

MDE Weekly Superintendent Mail

TO: Superintendents
FROM: Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Commissioner
DATE: December 16, 2011

MDE NEWS AND INFORMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ***Minnesota Receives Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant***

As one of nine states to receive the grant, the Department of Education will receive \$45 million to develop a better aligned system of accountable and effective early childhood education. [Read the press release.](#)

- ***Commissioner's Statewide NCLB Waiver Meetings***

Commissioner Brenda Cassellius and Department staff continue their statewide tour to present information about Minnesota's waiver request and plans for a new accountability system that will more accurately and fairly measure schools' progress. Public meetings are scheduled for January 4, 3:00 p.m., at the Mankato Intergovernmental Center, Minnesota River Room; and January 17, 3:00 p.m., in Marshall. Plans for a meeting in Duluth are tentatively scheduled. Watch for more details coming soon.

- ***Commissioner's Dialogue with Superintendents: Monthly Conference Call – December 21***

The next audio conference call is scheduled for Wednesday, December 21, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Topics will include the Race to the Top Early Learning Grant, and an NCLB Waiver application update. A separate message will be sent to you regarding call-in instructions.

MISCELLANEOUS

- ***Q Comp Conference – January 27, 2012***

See the attached memorandum from Steve Dibb, director of School Support; and Deborah Luedtke, supervisor; regarding the above-mentioned conference. The 2012 Q Comp Conference will be held on Friday, January 27 at the Minnesota Department of Education Conference Center B. Its theme, **Growing for Success: Every Teacher and Every Student**, will provide educators with transformation stories occurring in Q Comp districts concerning efforts to increase teacher effectiveness and student achievement. The conference will provide sessions on how the Minnesota Q Comp program has become an important school reform instrument in building collaboration within the district, school and teams to reach higher levels of students success. [To register for the conference, visit The Prep Center website.](#) For more information about the conference, contact Carrie Mammenga at carrie.mammenga@state.mn.us or 651-482-8472.

- **Minnesota Common Course Catalogue (MCCC) Local Course Index Deadline Extended**

The deadline for submitting the local course index has been **extended from December 31 to March 15**. For more information, please contact MDE.MCCC@state.mn.us. The MCCC is a course classification system intended to provide uniform information about which courses are taught by Minnesota teachers and completed by Minnesota high school students.

- **Minnesota Board of Teaching Licensure Actions**

The Minnesota Board of Teaching has taken the following licensure actions:

- **Evans, Arthur Austin-Ellis (FF# 447164)** On December 13, 2011, Mr. Evans' teaching license was permanently revoked.
- **Skinness, Francis (FF# 330374)** On December 15, 2011, Mr. Skinness' teaching license was permanently revoked.

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DATE: December 15, 2011

TO: Superintendents, School Principals, Charter School Directors

FROM: Steve Dibb, Director of School Support
Deborah Luedtke, Supervisor

RE: 2012 Q Comp Conference

SAVE THE DATE! January 27, 2012
Q Comp Conference – Growing for Success: Every Teacher and Every Student
MDE Conference Center B

The 2012 Q Comp Conference theme, **Growing for Success: Every Teacher and Every Student**, will provide educators with transformation stories occurring in Q Comp districts concerning efforts to increase teacher effectiveness and student achievement. Seven years after the establishment of the program, powerful leadership teams and job-embedded professional development are creating significant changes in school practice and student results. The conference will provide sessions on how the Minnesota Q Comp program has become an important school reform instrument in building collaboration within the district, school and teams to reach higher levels of student success.

- **Keynote Presentation: A National Perspective on Robust Teacher Evaluation Systems.** Brad Jupp (Senior Program Advisor for the Office of Secretary of Education Arne Duncan) will share a national perspective regarding teacher evaluation systems, the ongoing work occurring with the state developing teacher evaluation models, particularly with Race to the Top States and states applying for Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waivers. His presentation will provide insight and expertise to Minnesota in developing a statewide teacher evaluation model.
- **Keynote Breakout Session: A National Perspective on Teacher Evaluation Programs – Questions and Answers from the Field.** The number of states and school districts implementing innovative teacher evaluation programs is growing. Brad Jupp will reflect on the wide range of innovative teacher evaluation programs being undertaken in states and school districts around the country. As they develop, there are valuable lessons to be learned. Jupp will discuss leading examples from around the country and address questions that will move forward steps being taken in Minnesota.
- **Focus for Breakout Sessions: Transformation Stories and Best Practice.** Leaders from our Q Comp Schools will share school and teacher stories describing best practice implementation via “how to” sessions within their Q Comp programs. The sessions are intended to showcase those practices that have significantly increased teacher effectiveness and student achievement. Examples of various breakout sessions:
 - Teacher Observations**
 - How to collect evidence during an observation.
 - How to conduct meaningful pre- and post-observation conferences.
 - Keynote Breakout Session by Brad Jupp.
 - Learning Teams**
 - How to include instructional and non-instructional specialists in learning teams.

Teacher Leaders

- How to develop teacher leaders.
- How to develop instructional practices of new teachers through mentoring.

Program Coordination

- How to coordinate Q Comp in schools with small staff and limited resources.
 - How to ensure consistent implementation across the district.
- **Time:** 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
 - **Location:** MDE, Conference Center B.
 - **Cost:** \$70.00 per registrant, payable by credit card or check
 - Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

Registration Information:

To register for the conference, [visit The Prep Center website](#). Search by scrolling down the Events list to find the date of the conference. The QR code below allows registration access with a mobile device.



For more information on the conference, contact Carrie Mammenga at carrie.mammenga@state.mn.us or 651-482-8472.