
MACTE January 2025 Newsletter

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January 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 Winter Meeting: Keynote Speaker Announcement

Our winter conference will be held over Zoom on February 7, 2024.

Thanks to the many MACTE members who expressed interest in learning more about AI in education! Due to this strong interest, we are very excited to welcome [Dr. Min Sun](#) from the University of Washington as our keynote speaker. Dr. Sun leads the team that has developed [Colleague.AI](#) with a \$14M grant from a public-private collaboration of the U.S. Department of Education, NSF, and the Gates Foundation. Dr. Sun will introduce MACTE to the AI tools

her team has developed for teachers and show how teacher education programs have used the tools to prepare their candidates.

In addition to our keynote presentation, we will have legislative updates, breakout sessions, role-alike meetings, and PELSB updates - including information about major changes to the PERCA process that are now under consideration. The winter conference agenda is now available. We hope to see you there!

Register Today for the Virtual Meeting on February 7

MACTE Spring Meeting: Call from Proposals

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

Reading Standards Alignment Workgroup

MACTE is interested in forming a workgroup to align the three state approved K-12 reading teacher professional development courses—LETRS, OL&LA, and CAREIALL— to the PELSB reading standards. This would support all units when teacher candidates or prospective teacher candidates seek to use one of these approved professional development courses as a substitute for a licensure course. If you are interested in working on this alignment with a small group of MACTE colleagues, please contact Cari Maguire (maguire@umn.edu).

Elevate Teaching is Seeking Graduate Quotes

Our partner [Elevate Teaching](#) is looking for quotes about graduates who have received financial support for becoming a teacher for their new landing page associated with PELSB's statewide teacher marketing & outreach campaign.

[Click here](#) for more details!

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.

Legislative Updates

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 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.

The 2025 Minnesota legislative session began on January 14 and must 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. The Senate is

currently in a temporary tie and is working under a power sharing agreement until a special election in late January due to the death of [Senator Kari Dziedzic](#). We have not seen any bills yet in the Senate related to teacher preparation.

The House of Representatives is in disarray. The House was tied 67-67 after a close election. A Democratic lawmaker was then removed by a judge for not living in his district before the session started. Democrats called a special election to replace the disqualified member. Republicans argued the special election process was illegal, and the Minnesota Supreme Court agreed. Republicans then used their one-vote majority to take control of the House, abandoning power-sharing agreements that had occurred after the election. Democrats then boycotted the session, claiming Republicans' actions were illegal, and the MN Supreme Court sided with them. The governor has not called a new special election yet. Republicans canceled committee hearings for the week of 1/27 after the MN Supreme Court unanimously ruled on 1/24 that a quorum of 68 members is required for the House to conduct business. Without at least one Democrat, Republican actions over the last two weeks were deemed illegitimate. Stay tuned for what happens next!

AACTE Updates

Cheryl Holcomb-McCoy, Ph.D., Officially Begins Her Role as President and CEO of AACTE

Cheryl Holcomb-McCoy, Ph.D., officially began her role as president and CEO of AACTE on January 6, 2025. In her inaugural message, Holcomb-McCoy reflects on this important milestone and expresses her eagerness to engage with the educator preparation community. [Watch her video message to AACTE members.](#)

Upcoming Changes to AACTE Board of Directors Composition & Nomination Process

In December 2024, AACTE members voted to pass bylaw changes that restructure the composition of the AACTE Board of Directors, paving the way for leadership inclusive of membership and positioning the Association to represent multiple levels of expertise in the educator preparation field.

The bylaw revisions simultaneously reduce the size of the board and open all board positions to the entire membership. Appointment to the board will now be based on a review of nominees' leadership experience and management expertise and with attention to ensuring that the board represents the diversity of AACTE's membership. This approach will ensure board members have the competencies needed to lead AACTE into the future.

Starting in 2025, AACTE will implement the new board nomination and appointment process. There will be an information session at the Annual Meeting to describe the new process in detail, as well as information posted to the AACTE website. A call for nominations will be issued in spring 2025 and appointments will be made in the fall for new members joining the board in March 2026. [Read more on the EdPrep Matters Blog.](#)

AACTE Talks Policy – Special Alert

To assist AACTE members, we have prepared a document, [Week One of the Trump Administration: Information and Resources for Members](#), which details the executive orders impacting PK-12 and higher education, as well as the education-related policy changes that may be included in a bill to extend the 2017 tax cuts. We will expand on all of this information during the AACTE Annual Meeting and at an [AACTE members-only Town Hall](#) on Monday, February 3 at 1:00 pm ET.

PELSB Updates

PELSB Mailing List

If you do not already receive email updates from PELSB, [sign up for their mailing list here.](#)

Resources & Opportunities

MNEEP Resource: Creating Safe & Supportive Schools for Immigrant & English Learner (EL)

Students

Every student deserves the opportunity to learn, dream, and succeed in schools where their rights are protected, their dignity is upheld, and their humanity is honored. Yet today, many immigrant and English Learner (EL) students in Minnesota are facing serious threats, including the fear of deportation, the trauma of potential family separation, and ongoing harm caused by discriminatory rhetoric and bullying.

These challenges not only undermine the safe, supportive school environments every student deserves—they violate their human and constitutional rights to an education. [This toolkit is here to support you](#)—Minnesota educators, administrators, and school leaders—in your critical role of protecting the human rights, dignity, and well-being of immigrant and EL students.

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