



MDE Weekly Superintendent Mail

TO: Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Commissioner

DATE: February 9, 2012

MDE NEWS AND INFORMATION

ANNOUNCEMENT

Good afternoon,

As many of you may have already heard, today President Obama announced that Minnesota is one of 10 states to be granted a waiver from the federal No Child Left Behind Law.

We all know that No Child Left Behind, while well-intentioned, has often been an impediment to the great work being done to help children throughout the state. Under this waiver, we have a great opportunity to transition to an accountability system made in Minnesota that works for Minnesota. With this new system, we will move beyond AYP to look at multiple measures of school performance. We will move away from the demoralizing labels of the NCLB system and replace them with a system that identifies a more limited group of schools most in need of our strategic support and assistance. What's more, for the first time, we'll also be identifying the highest-performing schools across the state in order to learn from them and highlight their success.

Today we have a fresh start. Let's make the most of it for Minnesota's kids! Finally, we can stop just talking about the achievement gap and get to work on strategies to close it. It's going to take all of us working together in full partnership – teachers, principals, superintendents, parents, communities and MDE – to achieve our goal of helping every student achieve to their highest potential. I look forward to working along with you on these important efforts.

[Minnesota's Waiver Request – Explained](#)

[MDE's ESEA Flexibility Request Summary](#)

Brenda

PRESS RELEASE

- ***Minnesota One of First States Granted Federal Waiver!***

Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius joined President Obama and Education Secretary Arne Duncan in Washington today for the announcement that Minnesota will receive a waiver from the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind law. As a result, Minnesota will begin using a new accountability system based on multiple measures of reliable data to identify schools for recognition, accountability and support. The new system will provide a clearer focus on schools most in need of intensive intervention strategies and support, and will move the state forward in the goals of closing achievement gaps and improving educational outcomes for all students. [Read more](#). [Visit Waiver Working Group page](#).

MISCELLANEOUS

- ***FY 2011 Federal Requirements for Maintenance of Effort (MOE) for Special Education***

See the [memorandum](#) from Carol Hokenson, Division of School Finance, regarding the federal IDEA requirements used for the annual MOE review. During the month of April, the Division of School Finance, Special Education Funding and Data Team, will begin the MOE review process of each LEA, including each local school district, charter school and special education cooperative. A memorandum will be sent to every LEA informing them if they have or have not maintained effort for FY 2011.

Questions related to this memorandum may be directed to Mike Matlock at 651-582-8379 or e-mail mike.matlock@state.mn.us.

- ***Licensure Reminder***

The Minnesota Board of Teaching, Minnesota Board of School Administrators, and Minnesota Department of Education would like to remind Minnesota school districts about the importance of holding proper licensure or permission for assignments. Ensuring that individuals hold proper licensure or permission is important in creating a system of quality education guided by professional state standards. The Boards and Department support schools in creating appropriate and flexible structures and offer assistance to schools in managing assignments through information and advising.

Please submit permission requests in a timely manner, allowing enough time for requests to be reviewed and action taken, prior to the individual being placed into a licensed position. Please contact the staff below with questions about permission requests.

The Department of Education will soon be providing the Board of Teaching and Board of School Administrators with a list of teachers or related personnel who are in positions without proper licensure or permission. Board and/or Department staff will contact these individuals and their administrators and possible discipline action may result. Please contact

your district's STAR Coordinator if you are in need of an updated copy of your district's discrepancy report.

Contact Information:

- Waiver, Community Expert, Appeal Variance, and Appeal Limited – Heather Ward, Minnesota Board of Teaching, 651-582-8213 or heather.ward@state.mn.us
 - General Education & Career and Technical Variances – Katherine Anthony-Wigle, Minnesota Department of Education, Licensing, 651-582-8415 or katherine.anthony-wigle@state.mn.us
 - Special Education Variance – Sue Koehler, Minnesota Department of Education, Licensing, 651-582-8867 or sue.koehler@state.mn.us
 - Nonrenewable license - Minnesota Department of Education, Licensing, 651-582-8691 or mde.educator-licensing@state.mn.us
 - Administrative Variance – Stan Mack, Minnesota Board of School Administrators, 651-582-8796 or stan.mack@state.mn.us
 - Web links to permission applications:
 - [Waiver, Community Expert, Appeal Variance, Appeal Limited](#)
 - [Variance and Nonrenewable](#)
 - [Administrative Variance](#)
- **Minnesota Board of Teaching Licensure Actions**

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

- **Famodu, Babatunde (FF # 364992)** Mr. Famodu's Minnesota teaching license has been reinstated.
- **Kosbau, Gregory (FF # 412452)** Mr. Kosbau's Minnesota teaching license has been reinstated.
- **Provolt, Tyler (FF # 444814)** Mr. Provolt's Minnesota teaching license has been reinstated.
- **Rhoades, Lois (FF # 426584)** Ms. Rhoades's Minnesota teaching license has been reinstated.
- **Sautbine, Dale (FF # 283063)** Mr. Sautbine's Minnesota teaching license has been reinstated.
- **Kristen Kundrat AKA Lancec Woinaricz (FF # 438261)** Ms. Kundrat's AKA Lancec Woinaricz, teaching license was suspended on January 13, 2012, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 270C.72, until she meets requirements of the Board of Teaching.

- ***Minnesota Computers for Schools – Monthly Promotion***

[Minnesota Computers for Schools](#) (MCFS) refurbishes donated computers and provides them to schools at a minimal charge. See their [Special Deals](#) for February.

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