

# LEARNING MATTERS

## News from the Minnesota Department of Education

June 1, 2012

Issue 22, Volume 8

Learning Matters highlights the most important issues coming out of the Minnesota Department of Education including press releases, policy announcements, grant and scholarship opportunities and other items of interest.

Please forward this newsletter to others in the education field who may be interested in Learning Matters. [Subscribe to Learning Matters](#). If you do not wish to receive Learning Matters, [send us an e-mail](#).

### ***Bullying Prevention Task Force to Hold Listening Session for Students in Metro***

On Monday, June 18, a listening session for students will be held at the Minnesota Department of Education in Roseville. This will be the sixth listening session held by the task force. Members of the Governor's Task Force for the Prevention of Bullying are convening listening sessions across the state to hear from Minnesota students, educators and community members on the issue of bullying and school climate.

This listening session will take place at the Minnesota Department of Education and offer students an opportunity to weigh-in on this important issue. The listening session will be held in Conference Center A, 9:30-11:30 a.m. **See the attached announcement for additional details.** Please distribute this information to students who may be interested in attending.

Any students interested in attending the listening session should contact Nancy Riestenberg at [nancy.riestenberg@state.mn.us](mailto:nancy.riestenberg@state.mn.us) or 651-582-8433.

### ***Minnesota Department of Education Releases New Multiple Measurement Ratings***

The Minnesota Department of Education released Multiple Measurement Ratings (MMR) for schools across the state. The new ratings are the result of implementation of a new fairer, more accurate accountability system made possible through the state's NCLB waiver. [See the May 22 press release](#).

Parents and educators can learn more about their school's performance and search for Multiple Measurement Rating data on the Department of Education's website in the Data Center. [Visit the Data Center's Data for Parents and Educators Web page](#). [View the state Multiple Measurement files on the Data Reports and Analytics Web page](#). [Learn more about the waiver on the No Child Left Behind \(NCLB\) Waiver Workgroup Web page](#).

### ***A New Era of Accountability for Minnesota's Schools***

Visit the Office of the Governor Blog for more information about the New Multiple Measurement Ratings. [View the May 23<sup>rd</sup> entry, which includes several local news stories about the MMR ratings](#).

## ***Minnesota's Distinguished High School Students Honored for High Levels of Performance***

Thirty-four distinguished Minnesota high school students were honored Saturday at the Scholars of Distinction award program in the areas of Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, Leadership and Theater Arts. [See the May 19 press release.](#)

## ***Legislative Summaries Available***

This past session several bills were introduced, heard in committee, debated on the floor and eventually signed into law. Some issues are familiar as they were in the press often. Other issues may not have been in the news but are important for superintendents and others working in schools to know about.

The Government Relations team at MDE produced summaries of all education initiatives that were signed into law by Governor Dayton, and identified key agency contacts for each provision. Two documents can be found on [MDE's legislative page](#). One document covers all the initiatives included in the education omnibus bill, and another details all education bills that traveled and passed on their own. If you have further questions on any bill or legislative questions, please contact Kevin McHenry at 651-582-8292 or [kevin.mchenry@state.mn.us](mailto:kevin.mchenry@state.mn.us).

## ***Basic Skills Exam Legislation for Minnesota Teacher Licensure***

Governor Mark Dayton recently signed legislation revising a law passed in February related to the Basic Skills teacher exam requirement for Minnesota teacher licensure. The change allows Minnesota teachers until the end of the 2012-13 school year to pass the Minnesota Teacher Licensure Examination (MTLE) Basic Skills exam. **Only** teachers who were in a teaching position in Minnesota this year (2011-12) on a one-year license who have NOT passed one or more of the subtests on the Basic Skills exam are affected by this law.

### Sec. 20. ONE-YEAR LICENSES.

Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 122A.18, subdivision 2, as amended by Laws 2012, chapter 122, section 2, a person who has:

- (1) obtained a one-year license to teach; and
  - (2) taught during the 2011-2012 school year;
- may be approved by the Board of Teaching to continue to teach through the end of the 2012-2013 school year.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective retroactively from February 22, 2012.

[See the exact language from 2012 Omnibus E-12 Education Act \(Chapter 239, Article 2, Section 20\).](#)

Information about the exam system and exam registration is available on the [Educator Licensing Web page](#). Open the document titled *Teacher Testing Requirements and Testing Chart March 2012*.

For assistance with questions, contact the Licensing Division at [mde.educator-licensing@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.educator-licensing@state.mn.us).

Learning Matters is produced by the Communications Office of the [Minnesota Department of Education](#). If you have questions about the information contained in this newsletter, please contact: [mde.contactus@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.contactus@state.mn.us).