



## MDE Weekly Superintendent Mail

TO: Superintendents  
FROM: Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Commissioner  
DATE: January 19, 2012

### MDE NEWS AND INFORMATION

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ***Secretary Duncan, Governor Dayton to Host Town Hall on Education Reform***

Tomorrow, **Friday, January 20**, Commissioner Cassellius will moderate a dialogue with Governor Mark Dayton and U.S. Secretary Arne Duncan highlighting Minnesota's nation-leading education reforms and discussing future efforts to support students.

Discussion will focus on Minnesota's successes in improving education for its students – including being awarded a Race to the Top–Early Learning Challenge, Investing in Innovation (i3), and Promise Neighborhood grants – and provide audience members with the opportunity to ask questions about the current education reforms taking place. The town hall forum will be held at 1:00 p.m. at Irondale High School in New Brighton.

- ***Commissioner's Dialogue with Superintendents***

Thank you for calling in to yesterday's conference call. I regret that I was not able to participate due to illness. But, you were left in good hands with Kevin McHenry stepping in to lead the discussion, along with Sam Kramer's NCLB Waiver update, which included information about the recent changes submitted for strengthening two domains: Proficiency and Graduation Rate. Also present was Kari Ross to talk about the Seven-Point Plan's "Reading Well by Third Grade" and the FAQ Webinar taking place on **Monday, January 23** (see more information below). The next conference call will be held February 15. Call-in instructions will be sent to you in a separate e-mail.

#### PRESS RELEASE

- ***Summer Food Service Program Needs Sponsors to Feed Children***

The Minnesota Department of Education is looking for organizations interested in providing free meals for needy children 18 and under during summer 2012. [See the January 18 press release.](#)

## MISCELLANEOUS

- ***Reading Well by Third Grade FAQ Webinar – January 23, 2012***

A series of information sessions on the “Reading Well by Third Grade” initiative were offered in the fall and are [available on the MDE website](#). The next event will be a FAQ webinar, **Monday, January 23**, 9-11:00 a.m., to address frequently asked questions about requirements of local literacy plans, and updates on data submission and plan outlines will be presented. [Connect to the webinar](#), enter your name and e-mail address. Enter the session password: Roseville1!. Click "Join Now." Follow the instructions that appear on your screen.

If a district has not yet participated in the information sessions, now would be a great time to get involved. [See the registration form for upcoming information sessions.](#)

Questions can be addressed to Kari Ross, State Reading Specialist, at [kari.d.ross@state.mn.us](mailto:kari.d.ross@state.mn.us) or 651-582-8455.

- ***Host AmeriCorps Promise Fellows***

The Minnesota Alliance With Youth is pleased to invite schools, community organizations, government agencies, and others to submit a proposal to host AmeriCorps Promise Fellows. In order to ensure all youth achieve success in school, work, and life, we focus on four strategies: 1) strengthening youth success in school and learning, 2) increasing youth contribution through service & leadership opportunities, 3) developing and magnifying youth voice, and 4) promoting collaboration and innovation. Our goal is to ensure every young person graduates school ready for college, work, and life and has a vision for their future. To learn more, [visit the Minnesota Alliance With Youth website](#).

- ***2011-12 Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC)***

In preparation for the 2011-12 CRDC, a letter was sent last week to each district superintendent regarding the 2011-12 collection and asking them to designate a district contact person for all activities related to the 2011-12 CRDC. Copies of the letter may be found on the [CRDC website](#), along with additional resources for districts and states to learn more about this important collection. Please feel free to contact the CRDC Partner Support Center (PSC) if you have any questions about the collection: Telephone: 1-855-320-6459; Fax: 1-888-FAX-EDEN (1-888-329-3336); TTY/TDD: 1-888-403-EDEN (1-888-403-3336); [EDEN\\_CRDC@ED.GOV](mailto:EDEN_CRDC@ED.GOV).

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