



MACTE February 2025 Newsletter

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Thu, Feb 27, 2025 at 3:00 PM



February 2025 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

MACTE Spring Meeting

Our spring conference will be held over Zoom on April 4, 2025. The day will combine the business meeting and professional development sessions. The conference planning committee is still in search of a few breakout sessions focused on teacher education. Please consider presenting!

[Submit a Spring Proposal and Register Today](#)

Winter Meeting Recap

Over 130 attendees joined MACTE for our February winter conference. We were excited to welcome [Dr. Min Sun](#) from the University of Washington as our keynote speaker. Dr. Sun introduced attendees to [Colleague.AI](#), a free AI tool that supports teachers in many aspects of their work, including lesson planning, differentiation, rubric creation, and professional development. MACTE will continue to feature AI innovations in teacher prep and K-12 education to help support the learning of our members in this quickly changing environment.

Minnesota Partners with Teach.org

The Minnesota Department of Education has signed a multi-year contract with [Teach.org](#). Teach.org is a non profit organization that helps states develop customized teacher recruiting systems. Examples of their work can be found at [Teach Colorado](#) and [Teach North Carolina](#). Teach MN will go live later this spring.

To make Teach MN a success, Teach.org hopes to partner with Minnesota's TPPs. MEC has met with Teach.org's leaders and is excited to support their work to increase teacher recruitment in Minnesota.

The following are opportunities for MACTE members to learn more about Teach MN and their partnership with Minnesota's TPPs:

- **Join our Steering Committee:** MEC is looking for a few representatives to work closely with Teach.org over the coming months to ensure TPP information is accurately populated into the Teach MN website. If you are available to attend a few meetings this spring to support this work, please contact Cari Maguire (maguire@umn.edu).
- **Info Sessions:** Teach.org will be offering information sessions about their organization and the Teach MN website on March 19th and March 26th at 12 pm CT. If you would like to attend either of these sessions, please fill out [this google form](#) and a virtual meeting invitation will be sent to you.
- **Spring Conference Breakout Session:** Teach.org will be holding a breakout session at MACTE's April 4th virtual conference.

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.

MEC is Seeking a Treasurer

After five years of excellent service to the MACTE community, Athena Novack's time as our treasurer is drawing to a close. MEC is looking for someone to step forward to fill this service position. The treasurer often serves simultaneously as a member of MEC but this is not required. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Cari Maguire (maguire@umn.edu). Athena is also happy to meet with interested members and discuss the work of the MACTE treasurer.

Members sought for MACTE Workgroups

MACTE has a number of workgroups that are meeting now or will begin meeting soon. Please consider joining these short term groups to help your MACTE community.

- **Teach MN Steering Committee:** This group will meet several times this spring to support TEACH.org as they prepare Minnesota's new teacher recruitment website, focusing on populating information about Minnesota teacher prep providers onto the site.
- **Unit Rule Guidance and PERCA Process Workgroup:** This workgroup is meeting with PELSB staff every three weeks to update self study and site visit guidance. The group will also be making recommendations around the newly proposed PERCA process. This workgroup has met once and could use a few additional members. We are especially looking for volunteers who have served on site visit teams in the past.
- **Reading Standards Alignment Workgroup:** This group is working to align the three state approved K-12 reading teacher professional development courses—LETRS, OL&LA, and CAREIALL—to the PELSB reading standards. The group is making good progress but an additional member or two would help us complete the project.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these MACTE workgroups, please contact Cari Maguire (maguire@umn.edu).

Legislative Updates

The Minnesota legislative session began on January 14 and will conclude by May 19. Minnesota follows a biennial budget cycle, with the new budget taking effect on July 1 of each odd-numbered year. The Senate is controlled by Democrats with a one-seat majority, while Republicans currently hold a temporary one-seat majority in the House. A special election in March will fill a vacant seat in the Roseville area, likely resulting in a tie in the House.

MACTE has outlined our key priorities for the 2025 legislative session, focusing on addressing the ongoing teacher shortage, advocating for paid student teaching, ensuring high standards for teacher preparation, and addressing reading in teacher education programs. There is little optimism about investments we support. Read this [short article](#) about the budget forecast and education funding. We are monitoring two policy bills, one from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and another from the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB), both of which propose transferring PELSB's grant programs to MDE, which doesn't raise concern. You can find the bills and summaries here: [MDE bill](#), [MDE summary](#), [PELSB bill](#), [PELSB summary](#). Work is also underway on updates to the Read Act, with differing agendas between the parties. Expect updates on this in March.

AACTE Updates

AACTE Expresses Disappointment in Administration's Decision to Cut Funding for Education Research and Training

AACTE (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education) expresses profound disappointment in the Administration's decision to terminate and discontinue work on several funding sources for education research and practice.

The decision undermines efforts to ensure that U.S. schools and communities have highly trained, well-qualified educators in the classroom, which is essential for student success. The programs affected, Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP), Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED), and the various grants funded by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) are critical to advancing our understanding of effective educator preparation models as well as understanding best practices for ensuring student learning. [Continue reading here.](#)

JTE Highlight: How Preservice Teachers are Conceptualizing Equity and Equality

The Journal of Teacher Education (JTE), the official journal of AACTE, has been a leading voice in the field of teacher preparation for 75 years and is one of the most widely read professional journals in the field. JTE's five peer-reviewed issues per volume year contain thematic and general interest articles as well as editorials and commentaries.

In "Preservice Teachers' Conceptualizations of Equity and Equality: Tensions Between Technical and Humanizing Approaches," an open-access article from January 2025, writers and researchers Michelle Kwok, Eleanor Su-Keene, and Ambyr Rios write about conceptualizing equity in the current sociopolitical context, and how despite decades of theorizing, scholars do not agree on what "equity" and "equality" mean. [Continue reading here.](#)

Celebrating Black History Month 2025: Resources for Educators

AACTE is celebrating Black History Month, a time to recognize and honor the achievements, history, and cultural contributions of Black individuals in the United States and beyond. For educators and educator preparation programs, this month presents a unique opportunity to incorporate meaningful curriculum to prepare more culturally responsive candidates. By integrating Black history and experiences into curriculum, educators help students

understand the broader historical context of racial justice, the Civil Rights Movement, and contributions in fields such as science, arts, politics, and more. [Learn more about Black History at AACTE.](#)

PELSB Updates

R-4863 Proposed Rules Relating to Teacher Licensure, Renewal, and Other Legislative Requirements

PELSB is requesting comments on possible changes to the rules related to teacher licensure, renewal, and other legislative requirements (Minnesota Rules, 8705.1010, 8705.2100-2200, 8705.2600, 8710.0310-0314, 8710.0326, 8710.0320, 8710.0330, 8710.0500, 8710.2100, 8710.3000, 8710.4810, 8710.4875, and 8710.7200). The full Request for Comments is available below.

Proposed changes to the rules include:

- Legislative changes that expand the exemption from a bachelor's degree requirement for licensure to include teachers seeking licensure in World Language & Culture and the Visual or Performing Arts.
- Legislative changes to teacher professional development to include American Indian history and culture, including the 11 Tribal Nations that share land with Minnesota.
- Combining the review and appeal process for the three areas of the portfolio applications for teacher licensure.
- A clearer definition of “meaningful progress”, which can assist licensure candidates on what they need for completion of a teaching license.
- Adoption or revision of three teacher licensure areas – Ethnic Studies, Computer Science, and Early Childhood Education.

Please submit written or oral comments by Monday, April 21, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. to:

Steven Rollin, Rulemaking Specialist
Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board
[1021 Bandana Blvd. E., Saint Paul, MN 55108](#)
(651) 539-5991
PELSB.rules@state.mn.us

Resources & Opportunities

Why Minnesota Must Reject Washington’s Overreach on Education: MnEEP’s Statement on USDOE Anti-Diversity Letter

The U.S. Department of Education’s (USDOE) MnEEP Executive Director Carlos Mariani Rosa) latest “Dear Colleague” letter, sent to schools across the country this past weekend, is not a routine policy update—it is a direct assault on Minnesota’s values, laws, and commitment to racial equity and academic achievement for all students. Issued by the new White House administration, this directive declares all race-conscious student programming, resources, and financial aid illegal and threatens to withhold federal funds unless Minnesota abandons its successful, legally grounded approach to education and conforms to Washington’s ideological agenda. [Read the full statement here.](#)

MN School Jobs

MN School Jobs is gearing up for the MN Educators Career Expo on April 1st, where over 40 local MN School Districts will be ready to connect with aspiring educators. This event is more than just a career fair- it's a chance for candidates to:

- Meet face-to-face with potential employers
- Interview directly with hiring managers
- Network with fellow educators and professionals
- Gain career advice through dedicated table talks
- Get licensing questions answered
- And yes- de-stress with some adorable puppies!

How You Can Help

We would greatly appreciate your support in spreading the word! Here's how:

- Share the attached flyer with your students and post it in visible areas.
- Encourage your students to attend and take advantage of on-site interviews with hiring school districts.
- Direct them to mnschooljobs.org/job-fairs for additional details.

This event is a fantastic opportunity for students to network in person, explore career options, and secure job offers. We're excited to welcome them and hope to see strong participation from your institution!

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