
MACTE December 2024 Newsletter

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December 2024 Newsletter

The Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE) publishes a newsletter monthly during the academic year. MACTE members with information or opportunities of interest to the broader teacher education community are invited to submit items for the newsletter. Please contact mactecommunication@gmail.com for more information.

MACTE Updates

Register for the Winter and Spring Virtual Conferences

MACTE will again be holding its winter and spring conferences online. The [Winter Conference and Collaboration will take place on February 7, 2025](#). The [Spring Conference is scheduled for April 4, 2025](#). Registration is live on each meeting's website – each registration is \$50/person. We look forward to seeing you all on Zoom!

[Register Today](#)

Special Education Working Group Presents License Recommendations to PELSB

In the last legislative session, a working group on special education licensure reciprocity was established. The group has been reviewing all special education statutes and rules in Minnesota and in other states, with the goal of making recommendations to streamline licensure processes and improve opportunities for reciprocity with other states, while maintaining high quality teachers.

At the December 20th PELSB meeting, the working group presented its recommendations to the board. Those recommendations included:

- Creation of a moderate/severe cross-categorical special education license
- Movement to two main special education licenses (ABS for mild/moderate needs and new moderate/severe license)
- Preservation of low incident special education licenses (DHH, BVI, and ECSE)
- Creation of a Work Group to move these recommendations forward.

MACTE wants to ensure all members with special education licensure programs are aware of these recommendations. A session will be held at our February 7th virtual conference to discuss these recommendations and the working group's findings more broadly.

Rule Guidance Documents Under Development

MACTE has been working with PELSB to update the unit rule guidance documents. We are also hoping to create new support materials and structures. MEC would like to assemble a collection of exemplars for some of the most challenging unit standards. If your unit has completed a site visit under new rule and you would be willing to provide exemplars for your MACTE colleagues, please reach out to Cari Maguire (maguire@umn.edu). All exemplars will be revised to remove any information that might identify the unit.

MNSchoolJobs.org Wants to Engage with You!

As Minnesota's designated statewide job board for teacher job postings, the partnership and engagement with Educator Preparation is a priority to MNSchoolJobs.org. With the New Year, we want to share these opportunities and request your feedback.

- **Three Virtual Teacher Career Seminars:** We've produced an online seminar to provide valuable resources and guidance to teacher candidates as they embark on their careers. These seminars are delivered by experienced district professionals, creating a unique opportunity to gain the insights needed to stand out in the job market. The seminars cover the usual topics of teacher resumes, applying, and interviewing. Participants also learn how to assess and compare job offers, navigate master agreements, and gather distinguishing information about supports available to new teachers. The events are free to attend and take place on Jan 22nd., Mar. 18th, and Apr. 23rd. Teacher Candidates, visit <https://mnschooljobs.org/tcs>.
- **Three Virtual Job Fairs for Teacher Candidates:** Teacher candidates can meet with administrators from districts and charter schools and have low-stakes introductory interviews on a convenient online platform. The events occur on Feb. 27th, Apr. 3rd, and May 8th. Teacher Candidates, visit <https://mnschooljobs.org/job-fairs>. Download a flyer for students at <https://mnschooljobs.org/MACTEFlyer.pdf>.
- **For You! Recruit Prospective Teacher Candidates:** Institutions can host a custom virtual booth at these three virtual job fairs. About 50% of attendees have attained a Bachelor's as their highest degree. Use these events to meet potential students who are curious about graduate programs. You can also receive live referrals from your district partners who will be at the event to recruit candidates. PELSB-Approved units and programs pay no registration fee (\$0). Sponsorship options are available for greater visibility. Program Leaders and Administrators visit <https://mnschooljobs.org/job-fairs/higher-ed/>.
- **Provide Your Input on the In-Person Educator Career Fair:** MNSchoolJobs is excited to continue the annual in-person MN Educator Career Fair tradition by hosting this year's event on April 1st, 2025, in Eden Prairie. This event is an exceptional opportunity for teacher candidates to connect with districts and charter schools recruiting licensed professionals. We want your input on how to make this a successful event for teacher candidates. Program Faculty, Clinical Experience Coordinators, Supervisors, visit <https://forms.gle/wEKfYHFuzSpmVKqb6>.

Legislative Updates

2025 Session Preview

The 2025 Minnesota legislative session will begin on January 14 and conclude on May 19. Minnesota operates on a biennial budget cycle, with the new budget taking effect on July 1 of each odd-numbered year. By law, the Governor is required to propose the biennial budget in January of odd-numbered years. This year, the Minnesota House of Representatives is evenly divided, with shared leadership in House committees. With a [divided government](#) and a smaller budget surplus, lawmakers will need to reach compromises to pass the budget. Historically, such divisions have often resulted in special legislative sessions to pass a budget.

MACTE has identified key priorities for the 2025 legislative session. These include addressing the ongoing teacher shortage, advocating for paid student teaching, maintaining high standards for teacher preparation, and issues related to reading instruction in teacher education programs. In collaboration with the Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers, MACTE will also support initiatives within the 2025 Increase Teachers of Color Act (ITCA). While we remain cautious about the likelihood of securing funding for our legislative priorities, MACTE will closely monitor the legislative process and advocate where possible.

Additionally, MACTE is preparing to advocate for policies related to teacher preparation and reading instruction. The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) is expected to release the Reading Audit report, a requirement from the 2024 session. This report will evaluate whether teacher preparation programs in early childhood education, elementary education, and special education meet the reading standards. PELSB must submit an initial report on January 15, 2025, with a final report due by August 1, 2026. The report will include:

- The reading standards for each licensure area.
- Alignment of those standards with the requirements of the Read Act, including evidence-based instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, and reading comprehension.
- A description of the audit process conducted by PELSB.
- A summary of audit findings.
- An overview of the program effectiveness reports for continuing approval of teacher preparation programs related to reading standards reviewed by PELSB.

AACTE Updates

Biden Harris Administration Releases Federal Strategic Plan for Advancing STEM Education and Cultivating Talent

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) has released a new Federal Strategic Plan for Advancing STEM Education and Cultivating STEM Talent to advance President Biden's goals of increasing economic opportunity for all and developing the workforce needed to meet the great challenges of our time, from combating the climate crisis to realizing the benefits of artificial intelligence (AI) while managing its risks.

The strategic plan will guide the federal government, in coordination with partners throughout the STEM ecosystem, to inspire, teach, recruit, train, and retain talent in STEM learning, working, and research settings so that people across the country can achieve their aspirations in STEM. The plan identifies three principles — access and opportunity, partnerships and ecosystem development, and transparency and accountability — that are essential to advancing the five pillars of STEM engagement, teaching and learning, workforce, research and innovation capacity, and environments. [Continue reading here.](#)

Opinion: Preparing for Any Teaching Environment and Why Online Instruction Cannot Be an Afterthought

When schools closed in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, teachers were thrust into online teaching with little preparation. While [the rapid transition to emergency remote teaching](#) was unprecedented, there were warnings that teachers should have been prepared for such emergencies. For decades, [various government agencies had warned about the need to prepare teachers for teaching online](#) – for exactly this kind of situation. Yet when the moment came most teachers had to learn how to teach online on their own, while

simultaneously dealing with their own personal situations related to the pandemic. [Continue reading on the EdPrep Matters Blog.](#)

AACTE 2025 Annual Meeting: Feb 21-23 in Long Beach, CA

The theme of the AACTE 2025 Annual Meeting, Beyond the Horizon: Charting the Course for Educator Preparation, and its five strands align with the association's vision and mission to revolutionize education by enhancing educator preparation through research, professional practice, advocacy, and collaboration. [Learn more](#) about each strand.

[Register Online](#)

PELSB Updates

Heritage Language Cohorts Beginning January 2025 - Applications Opened Monday, Dec. 16

PELSB is excited to announce the launch of another Heritage Language Pathway Portfolio Cohorts for teachers seeking K-12 World Languages and Cultures licensure to teach their heritage language and culture!

Minnesota's students and families speak more than 300 home languages. In an effort to increase the opportunities for language instruction across the state, PELSB is committed to supporting heritage language teachers in the licensure process.

"Heritage language and culture teacher" means a teacher with a familial connection to their community's language and culture, who is proficient in the language and engaged in the culture, and uses this connection to support students as they learn academic content, become proficient in the language, and engage with the culture of that particular linguistic and cultural community.

For the purposes of this program, a heritage language and culture teacher of American Sign Language is a teacher with a childhood connection to American Sign Language, whose primary language is American Sign Language. See below from an overview of the application timeline

- Application Opens: Monday, December 16, 2024
- Applications Due: Friday, January 10, 2025
- Notification of Candidate Status: February 2025
- Meetings Begin: March 2025

Please reach out to PELSB's Heritage Language Pathways Specialist, with any questions you may have at heritage.PELSB@state.mn.us.

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