

Sarah Mueller

From: Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association <smueller@mnsaa.org>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 1:08 PM
To: Sarah Mueller
Subject: Accredited Memo from MNSAA



Accredit-Memo from MNSAA

February 2019

Do all Minnesotans think the ground hog got it wrong in 2019? A step outside reminds us that there are still six weeks left of winter. In spite of finding ourselves smack in the middle of the deep heart of this glorious season, it is enlightening to find the days getting longer and our students growing wiser.

In this edition of our Association's monthly newsletter, you hear about:

- Our [2019 Annual Conference](#)
- MNSAA's standard for providing [services to support all learners](#)
- Promulgation of [nonpublic pupil aids for 2019-20](#)
- MNSAA's requirement for using [technology to engage](#) teaching and learning
- Updates in [Title IV, Part A](#) from MDE
- Keeping your [school's safe from radon](#)

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions about MNSAA accreditation.

Stay safe and warm!
Sarah W. Mueller
Executive Director



Save the Date!
MONDAY, November 4, 2019

We are delighted to announce that [All Saints School](#) in Lakeville has offered to host our Annual Conference this year. The school has ample space for parking, is easily accessible off Interstate 35 and a heart to share their beautiful space. Please note that our conference will be held on **MONDAY** this year. We are grateful the All Saints School community is choosing to give up their professional staff day to MNSAA.



We are especially pleased that [Dr. Julene Nolan](#) from [Phoenix School Consulting](#) has agreed to be our keynote speaker for the event. Many of our past attendees have advised that they would like to hear more from her, and we anticipate that she will not disappoint! We will be putting out a "[Call for Speakers](#)" soon, so stay in touch!

Plan now to plan on send a team to learn more about our accreditation process, network with colleagues and gather new ideas for classrooms. Enjoy this unique opportunity to gather as a nonpublic school community with schools from across Minnesota.



Providing Services to Support Learners



MNSAA's standard #2.06 requires that our member school provide the necessary support to ensure that every student successfully completes their defined academic program. To provide verification this is occurring, schools need a written process for identifying, assessing and prescribing services for learners with unique needs. MNSAA recommends that schools

define this in a operational procedures manual or school policy and practice guidelines.

Often nonpublic schools will rely on their independent public school districts for support with this work. However, it is essential that teachers and schools make efforts to accommodate individual learning preferences and styles. This can be accomplished through a variety of ways including, but not limited to:

- Diagnostic evaluation
- Defining possible interventions/accommodations
- Providing advanced learner programs
- Entrance or placement examinations
- Summary reports from IEP meetings
- Guidance services

Creating a Student Assistance Team in your school may be helpful in watching over the unique needs students in your school.

There are lots of good resources on the internet. [Here's one to check out!](#)



Nonpublic Pupil Aids for 2019-20

On January 25, 2019, Greg Sogaard, Education Finance Specialist for the Minnesota

Department of Education, sent a memorandum advising school superintendents of authorized rates of entitlement for the 2019-20 academic year.

In accordance with the procedures set forth in Minnesota Rules, Chapter 3540, public school districts are reimbursed for expenditures incurred in providing pupils the instructional materials and pupil support services required by MN Statute 123B.40-123B.48 (1998). This applies to pupils who are attending a nonpublic school, which are established and operating within the district's boundaries.

[Find your rates of entitlement for the next academic year here!](#)



Technology in MNSAA Schools



MNSAA Standard #2.09 requires observable evidence that schools are using technology to prepare students to be proficient users of technology. Schools can validate that technology is supporting the teaching and learning program as pupils are observed using technology as a resource for

learning.

Additionally, we require that policies that meet legal requirements are in place in the school. These may include, but are not limited to: protection for learners using the internet; the school's vision for technology; acquisition plans; training and implementation. Often a technology committee will be put in place to oversee this essential work.

[Check with your jurisdictional leader for support and colleagues for terrific ideas!](#)



Title IV, Part A UPDATE: Student Support and Academic Enrichment

MDE and Minnesota IT Services continue to work on the implementation of the [Student Support and Academic Enrichment program \(Title A IV\)](#) which includes an allocation and application process for the 2018-2019 school year. We hope that all pieces of the application process will be available by the end of January. As a reminder, all local educational agencies (LEAs) will receive an allocation, will complete an application, provide [equitable services](#) for nonpublic sites as applicable.

Re-calculated 2019 Awards - Title I, Part A and Title II, Part A

2019 awards for Title I, Part A and Title II, Part A have been re-calculated and the new award amounts, LEAs will note a slight decrease in both awards. If needed, LEAs will make these adjustments to their nonpublic programs and notify nonpublic school officials when applicable.

If you have any questions, please contact [Debra Landvik Letendre](#) or [Dwayne Strand](#).



Give Your School a Test...for Radon

We've been hearing a lot about the dangers of radon recently. In fact, an extensive effort last month was spent on making people aware of this carcinogen that may be at dangerous levels in your home and schools. Winter is the time of year to test your school.

Radon in schools has received attention over the last year. Data submitted to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) over the last seven years found that 12 percent of school buildings had one or more rooms with elevated radon. A bill was introduced in the 2018 legislative session to require testing, and it may again be introduced in the 2019 session.

Testing in schools is not required in Minnesota, but it is highly encouraged. A testing plan was recently updated in 2018 and is available on the MDH website. It is brief and includes the following:

- Test between November 1 and March 31.
- Use certified radon testing devices, as listed by the two national radon programs
- Test all frequently-occupied rooms, including rooms with ground contact and rooms immediately above unoccupied spaces that are in contact with the ground, such as crawl spaces and tunnels.
- Conduct follow-up testing in all frequently-occupied rooms that have radon \geq 4 pCi/L
- Mitigate or take corrective measures in frequently-occupied rooms that have radon \geq 4 pCi/L following ANSI/AARST 'Radon Mitigation Standards for Schools and Large Buildings' (ANSI/AARST RMS-LB)
- Re-test after corrective measures to show radon reduction

MDH also has revised its best practice document, now named [Guidance for Radon Testing in Minnesota Schools](#). This document contains further information about devices, length and frequency of testing and quality assurance.

Beginning January 1, 2019, radon measurement professionals who conduct testing are required to be licensed by MDH. School staff can test their buildings without a license, but it is recommended that schools hire a licensed professional or become licensed themselves. Licensed individuals can be found on the [MDH website](#).

MDH is available to provide technical assistance to schools. This includes presentations, providing radon testing data for your local community, reviewing your testing plans, assisting directly with testing and advising on mitigation. MDH has continuous radon monitors to lend, at no cost, to schools for follow-up testing in rooms with high initial test results. Currently, schools can purchase short term test kits for \$4.56 each, including lab analysis, directly through Air Chek.

The EPA, MDH and other international scientific organizations have concluded that radon causes lung cancer. Testing is relatively easy and is the first step to protecting your family, students, and staff from a known health hazard.

If you have any questions, please contact [Daniel Tranter](#) at the MDH.

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