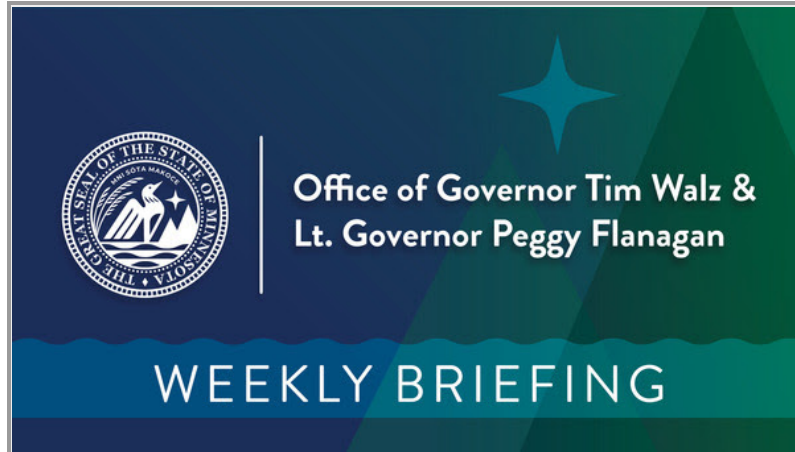
Get inspired to use Minnesota Harvest of the Month foods on your menu this year by watching new videos that highlight ways to prepare local squash, tomatoes, beans and melons. In the videos, Chef Travis Pearce demonstrates easy ways to prepare and serve these items. [View the Minnesota Harvest of the Month Foods videos](#), which are part of MDE's Team Nutrition program.

Webinar Opportunity: Reducing Added Sugars in School Meals

USDA's Team Nutrition Initiative will present a Meal Talk webinar on Reducing Added Sugars in School Meals to meet the [Final Rule: Child Nutrition Programs Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020–2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#). [Register for the Thursday, September 12 webinar](#).

The webinar will be recorded and made available on the Team Nutrition website. All who register will receive an email when the recording is available.

[Upcoming Deadlines](#) Health Inspection Reimbursement for School Food Authorities (SFA)



ICYMI: Governor Walz, Lieutenant Governor Flanagan Highlight Tax Relief for Families Ahead of New School Year



Last week, Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan highlighted two tax relief programs that can help Minnesota families afford back-to-school expenses. Families with children in kindergarten through 12th grade may be eligible to lower their taxes or get a larger refund with the K-12 Education Subtraction and Credit.

"As a former teacher, I know that a child's success in the classroom relies on access to the tools and materials on their supply list. But I also know the stress that can accompany back-to-school shopping," said Governor Walz. "With the K-12 Education and Subtraction Credit we're investing in our children by ensuring no child has

to forego necessary school supplies. We're equipping our students and putting money back in pockets of hard-working Minnesotans – another step toward creating the best state in the nation for kids."

"As a mom, I know the anxiety that accompanies the start of a new school year, and I know that getting our kids back into the classroom can be expensive. However, parents should not have to compromise when it comes to providing their children with the tools and supplies necessary to succeed," said Lieutenant Governor Flanagan. "The K-12 Education Credit will ensure that families don't have to decide between their child's school supplies and life's other expenses. This is another way that we are working to take the weight off families' shoulders while setting kids up for future success."



Governor Walz, Lieutenant Governor Flanagan Announce \$10 Million to Train Special Education Workforce

On Wednesday, Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan announced nearly \$10 million to support Minnesota's special education workforce. The Education Pipeline grants awarded by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will support and train special education teachers in over 35 districts, charter schools, and cooperatives.

"As a former classroom teacher for over 20 years, I understand the impact a dedicated teacher can have on their students' lives," said Governor Walz. "By investing in our special education workforce, we can help ensure every student in Minnesota receives the support they need to thrive in their education."

"We are committed to building an education system that gives every child in Minnesota a world-class education," said Lieutenant Governor Flanagan. "By helping more Minnesotans enter the special education workforce, we can build school environments that meet the unique needs of each student."

Governor Walz Announces \$5 Million for Business Expansion Statewide

On Thursday, Governor Walz and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) announced more than \$5 million for three business expansion projects in the state. The projects are expected to support 175 jobs and leverage \$72 million in outside investment.

"We didn't achieve our ranking as a top state for business by accident. We earned that reputation by investing in business expansion, supporting innovation, and driving business growth," said Governor Walz. "These

projects will create good-paying jobs and expand Minnesota's leadership in health care and medical technology."



Day of Hope Challenge 2024 - A FREE Virtual Event

Friday, October 4, 2024

9am - 3pm (online)

What is the Day of Hope Challenge?

The Day of Hope a personalized, virtual, experiential event that is FREE and open to everyone! On this day, we encourage people to create and participate in activities that intentionally grow Hope for themselves.

What happens on the Day of Hope?

Schools, organizations and individuals of all ages engage in activities that inspire Hope. There is also an option to connect with others around the country virtually to share our experiences!

- Enjoy the unique experience you have created for yourself!
- Option to join us for virtual check-ins at 9am, Noon, and 2pm CST
- Option to attend virtual sessions focused on growing hope throughout the day

Register to receive more information and a planning tool!

[Click here to register](#)





This [CALENDAR](#) includes conferences, trainings, and meetings of the MN Association of Charter Schools, as well as events of organizations which MACS sponsors, co-sponsors or endorses.

Board Training Course 200: Charter School Finances - A Public Trust

Course will be offered Friday, September 20th through Monday, September 30th at 11:59pm.

This is a self-led online course. Your log in materials will be sent to you when the course opens that Friday.

Cost is \$75 for Members and \$100 for Non-Members. An invoice will be sent once your registration has been reviewed. [Click here to register](#)

Course will be offered Friday, October 11th through Monday, October 21st at 11:59pm.

This is a self-led online course. Your log in materials will be sent to you when the course opens that Friday.

Cost is \$75 for Members and \$100 for Non-Members. An invoice will be sent once your registration has been reviewed. [Click here to register](#)

Course will be offered Friday, November 15th through Monday, November 25th at 11:59pm.

This is a self-led online course. Your log in materials will be sent to you when the course opens that Friday.

Cost is \$75 for Members and \$100 for Non-Members. An invoice will be sent once your registration has been reviewed. [Click here to register](#)

MN ASSOCIATION OF CHARTER SCHOOLS –NEW LAW PRIMER 2024 – (MN Statutes 124E)

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



Supporting Districts to Innovate

Districts today have unprecedented opportunities to innovate to meet the needs of students. And, with chartered schools and inter-district open enrollment now part of the education landscape, pressure is growing to do so.

Districts in Minnesota are rising to this challenge. They are giving teachers and schools opportunities to innovate with more relevant, engaging, and purposeful learning programs that are attractive to students and families.

This section of our website provides school districts—their teachers, administrators, board members, and parents—information about the provisions in Minnesota law that enable and encourage innovation within districts.

Use the links below or the menu on the right to browse.

Site-Governed Schools

Minnesota law provides schools, districts, and unions a way to jointly agree to formalize a school's autonomy and exempt them from many state laws and regulations.

[More on Site-Governed Schools](#)

Teacher-Governed Schools Grants

In 2016, the Minnesota Legislature amended the site-governed schools law by adding a grant program for schools governed by groups of teachers (i.e. teacher-powered).

[More on Teacher-Governed Grants](#)

Innovation Zones

Minnesota law allows two or more school districts to form an "Innovation Zone", to collaborate and share resources. EE is working to increase the autonomy and flexibility given to schools and districts in the Zones.

[More on Innovation Zones](#)

Districts as Charter Authorizers

Minnesota's charter law allows school districts to serve as authorizers of chartered schools. Some districts use authorizing as one tool for providing a diverse variety of schools to their students.

[More on Districts as Authorizers](#)



NEW STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR BOARD TRAINING

See below for our summation of changes, but, first, a few you need to know...

Minnesota State-Mandated Requirements for Charter School Board Training

As of August 1, 2024 new board members must complete state-mandated training before being seated as a new board member on July 1st.



CharterSource
BETTER BOARDS. BETTER SCHOOLS.

STAY COMPLIANT.

NEW LEGISLATIVE CHANGES & UPCOMING BOARD CHAT WITH JIM MARTIN

NEW STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR BOARD TRAINING

Significant legislative changes in Minnesota will soon impact charter school boards, making it crucial for all members to stay informed and compliant. As of August 1, 2024, any new board members are required to complete training on roles and responsibilities, open meeting law, and data practices law before their terms begin. Additionally, within 12 months of being seated, any new members must finish training on employment policies, public school funding, financial management, and student achievement. Failure to complete these requirements will result in automatic ineligibility to serve on or be elected to a charter school board for 18 months.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS YEAR'S BOARD CHAT DATES



UPCOMING BOARD CHAT DATES:

- September 18, 2024
- February 5, 2025
- May 7, 2025

REGISTER BELOW ↓

**DON'T MISS OUT ON OUR UPCOMING BOARD CHATS.
SECURE YOUR SPOT BELOW!**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR BOARD TRAINING? CHECK OUT OUR BOARD BASICS SERIES



Our Board Webinar Series provides the 2024 legislative changes for state-mandated board training.

NOTE: As of August 1, 2024, any new board members are required to start training before their term begins on the following webinars listed on the right:

BOARD BASICS SERIES:

- New Board Member Basics
- Practices of High Performing Boards
- Open Meeting Law Deep Dive
- Top Pitfalls of Open Meeting Law
- Enhanced Data Privacy Practices

HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR BOARD TRAINING? CHECK OUT OUR BOARD BASICS SERIES

Within 12 months of being seated, new board members must complete employment policies and practices, financial management and board roles and responsibilities regarding academic achievement and performance.

BOARD BASICS SERIES:

- Charter School Budget Basics
- Understanding Charter School Financial Statements
- Employment Law
- Managing Grievances Effectively and Efficiently
- The Role of the Board in Academic Oversight
- Understanding Student Data 1
- Understanding Student Data 2





**sharemy
lesson**

Prepare for Back to School

There's a special kind of exhilaration that comes with the back-to-school season. It's a dizzying array of freshly sharpened pencils, the crisp pages of unmarked notebooks, the hopeful smiles of new faces and, yes, a hearty dash of organized chaos. It's a time when the potential of an all-new academic year hangs in the air, buzzing with the thrill of learning and the challenges ahead. Thankfully, Share My Lesson is here to make sure this annual rollercoaster ride is less daunting and more thrilling, even for educators.

Our extensive collection of back-to-school resources is designed to support educators like you in navigating the beautiful mess of the beginning of the school year. The aim is to empower you to hit the ground running, filled with confidence and the necessary tools to foster a successful, dynamic learning environment.

Use this updated collection of back-to-school resources, ideas and lesson plans on topics like:

Designing a functional classroom: The design of a classroom isn't just about aesthetics—it can significantly affect the learning process. An organized, welcoming and engaging space can boost students' mood, focus and productivity. Design elements, such as seating arrangements, can influence collaboration and engagement, while wall displays and learning centers can stimulate creativity and curiosity. A well-designed classroom ensures that educational resources are accessible and serves as a silent facilitator of effective learning.

Understanding lesson planning and assessment: Lesson planning and assessment are the compass and barometer of education. Lesson plans guide the educational journey, providing a clear direction for teaching while ensuring the curriculum standards are met effectively. A well-structured plan also allows for flexibility, letting teachers adjust to the dynamic nature of classroom learning. Simultaneously, assessments offer insight into students' understanding, progress and needs. They provide valuable feedback for teachers, helping them tailor their instructional approach to maximize learning.

Building welcoming communities: A classroom is more than a room—it's a community. Cultivating an environment where all students feel welcomed, respected and valued fosters their emotional well-being, confidence and motivation. Building such a community enhances student engagement and participation and promotes a culture of empathy, respect and cooperation. It also allows students to take risks in their learning, knowing that they are supported.

Fun icebreakers/first week activities: The first week of school sets the tone for the rest of the year. Fun icebreakers and activities are crucial for easing the transition back into the school routine. They help students get to know each other, encouraging friendships and collaboration. For teachers, they provide an opportunity to learn about students' personalities, strengths and needs. Moreover, these activities create an atmosphere of fun and excitement, reducing anxiety and fostering a positive attitude toward learning.



[New Teacher Collection: Free Lesson Plans and Resources for Back to School](#)



[More Resources for the New School Year](#)

Get the new school year started off on the right track with more resources on topics such as classroom management, social-emotional learning, family engagement, supporting English-language learners, building successful community schools, and more.

[Learn More](#)



Charter Leader Institute is a community of practice for leaders new to charter schools. Charter school leaders are busy! The modules are completed asynchronously while also having the opportunity to connect with other charter school leaders. Learn from industry experts. Content is curated to be extremely relevant and applicable

to charter school leadership. The professional development series meets the state requirements for leaders with or without an administrative license.

Changes to the Minnesota state statute in 2024 now require specific training for an administrator who has not previously held a leadership position in a charter school. Unlicensed leaders are required to complete 25 hours of training and licensed leaders are required to complete 10 hours of training.

Charter School Institute was founded by Dr. Meg Cavalier. She has had the opportunity to start a school from day one, merge two charter schools, and build a new school for 600 students in St. Paul. MACS members receive a 10% discount. More information may be found at [Charter Leader Institute](#).

Charter School Institute was founded by Dr. Meg Cavalier. She has had the opportunity to start a school from day one, merge two charter schools, and build a new school for 600 students in St. Paul. Her teaching, leading, and consulting experiences include charter, traditional districts, and private schools. She has experience as an Interpretive Naturalist at the Minnesota Zoo, as well as a Science and Special Education teacher and youth pastor. She led a school that received the US Department of Education Green Ribbon School Award in 2018. Dr. Meg presented at numerous local, state, and national conferences. She is currently the Chief Experience Officer at [Collaborative Student Transportation](#) as well as an Adjunct Professor at Bethel University and Concordia University. Her consulting (drmegcavalier.com) includes leadership mentoring, facilitation, and project management.

Learn from industry experts. Each module features a practitioner who will share insight, resources and tools Content is curated to be extremely relevant and applicable to charter school leadership.

Topics include 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; and public accountability.



Dear Friends,

Once again, we have wrapped another school year of incredible change, growth, and impact at World Savvy.



As I reflect on my twenty-two years leading the organization and look forward to passing the baton to our new leader in mid-September, I could not be prouder of the impact we've made together over the years — and especially during the 2023-24 school year — and I'm thrilled to share it with you.

Our findings show unequivocally that, with your support, we are moving our critical mission forward by leaps and bounds: fostering inclusive, adaptive, and future-ready learning environments where all young people can thrive. World Savvy partner schools are preparing young people with the necessary skills and dispositions to thrive in an interconnected world — what we call, collectively, Global Competence.



Through Comprehensive School Partnerships, collaborative leadership initiatives, and community engagement, World Savvy ensures that educators can teach for global competence—promoting civic engagement, enhancing problem-solving abilities, and cultivating a sense of belonging.

This holistic approach leverages research and science around learning and the brain to create rigorous, relevant, and joyful learning environments, ultimately ensuring students are equipped for success in life, work, and active community participation.

Who We Reached

Over the past twenty-two years, we've reached more than 922,400 students and nearly 7,400 educators across 45 U.S. states and 32 countries.

In the 2023-2024 school year, we impacted 42 schools across all program offerings, serving 155 educators and 19,463 students.

Our Impact

We know it is time to redefine what constitutes a quality education and reimagine the student experience. Creating future-ready and adaptable learning environments where all young people know they belong and develop the skills and dispositions they need for success in a changing workforce, active

participation in our multiethnic democracy, and taking on issues of local and global significance.

World Savvy programs emphasize the development of essential skills such as problem-solving, communication, and teamwork. These are among the core skills identified in the 2023 Future of Jobs report as the most critical for success in our changing workforce.

- 91% of educators design learning experiences that support students to ask high-quality questions in the service of problem solving.
- 85% of students stated that they are able to come together with other students to work towards a common goal.

World Savvy's partnerships in diverse regions, including California, Colorado, Minnesota, and North Carolina, have reached 19,463 students, preparing them with the skills they need to engage in more diverse local and global communities.

- 88% of educators facilitate group work to support students in applying knowledge toward real-world action and understanding different perspectives.
- 76% of students reported being able to understand someone else's viewpoint on a problem.

Our collective challenges, locally and globally, require unprecedented collaboration and creative problem-solving across difference, competencies that are intentionally learned and practiced in World Savvy's programs.

- 91% of educators in World Savvy programs are proficient in facilitating inquiry-based learning, allowing students to ask and explore their own questions. This approach builds skills for critical analysis and independent thinking.

World Savvy works to ensure our partner schools are anchor institutions that cultivate belonging, psychological safety, and community, enabling all kids to learn and thrive.

- 91% of educators create a positive and inclusive classroom culture which increases student engagement in learning.
- 88% of students stated that they are respectful of people who are different from them.

While we are thrilled to share the impact we've made over the past year, we are even more excited to continue building upon the success of this year toward our We Must Imagine vision: engaging a network of 10,000 K-12 schools in diverse geographies across the U.S., reaching an estimated 5 million students by 2035.

World Savvy couldn't do this important work without the support of our incredible community. Thank you for being part of bringing our vision to life and helping to prepare a new generation of students to know more, care more, and do more in their communities and across the globe.



ACRONYM OF THE MONTH: FRP & NACSA

[Free Reduced Priced lunch](#): To be eligible the student must have been identified in student enrollment data as FRP.



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



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.



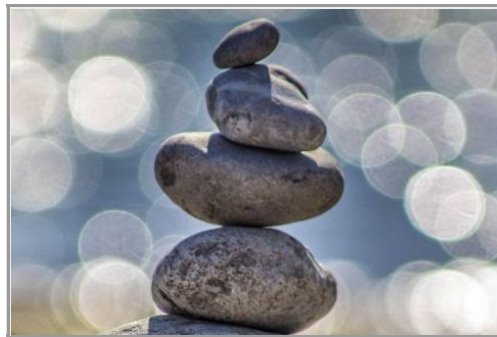
Our Vision:

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





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<https://www.guildschools.org>

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