
MACTE February 2026 Newsletter

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February 2026 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 10, 2026. The day will combine the business meeting and professional development sessions, offering time for both important updates and shared learning. At a time of rapid change in educator preparation, coming together to collaborate, exchange ideas, and strengthen our collective voice is more important than ever.

The conference planning committee is still seeking a few breakout sessions focused on teacher education—please consider presenting and sharing your expertise!

Submit a Spring Proposal and Register Today

Winter Meeting Recap

Over 120 attendees joined MACTE for our February Winter Conference. We were honored to welcome Cheryl Holcomb-McCoy, President and CEO of American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, and senior consultant Jacqueline King. Their joint keynote addressed the current national political climate and offered timely legal and advocacy guidance to help educator preparation programs navigate federal uncertainty with clarity and confidence.

Members also received a legislative update from Legislative Liaison Laura Mogelson, heard from Paul Spies of Metropolitan State University on the Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color & American Indian Teachers in MN, and received updates from the Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board. The conference concluded with engaging caucus and breakout sessions that strengthened cross-sector collaboration among members.

Reminder: Submit Nominations for MEC and UMN Caucus President Elect

Institutional representatives will vote on MACTE Executive Committee members at the April 10th Conference. A new President-Elect will be chosen from the University of Minnesota Caucus. As we prepare for this important leadership transition, we invite members to submit nominations for these roles. Strong leadership is essential to advancing our shared mission and sustaining effective advocacy for educator preparation across the state.

Please consider nominating a colleague—or yourself—using the nomination forms below.

- [MEC Nominations](#) (all caucuses)
- [President Elect Nominations](#) (UMN caucus)

Special Education and Music Licensure Changes Approved by PELSB

At the February 20th PELSB meeting, the Board voted to start rulemaking for

major changes to both special education and music education in Minnesota.

For special education, the new rules will delineate the requirements for a moderate/severe cross-categorical special education license. This new cross categorical license will replace current licenses in ASD, DD, EBD, and LD, thereby creating two main cross-categorical special education licenses in Minnesota. Low incidence licenses (DHH, BVI, PHD, and ECSE) will remain as they currently are.

For music, the Board voted to move from separate K-12 instrumental and K-12 vocal licenses to a single PK-12 music license with specialization embedded in the standards.

MACTE wants to ensure all members with special education and music licensure programs are aware that these changes are in process. A session will be held at our April 10th virtual conference to discuss these changes, the rule making process, and opportunities for advocacy and input as these licensure rules are developed.

TeachMN Website

MEC encourages all MACTE members to create a profile on the TeachMN's website. More than 20 Minnesota TPPs have already created profiles on the site and the organization has given over 280 scholarships and application fee reimbursements to prospective teacher candidates. If your unit has not yet decided to be part of TeachMN, MEC encourages you to reach out to Angela Wanderlust (awunderlich@teachmn.org) for more information about how TeachMN can help promote your programs.

Educator Job Fair

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota will host an upcoming job fair on its Minneapolis campus, featuring more than 30 schools and districts actively hiring. Students graduating this spring and seeking a teaching position are especially encouraged to attend and take advantage of this opportunity to connect directly with potential employers.

The event is free of charge. More information, including a registration link, is available in the attached materials. Questions may be directed to the event organizers listed in the announcement.

Legislative Updates

The 2026 Minnesota Legislative Session convened on February 17, shifting the focus to public works "bonding" and essential policy adjustments. This year's compressed timeline combines the first and second committee deadlines on March 27, followed by a final finance deadline on April 17. The legislature will adjourn on May 18. MACTE remains focused on advocating for the teacher workforce, specifically protecting teacher preparation funding, upholding rigorous licensure standards, and enhancing evidence-based reading instruction.

In the Minnesota House, the historic 67-67 tie has resulted in a shared leadership structure for the 2026 session. The K-12 Education Finance Committee is co-chaired by Representatives Ron Kresha (R) and Cheryl Youakim (DFL), supported by Co-Vice Chairs Ben Bakeberg (R) and Mary Frances Clardy (DFL) within an evenly split 12-12 party membership. The K-12 Education Policy Committee features a 7-7 party split, led by Co-Chairs Peggy Bennett (R) and Sydney Jordan (DFL) and Co-Vice Chairs Patricia Mueller (R) and Josiah Hill (DFL).

The Minnesota Senate maintains its DFL majority leadership across both K-12 Education committees. The Education Finance Committee is chaired by Senator Mary Kunesh (DFL), with Senator Steve Cwodzinski (DFL) serving as Vice Chair and Senator Julia Coleman (R) as the Ranking Minority Member. Senator Cwodzinski chairs the Education Policy Committee, with Heather Gustafson (DFL) serving as Vice Chair and Zach Duckworth (R) as the Ranking Minority Member.

On February 18, 2026, Dr. Yelena Bailey, Executive Director of the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB), provided an agency update to the Senate Education Policy Committee.

Key Takeaways from PELSB:

- Supply & Demand Report: PELSB released the 2025 Supply and Demand of Teachers report, highlighting critical shortages in ESL, Special

Education, sciences, and mathematics.

- Teacher Diversity: The board is seeking more robust data collection to track why teachers of color are leaving the profession.
- Licensure Modifications: PELSB is advocating for implementing an interstate teacher mobility compact to allow out-of-state teachers to begin working in MN more quickly. There is a concerning provision that would allow for enrollment in any state-approved program with equivalent student teaching minimums for Tier 2 teachers.

View the Bill: [SF3625 - Educator Licensing and Standards Modifications](#)

AACTE Updates

AACTE Research

AACTE offers a variety of resources, including interactive data dashboards and the latest research published by the Association, its members, and education partners.

As a strategic priority, AACTE invests in educator preparation research. Its cutting-edge research is grounded in the core values of inquiry and innovation; quality and impact; and diversity, equity, and inclusion. The aim is to provide members and strategic partners with the information necessary to make informed decisions that will ensure all educators are profession-ready to meet the needs of all learners.

Members are the leading experts in their fields of inquiry and AACTE promote their research through its Journal of Teacher Education and collaboration on original research in published reports and briefs. [Learn more here.](#)

When the World Feels Unsafe: What Teacher Preparation Must Prioritize Now

Each year, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) offers the Governor's Educator of the Year program to honor the hardworking teachers and educational services professionals for their dedication to students and to the profession. In turn, NJACTE welcomes the distinguished teacher chosen to speak at a monthly membership meeting and invites them to share their

thoughts about education. [Read the post authored by 2026 NJ Teacher of the Year, Gillian Ober.](#)

PELSB Updates

2026 Minnesota Educator Career Expo

Hosted by MNSchoolJobs.org

Central Middle School

8025 School Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Tuesday, March 31st, 2026

10am to 2pm

65 Districts and Charter Schools from across Minnesota will be in attendance.

Connect and interact with fellow educators, meet potential employers, interview with administrators, engage in career talks for educators, get answers to licensing questions, enjoy gourmet coffee and delicious treats from food trucks, and cuddle with adorable puppies from Spot's Last Stop Canine Rescue!

All current and aspiring Minnesota educators are invited to participate in the Career Expo. Attendance is free. PELSB Licensing executives will be on-site to meet attendees.

This free event is open to licensed teachers (and those who anticipate being licensed by Fall 2026) certified in all grade levels and subject areas, school support personnel (counselors, nurses, psychologists, social workers, and speech and language pathologists), administrators, paraprofessionals, and substitute teachers. [Learn more and sign up to attend.](#)

Upcoming DSR Training and Activities

Minnesota Statute 122A.091, subdivision 1 requires teacher preparation providers to collect and submit data on teacher candidate demographics and performance outcomes. These annual submissions are compiled, analyzed, and published as the Data Summary Report (DSR). The following updates are provided to launch the 2026 reporting window with all PELSB approved teacher preparation providers.

[View the 2025 Data Summary Report.](#)

Submit Contact Information

Please complete the [2026 DSR SharePoint Folders List](#) to provide updated contact information for anyone who will be working on DSR reporting from your unit. This will ensure that all who will need to access the reporting tools and support resources are included in communications over the coming weeks.

Resources & Opportunities

Explore MnEEP's Toolkits

[Safe & Supportive Schools For Immigrant Learners Toolkit](#)

Evolving resources, guidance, and emerging best practices to help schools remain safe, stable, and supportive environments for immigrant, refugee, and first-generation learners.

[Push Back, Push Forward Toolkit](#)

Tools, strategies, legal analyses, and coordinated actions to support school leaders and educators in resisting harmful federal threats and rollbacks and advancing a racially equitable public education system across Minnesota.

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