



March 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 Keynote Speaker Announcement

Our spring conference will be held over Zoom on April 4, 2025. MACTE will continue to focus on the use of AI in teacher preparation with our spring keynote address. Dr. Allison Smith from the University of Massachusetts Global and Keith Walters from the Metcalf School of Education at California Baptist University will share their work using AI to inform teacher preparation, especially AI tools used to assist in student teacher observations. Drs. Smith and Walters will focus their presentation on how AI tools can humanize pedagogical planning while increasing expectations and fostering deeper collaboration. If you haven't yet been introduced to the ways in which AI tools are giving teachers and student teachers feedback on their teaching practice, this session is for you!

In addition to the keynote presentation, the conference will include a robust set of breakout sessions, opportunities to interact with TEACH.org representatives

about their work on the Teach MN recruitment platform, PELSB updates, role-alike meetings and more!

Register Today for the Virtual Meeting on April 4

MACTE 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 important 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.

MACTE Executive Committee (MEC) Nominations Sought

Please consider nominating a colleague (or yourself) to serve on the MACTE Executive Committee. It is the time of year when each caucus elects a member to serve on MEC. MEC members serve for two years. You can [read more about the duties of the executive committee on MACTE's website](#).

Nominations can be submitted via the form below leading up to the vote. Nominees will have time to speak briefly during caucus sessions at MACTE's spring virtual meeting on April 4th. Each member institution's CIR and IR will receive an email with links to vote during the virtual meeting's caucus session. New MEC members will be announced shortly after the meeting.

MEC Nomination Form

MACTE Voting Information

Voting for MEC members will happen electronically. We have moved to online voting with our change to a virtual spring conference. Nominees will have the opportunity to address their caucus during caucus sessions, and online ballots will be sent at this time. As per MACTE bylaws, each member institution's Chief Institutional Representative (CIR) and Institutional Representatives (IR) are

allowed to vote. If you are a CIR or IR and will not be present at the MACTE conference, you are allowed to assign someone from your institution as a proxy. Please send the names of any proxy voter to mactecommunication@gmail.com by April 3rd.

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.

Teach.org will be holding breakout sessions at MACTE's April 4th virtual conference. If you missed their March info sessions or would like the opportunity for deeper discussion of the project with TEACH.org representatives, consider attending one of their sessions at the MACTE's spring conference.

Reading Standards Alignment Workgroup

A MACTE workgroup is making progress aligning the three state approved K-12 reading teacher professional development courses — LETRS, OL&LA, and CAREIALL— to the PELSB reading standards. The group hopes to complete its work by the end of the academic year. If your unit has teacher candidates or applicants who have taken these courses and need advising decisions prior to the completion of this group's work, feel free to contact Cari Maguire (maguire@umn.edu) who can update you on the alignment work completed so far.

CPAST Workgroup

MACTE is interested in forming a workgroup to align the CPAST with Minnesota's Standards of Effective Practice (SEPs) and to strategize on CPAST implementation in MN. The workgroup would support ongoing conversations around adopting the CPAST in Minnesota. If you are interested in working with a small group of MACTE colleagues focusing on CPAST/SEP

alignment and other CFAST implementation topics, please contact Keri DeSutter (desutter@mnstate.edu).

Legislative Updates

MACTE has outlined [key priorities](#) for the 2025 legislative session, focusing on the teacher shortage, advocating for paid student teaching, ensuring the continued strength of teacher preparation standards, and addressing issues related to reading instruction in teacher education programs. Given the projected budget deficit and a lower-than-expected surplus, there is limited enthusiasm for funding high-cost initiatives this session. Policy bills are progressing through the legislative process, with the [K12 Education Omnibus Senate bill \(summary\)](#) set for hearings on March 26th and April 2nd. The House Education Finance Committee will consider Governor Walz's proposed education budget at 1 p.m. on March 27th ([more info on the bill status](#)).

MACTE has also been actively participating in the READ Act coalition meetings with Senator Maye Quade, providing feedback on Tier 1, 2, and 3 licensure and preparation to teach reading. Additionally, significant work is underway to promote teacher apprenticeships in Minnesota. Both the House and Senate K-12 Education Committees have held hearings on the subject, and a hearing is scheduled for March 27th in the Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee ([HF1538](#)).

AACTE Updates

AACTE Opposes Efforts to Dismantle the U.S. Department of Education

On behalf of AACTE (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education), President and CEO Cheryl Holcomb-McCoy, Ph.D., issued the following statement in response to the Trump Administration's efforts to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education and the House of Representatives vote on a continuing resolution that supports that agenda:

The cumulative effect of the Trump Administration's actions—the firing of employees, cancellation of grants and contracts, and plans to eliminate or transfer key services of the Department of Education—threatens the foundation of our nation's commitment to ensuring every student has access to a high-quality education. Last night, the Trump Administration fired 1,300 Department of Education staff and the House of Representatives passed a continuing resolution that cuts non-defense spending by \$15 billion and provides enormous discretion to the Trump Administration to withhold funding from most education programs. AACTE decries these actions, which imperil decades of federal efforts to promote equal access to high-quality education for all American students, and calls on the Senate to insist on a funding measure that preserves the Department of Education programs that Congress has authorized and funded. [Continue reading AACTE's press release.](#)

AACTE, NCTR, 100+ Organizations Urge Congress to Reverse Federal Grant Cancellations

[AACTE \(American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education\)](#) and the [National Center for Teacher Residencies \(NCTR\)](#) sent a letter Friday on behalf of 104 organizations to the 119th Congress requesting the immediate reversal of the cancellations of SEED (Supporting Effective Educator Development), TQP (Teacher Quality Partnership) and Teacher and School Leader Incentive Program (TSL) grants.

The TQP, SEED, and TSL programs are vital to help provide high-quality, affordable, work-based pathways that expand the pool of qualified teachers in the United States, especially in teaching specialties where shortages are most acute including the following:

- Science
- Mathematics
- Career and technical education
- Early childhood education
- Special education
- English language learners

Research shows that the quality of preparation matters for teacher retention and student outcomes, which in turn impacts our economic competitiveness and national security. Teachers who are prepared through high-quality programs, that include pre-service student teaching as well as integrated coursework, are less than half as likely to leave the profession as those who

enter the profession through pathways that lack student teaching and other key elements of teacher preparation. [Continue reading.](#)

PELSB Updates

New Heritage Language Teacher Licensure Pathway Finds Success

The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) is committed to ensuring that all Minnesota students have access to high quality educators in their schools. With over 300 home languages spoken by Minnesota students and their families, there is a clear need for more opportunities for language instruction across the state. To address this need, PELSB launched the Heritage Language Pathway (HLP) cohort program in May 2024, providing an alternate route to educator licensure via portfolio. Reaching licensure candidates teaching in more than 20 districts across the state, the program has already demonstrated success, with 20 teaching licenses issued, or in the process of being issued, to members of HLPs Inaugural Cohort.

HLP supports heritage language and culture teachers seeking an initial or additional teaching license as they navigate the licensure via portfolio process. Teaching heritage languages in schools instills that students' unique knowledge and abilities are valuable assets, while multilingualism beneficially impacts cognitive development, executive function, and cross-cultural understanding. Developing one's home language and culture can lead to improved family relationships, self-esteem, and identity development, while simultaneously improving English language development.

Utilizing an alternative pathway to teacher licensure, candidates demonstrate the same rigorous standards required of all educators licensed by PELSB in their approved portfolios. Of the portfolios already submitted for review from members of HLP, 88% have been approved. Of the licenses already issued or in the process of being issued, eight languages are represented: Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, Hmong, Karen, Korean, Spanish, and Somali. Notably, these account for the first professional licenses in Minnesota for teachers of Amharic, Karen, and Somali. Exceptionally significant, Minnesota is the first state in the nation to issue teaching licenses in the Karen language, according to available

information.

The Heritage Language and Culture Licensure Pathway program provides dedicated support and guidance to cohort members during the rigorous licensure via portfolio process. An intensive and lengthy commitment, the program provides cohort members with tools to assemble and submit a portfolio for teacher licensure. HLP cohort members collaborate regularly with other cohort members, have access to expert language teacher mentors, meet regularly with PELSB's Heritage Language Pathway Specialist, and receive portfolio fee waivers.

Space in the cohort program is limited. Applications to be a member of the next Heritage Language Portfolio Cohort are anticipated to open in Fall 2025. To learn more about the Heritage Language and Culture Licensure Pathway Program, visit PELSB's website to sign-up for HLP specific email updates, including upcoming information sessions and future application cycles. For more information about the pathway, contact PELSB Heritage Language Specialist, Grant Boulanger, at Heritage.PELSB@state.mn.us. Please direct media requests to MediaRequests.PELSB@state.mn.us.

Resources & Opportunities

Join MnEEP's Community: Advancing race equity and educational excellence in Minnesota takes all of us.

The Minnesota Education Equity Partnership is building a multiracial movement alongside students, parents, educators, district leaders, higher ed leaders, and community members—Minnesotans just like you—to advance racial justice and educational excellence in Minnesota's education systems. Together, we can transform policies, practices, & public narratives to build a racially just education system in Minnesota where each child can achieve their full potential.

[Learn more about MnEEP.](#)

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