
MACTE January 2023 Newsletter

MACTE Executive Assistant <mactecommunication@gmail.com>
To: MACTE Executive Assistant <mactecommunication@gmail.com>

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January 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to the MACTE Newsletter for the 2022-2023 academic year! This newsletter is sent once a month during the academic year to update the MACTE community about collaborative work, MACTE events, and information and opportunities relevant to teacher preparation in Minnesota.

MACTE Updates

Winter MACTE Meeting will be VIRTUAL

Join us next week on February 10, 2023 for our business meeting and collaboration session. The business meeting will take place in the morning and the afternoon will feature collaborative learning on MACTE's 2022-2023 focus area: Mental Health.

The rate for the virtual conference is \$25. Please register today to claim your seat.

[Register Today](#)

Keynote Speaker for MACTE's Winter Meeting Announced

Becky Mendoza, the president of the Minnesota School Counselor Association will address MACTE members on the topic of What Do School Counselors Want Teachers to Know? Becky's address will focus on how we can prepare teachers to recognize students who may be experiencing a mental health crisis and work with other school professionals to support students' mental health.

MACTE Deans and Directors Retreat Scheduled

MACTE will continue to hold quarterly leadership meetings to discuss collaborative initiatives and ways we can work together to strengthen teacher preparation in the state. The next meeting will be held on March 27. All units are encouraged to send representatives to this meeting. Units leads, deans, directors, and/or department chairs are encouraged to attend. If your unit has not received an invitation to this meeting, or if you have an item you would like added to the agenda, please reach out to Cari Maguire (mactepres@gmail.com).

Collaborative Reading Work Continues

MACTE is working with ServeMinnesota/Americorps to create learning opportunities for reading methods courses that leverage the ServeMN Bridge2Read curriculum. These materials will be aligned to PELSB reading standards and will be available to all MACTE members later this year. We are excited to be partnering with ServeMinnesota!

Legislative Updates

Legislative Session Begins

The Minnesota legislative session started on 1/3/23 and must complete its work by 5/22/23. The Minnesota state budget operates on a two-year cycle covering two fiscal years. Legislators started at a quick pace working in committees on

required budgetary decisions, determining spending on the historic \$17.6 billion budget surplus, reports from state agencies, and both policy and finance bills. The schedule has been packed at the House and Senate's Higher Education Policy and Finance committee, K-12 Education Policy committee, and K-12 Education Finance committee meetings.

The MACTE legislative priorities include the following three categories ([see the detailed list of priorities here](#)).

1. Maintain high quality standards for teacher preparation and support legislative initiatives that accurately reflect the research base around teaching methodologies.
2. Increase the diversity of Minnesota's teaching force through strategies to recruit, support, prepare, and retain teachers of color.
3. Support safe and nurturing learning environments for students and teachers.

Over the week of January 23, Governor Walz announced over \$3 billion in education funding priorities, including increasing the general education funding formula by 4% in 2024 and 2% in 2025; reducing the special education cross subsidy for local school districts by 50%; and instituting universal school meals. Since the launch of the session, legislators have heard bills on many topics, including teacher diversity, menstrual equity, policy bills around student behavior and suspension guidelines, providing funding to close the gap for funding for English Learner and Special Education services, and child nutrition.

The legislators have also heard testimony from PELSB and MDE about their administrative functions and roles in state government. MDE's overview included literacy priorities and mention of collaboration with PELSB. We don't have further details on any proposed legislation regarding this point. PELSB identified their priorities in late 2022, but legislation has not yet been introduced to any committees.

MACTE Supports the Increase Teachers of Color Act (ITCA)

The Increase Teachers of Color Act has been introduced in committees in both the House and Senate. The 2023 ITCA includes policies from previous versions (2021 and 2022), but with significantly larger investments. [HF 320](#) and [SF 267](#)

had hearings this month. MACTE provided written testimony in favor of both bills ([HF 320 testimony](#) and [SF 267 testimony](#)).

Read what's proposed in ITCA:

- [See a 1pg Highlights of ITCA 2023 here](#)
- [See a 2pg Overview of Specific Policies and Investments in ITCA 2023 here](#)
- [See full E12 bill language in HF320 as introduced](#)
- [See full Higher Ed bill language in SF267 as introduced](#)

Teacher Candidate Testifiers Needed

The Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers in MN is seeking testifiers for the bill hearings. If you know a BIPOC teacher candidate or recent program completer who would be good testifying in person or virtually for approximately 2-3 minutes, [please ask them to complete this form](#). While our MACTE written and verbal testimony is valuable, our teacher voices are powerful and impactful for the legislators and public to hear. An interesting note about the House ITCA hearing is that most of the questions from the Republican members centered around concern in the removal of testing for teachers who have completed preparation programs.

MACTE Advocacy for Strengthening Special Education Teacher Preparation

One important issue we are watching closely is related to the 2022 OSEP (Office of Special Education) memo to all states regarding minimal credentials for K-12 Special Education teachers. In Minnesota, it is possible to be licensed as a K-12 Special Education teacher with a Tier 1 or Tier 2 license. The federal requirements under IDEA require specific minimal qualifications for a Special Education teacher which are not met under Tier 1 licensure rules and under some Tier 2 licensure rules. We are talking to stakeholders and legislators about this issue and have invited collaboration with PELSB to solve the problem ([read our memo to PELSB here with potential solutions](#)). As of the week of 1/23/23, no legislation has been proposed, but we are watching this closely. We are supportive of eliminating Tier 1 for special education and limiting the Tier 2 pathway to come into compliance with federal law. Our initial research into this issue nationally shows that many states do grant time-limited "emergency credentials" for Special Education, but these licenses require

enrollment in teacher preparation (higher education or alternative), specific professional development, and required mentorship and support.

Track Bills at the MN Legislature

There is a tool that is helpful in tracking bills of interest called “My Bills.” Click and bookmark this link to follow bills we are following (https://www.leg.mn.gov/mybills_public?g=B648C913). Laura will add bills we are watching.

Finally, a note about the deadlines that the legislature has established for this session:

- 3/10/23: committees must act favorably on bills in the house of origin
- 3/24/23: committees must act favorably on bills, or companions of bills, that met the first deadline in the other body
- 4/4/23: committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills

If you are interested in engaging in any of the above areas with the legislature and haven't already reached out to our legislative liaison, Laura Mogelson. Please email her at mactelegislativeiaison@gmail.com.

AACTE Updates

75 Days | 75 Ways to Advocate for Education

The 75 Days | 75 Ways to Advocate for Education campaign is designed to commemorate AACTE's 75th anniversary. The goal is to raise national awareness about the importance of advocating for changes that elevate education and education preparation to ensure all learners receive a high-quality, equitable education.

75 Days | 75 Ways aims to provide actionable steps everyone can take at the local, state, and federal levels to improve our nation's education system.

In the 75 days leading up to the launch of its Annual Meeting on February 24, 2023, AACTE will promote on its website and through social media an action each day that educators, policymakers, or the general public can put into practice.

AACTE Resource Library

AACTE offers a variety of resources for member and public use. The Association's peer-reviewed journal provides the latest research findings. AACTE's Resource Library houses collections of resources on key topics for educator preparation programs.

[View AACTE's Resource Library](#)

PELSB Updates

Save the Date: Stakeholder Sessions with Finalists for the Executive Director position

PELSB will be holding two sessions to allow the public to meet the finalists for the Executive Director position. Each finalist will be given a 45-minute timeslot.

Session #1

- Date: Monday, January 30, 2023
- Time: 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Session #2

- Date: Thursday, February 2, 2023
- Time: 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

WebEx links and specific timeslots for each finalist will be announced soon.

Our mailing address is:

Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
86 Pleasant St SE, 110 Wulling Hall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

[Add us to your address book](#)