



Southeast
Service
Cooperative

Connections

April 2021

Virtual Young Authors,
Young Artists
Conference

P2



SSC Wins Best Places
to Work Award!

P4



Redefining Ready

P9



Adapting Together



Young Authors, Young Artists Elementary Conference

For Students in Grades 3 - 5

May 10 - 14, 2021



Freaky Fast Fractured Fairy Tale Fun Twisting up Familiar Fairy Tales to Create New Ones

You know the big bad wolf got the raw end of the deal in the original story, right? And what about that poor witch in Hansel and Gretel or the ugly stepsisters? You'll put your creative and silly ideas together and write the "true" story of your favorite fairy tale. Oh! And do it freaky fast or as slow as you want. Add a friend or two (or Mom, Dad, siblings). It's fun to work as a team. Act it out too if you wish! *Presented by: Mary Bleckwehl*

Get Out of Here! Writing 'Out-of-This-World' Fiction

Characters who fly on broomsticks to win a game, a world that opens up with a punch of a tree, spectacles or glasses that let you walk into paintings. All are terrific stories that can't happen in real life. In this session explore "out-of-this-world" fiction and start writing your own fantasy story! *Presented by: Lisa Bolt Simons*

Becoming a Mystery Writer

Solving a mystery can be a challenge, but when you create the perfect crime and brilliant characters to tell the story, nothing is impossible! In this class, we'll discuss setting the scene of the crime, creating sly and unforgettable characters, and introducing obstacles only the cleverest sleuth can overcome. The criminal won't stand a chance! *Presented by: Jennifer Davidson*

Paper Birds to Celebrate Spring

With paper patterns and a few simple cuts with scissors we will create birds that you can decorate with colors for a fanciful bird to hang in a window to bring good luck! *Presented by: Dawn Erickson*

Super Powered Character Creation

Do you love super powered comic book characters? In this class you will create your own character with class discussions on super powers to discover what makes a character interesting. Then continue by using your artistic skills to design your very own character. A handout covering drawing tutorials on super powered costume creation ideas, action poses and other helpful hints will be provided to help create your very own dynamic super powered character in this class presentation.

Presented by: Scott Rolfs

Origami Lips

Let's get folding and have some fun making origami lips! These lips will be big enough for you to wear and surprise your family and friends. The fun never ends with paper folding! *Presented by: Kathleen Sheridan*



Southeast
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Ready to register? Click [here](#).
Questions? [Contact](#) Katie Hartman.

Spelling Bee Champ Advances to National Bee

By Katie Hartman

Twelve spellers (six from each Regional Spelling Bee) competed in the Final Spelling Bee on March 23, at SSC. These 12 students were narrowed down from 36 students from 20 districts in Southeast Minnesota who participated in the two Regional Spelling Bees on March 9 coordinated by SSC.

Isaac Ahn, an 8th grade student from Schaeffer Academy in Rochester was declared the champion after correctly spelling the word *Environs*. Isaac was the 1st runner up in last year's Final bee, proving that hard work and dedication can result in victory.

Isaac advances to the 93rd annual Scripps National Spelling Bee that takes place partially virtually in summer 2021. He also received a first place trophy, *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* (provided by Scripps National Spelling Bee), 2021 United States Mint Proof Set (The Samuel Louis Sugarman Award from Scripps), a one-year subscription to Britannica Online Premium and the *Hexco Spelling Bee Supplement Booklet*.

Eliana Lanners, a 7th grade student from Schaefer Academy, was the 1st runner-up. Eliana received a trophy, *Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary* (donated by Merriam-Webster), and the *Hexco Spelling Bee Supplement Booklet*.

Ardashir Kocer, a 7th grade student from Rochester Catholic, was the 2nd Runner-Up. Ardashir received the *Hexco Spelling Bee Supplement booklet*.

Spelling Bee Winners!



Southeast Minnesota championship speller Isaac Ahn.



Isaac Ahn pictured with 1st runner-up Eliana Lanners and 2nd runner-up Ardashir Kocer.

Other students who participated in the Southeast Minnesota Final Spelling Bee:

Speller	District	Grade
Elsa Blake	Austin	6
Carly Backen	Chatfield	8
Julia Evans	Goodhue	7
Johanna Herfindahl-Quint	Kasson-Mantorville	8
Spencer Goodale	LeRoy-Ostrander	7
Caroline Brice	Northfield	8
Elle Curtiss	Plainview-Elgin-Millville	8
Grace Torgerson	Spring Grove	8
Mira Paul	St. Charles	8

Northfield Knowledge Bowl Team Wins State Championship!

By Katie Hartman

The top 48 teams, out of over hundreds across the state, competed at the Minnesota Service Cooperatives' State Knowledge Bowl Meet held virtually on April 9. After one written round and four oral rounds of close competition:

The State Champions are:

- St. John's Prep, A Division
- Northfield Maroon, AA Division

At the state meet, five-person teams compete against one another in one written and four oral rounds of interdisciplinary questions, for a total of 285 questions. Success at the competition requires the ability to work as a team, as well as knowledge of a variety of areas of study and the ability to recall that information quickly. Knowledge Bowl is sponsored by eleven Service Cooperatives around the state. For more information, contact Katie Hartman at khartman@ssc.coop.

We're so proud of these students!



State Champions Northfield Maroon

Other Teams Competing From Southeast Minnesota Were:

A Division – Mabel-Canton and Dover-Eyota

AA Division - Rochester Mayo and Northfield Gold



SSC a Best Place to Work - Again!

Staff and Board Celebrate 9th Time Winning Award

Fifteen companies representing Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona counties were recently recognized as the "Best Places to Work" in Southeast Minnesota for 2021. SSC was one of the recipients in the small employers category. Workforce Development, Inc. and the Winona Workforce Development Board joined forces to bring "Best Places to Work" program to Southeast Minnesota.

SSC's Executive Director Steve Sallee shared that "Our entire staff and board of directors is so appreciative of this award. This past year has challenged all of us in so many ways, but we can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. We have tried to support the mental health and wellbeing of our employees throughout this pandemic. We were intentional about listening to their needs and concerns and did everything we could to support them. These efforts make SSC a best place to work."

The "Best Places to Work" awards program is a commissioned study by Workforce Development, Inc. The purpose of the program is to recognize some of the best employers in our local area and provide vital information to companies about the practices they use to attract and retain employees.

STEM Forward Virtual Spring Educator Forum



By Kari Kubicek

STEM Forward, in partnership with SSC and IBM, hosted a virtual Educator Forum on April 14, that provided networking and learning opportunities for elementary, middle, and high school STEM educators, counselors, work-based learning and CTE educators, school administrators, and other STEM stakeholders. We are incredibly grateful for the session facilitators and their organizations for presenting at the event including individuals from Albert Lea Schools, Kasson-Mantorville Schools, Red Wing Schools, University of Minnesota – Rochester, Winona State University, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, IBM, Counselors for Computing, St. Paul Public Schools and Engage! Community Building for Non Profits.

Participants were able to choose from 15 different 45 or 90 minute breakout sessions throughout the evening that covered a range of innovative STEM topics including facing the pandemic challenges head on, building STEM literacy, preparing STEM students with problem solving skills, cross curricular coding, Open PTECH, building experiential and work-based learning programs, how to reach non-traditional students and grow their interest in computer science,

healthcare and science careers, and much more.

We were excited to have Jessica Marquardt, the 2020 STEM Forward Educator of the Year and Mick Wendland a nominee for the same award, present breakout sessions on their work tied to STEM and workforce development at their school districts.



Jessica's session focused on increasing opportunities for elementary learners to see themselves in STEM. In her two years at

Kasson-Mantorville Elementary, Jessica has taught Project Lead the Way to grade 1-4 students as well as served as a distance learning teacher during the pandemic. Jessica embraces technology, and engages students in all facets of the hands-on engineering process while promoting risk-taking and a safe space to reflect and redesign. She works hard to make learning equitable for all of her students and despite the challenges of the pandemic, she made sure that continued by reworking her lessons to

include every day materials found in the home. As a result, Jessica inspired students to see that STEM learning doesn't necessarily require fancy gadgets. She utilizes many different technology platforms in her teaching to make it as engaging as possible.

Mick's session focused on his work leading the Winger Flight Path Program at Red Wing Schools. The Winger Flight Path focuses on improving career



awareness and exploration activities, curriculum alignment, and SEL and equitable practices for students E-12. Mick's work includes development of the Flight Paths Booklet, registration process design, changing the career speaker sessions to be more equitable in their approach, introduction of the Flight paths course at the 8th grade level, coordinating internship opportunities for seniors, and much more. Mick collaborates with the Red Wing community and communities across the state and beyond in his work as well as presents at many local and national events.

STEM Forward News Briefs By Sarah Ness

May Signing Days

STEM Forward high schools and their communities will celebrate students entering into training pathways for STEM careers at our partner post-secondary institutions during May. These college partners include Minnesota State College - Southeast, Riverland Community College, Rochester Community and Technical College, University of Minnesota - Rochester, and Winona State University.

Not only will identified students receive a graduation cord honoring their choice to pursue a future in the STEM workforce, students will also be celebrated within their schools to expose peers and younger students to the great STEM training options available locally in southeast Minnesota.

Ignite Afterschool Presents Summer Funding for STEM Education

Kari Denissen Cunnien, from Ignite Afterschool, Minnesota's Statewide Afterschool network, a broad-based network that supports high quality afterschool and summer learning programs through effective practices and continuous improvement, recently presented to the Full Advisory Committee. Kari described their STEM-specific work tied to the national Million Girl Moonshot Initiative, walked us through federal COVID-relief funding coming to Minnesota for education and afterschool purposes and helped us brainstorm ways to use this as an opportunity to strengthen STEM learning pathways for students in our schools and communities. Ignite also advocates to close race, income, and geography-based access gaps to high quality afterschool and summer learning.

Join STEM Forward

STEM Forward is seeking new members in K-12 education, post-secondary, trades, and industry. If you are interested in learning more about STEM Forward, [email](#) Sarah Ness for more information.

Career Navigator Updates

PEM and Career Navigator Receive High Praises from Employer for Virtual Career Fair

By Katie Hendrickson

Katie Hendrickson, SSC Career Navigator, collaborated with Plainview-Elgin-Millville to create a virtual Career and College event in February. More than 400 high school students took part in the event, along with over 50 speakers from colleges and SE Minnesota businesses and industries.

"Nate, Terri, Katie and P-E-M Staff,

Thank you so much for the invitation and allowing me to participate in the first virtual career fair I've ever been a part of! It was a blast and I feel as a presenter, it did make it easier to connect to more students with a consistent message throughout the morning, instead of standing at a table and getting occasional questions by a handful of people. The bonus with the virtual career fair is also that no one had to smell my coffee breath or see that I maybe had toilet paper on my shoe...

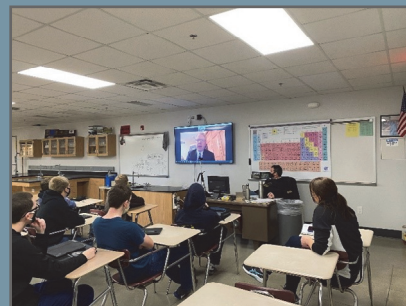
Whomever came up with the format and all you teachers that hosted, made it so successful and I'm appreciative to have been a small part.

You may have created a perfect format for other schools to follow and should be commended. It's proof that something good can come out of a pandemic.

Kudos and sincere gratitude to all of you for what you do for teaching and shaping our future leaders' minds and hearts in school.

I hope you all stay safe and warm. Many thanks again!

All the best- Skyler Breitenstein, Pilot - Southwest Airlines"



Pine Island High School Students Construct a House

By Sue Lawlor-Rod

Students in Ben Bauer's construction class built a house in Pine Island this year! At the open house in March, students spoke about experiencing a variety of CTE courses and were very encouraged by this completely hands on experience! Well done to all!



SMEC Schools Streamline Dual Credit Options Creating Opportunities for a Regional Career Pathways Approach to Education

By Heather Schutte

The Southern Minnesota Education Consortium of schools are working to streamline dual credit options across its eight school districts. In partnership with Riverland Community College, our Career Navigator Heather Schutte has facilitated conversations about career and technical education pathway hubs and coordinated opportunities to share concurrent enrollment courses among districts. With the help of the CTE Future Ready grant and Carl D. Perkins grant, the SMEC schools have embraced online postsecondary learning and its potential to reach more students and close the equity gap in rural Southeast Minnesota.

Thank You!

As our year of building business and school partnerships draws to a close, please join us for a



Community and Industry Partner Awards

where we celebrate you, our valued industry partners, in this work.



Save the Date:

May 14, 2021

7:30-8:30 a.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/93708681351>

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Welcome Aboard to Sue Lawlor-Rod!



Sue Lawlor-Rod Career Navigator

Serving the communities of Cannon Falls, Mazeppa, Pine Island, Zumbrota (As well as Goodhue County Education District)

I am originally from Ames, Iowa, and I live in Northfield, Minnesota, now. I attended Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, Illinois, and earned a BA in Business Administration. I also hold an MA in Psychology and Counseling from Saint Mary's University in Minneapolis. I truly enjoy taking classes and learning. At heart, I am interested in human development. My past careers were in banking,

business, entrepreneurship, non-profit education, and counseling.

My family is growing! I recently welcomed a daughter-in-law which means that we have an immediate family of 7 in total. I am very honored to be a mom with 3 adult "kids" and one son-in-law too.

I enjoy hospitality! I am usually dreaming up a game night, dinner party, or some holiday fun. I also love to travel and explore new places. Reading, biking, skiing, and learning to golf all keep me busy in my spare time.

I am sincerely excited to be a part of the Southeast Service Coop Career Navigator team! I look forward to working with teachers, students, and business leaders to make a positive impact in our community!

Seeking Input on Increased Needs of Career Navigator Positions

By Sarah Ness

It's been two years since the concept of the Career Navigator position came to SSC. As the position has grown and iterated into an innovative career path being sought out across the state, it's time to reflect and assess the growth potential for this work. If your school or community does not currently have a Career Navigator, but would be interested to learn more, [contact](#) Sarah Ness. Below you will find a summary of the services provided over the past two years.

Continuous Improvement

Develop and maintain metrics to measure success and growth. Maintain and grow best practice knowledge of career-connected learning and pathway development. Support and coordinate professional development.

Strategic Planning

Understand and share out local regional labor market needs from DEED and Workforce Development, Inc. Complete needs analysis for teachers/districts and community partners. Set goals for experiential and career-connected learning with education and community partners. Build and engage community to align current or design new solutions to meet identified needs. Participate in community partner strategic planning work.

Student Support

Support processes that identify student aptitude for careers and align with interests. Provide outreach and registration for pathways and courses. Provide guest classroom



instruction. Train youth on FutureForward™ based on targets set with district staff and classroom teachers.

PELSB Portfolio Process Navigation

Unlock new funding streams and resources while increasing student learning opportunities for state approved credentials for teachers.

Program Development and Coordination

Develop or enhance existing career exploration curriculum. Liaison with Perkins leaders and Workforce Development, Inc. Career Planners to maximize resources and align work. Explore innovative inter-district collaborative opportunities. Identify authentic experiential learning experiences both within the classroom and in the community. Career pathways and courses with embedded experiential learning, soft skills, and community partnerships. Process development, partnership contracts, communication, marketing and communications, outreach, training, and program support.

Relationship and Partnership Development

Establish and maintain effective working relationships and partnerships with multiple stakeholders. Serve as a liaison to industry representatives to develop and promote partnership opportunities. Work with administrators and department leaders to develop dual credit

agreements with post-secondary colleges. Represent schools/districts in interactions with parents, community, staff, and students. Grow and manage a regional portal, FutureForward™, that connects education and industry.

Event Planning

Work in cooperation with community partners and K-12 education in planning events for career and college readiness, such as career and college fairs, MS/HS equipment and facility tours, student/parent information nights, job fairs, Future Ready CTE Community and Industry Partner Celebration, engagement and connection to community sponsored events, and Career Exploration Themed Months.

Regional Networking

Participate in the regional Career-Connected Learning Network. Provide regional support and professional development/training on experiential learning for youth

Communications and Marketing

Promote career-connected learning and pathway opportunities within the district, consortium, and local communities. Create and identify opportunities to raise awareness of CTE and STEM in education and careers. Share best practices and showcase successes. Create communications for different audiences to keep them engaged and informed.

Redefining Ready! What Does it Really Mean to Be College, Career, and Life Ready

By Kari Kubicek

Redefining Ready! is a national campaign launched by AASA, The School Superintendents Association, to introduce a new multi-metric, research based approach to determining what it means to be college ready, career ready, and life ready. This campaign is designed to change the national narrative regarding public education from a one-standardized-test judges all (students, teachers, parents, and communities) philosophy to a focus on readiness for our students.

Our teachers and school leaders provide students with rigorous



academic programs, personalized and career-specific learning experiences, along with social and emotional skills that prepare them to be global citizens in an ever-changing world. Students learn in a

variety of ways. Therefore, they should be able to demonstrate readiness in a variety of ways.

The new readiness indicators, developed from research by world-class organizations, more accurately reflect the educational landscape of the 21st century. Multiple metrics include Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses, Algebra II, early college credits, industry credentials, attendance, and community service, among others.

College Ready Indicators

Students are **College Ready** if they meet either the academic indicators **OR** standardized testing benchmarks listed below.

Academic Indicators - GPA 2.8 out of 4.0 and **one or more** of the following academic indicators:

- Advanced Placement Exam (3+)
- Advanced Placement Course (A, B or C)
- Dual Credit College English and/or Math (A, B or C)
- College Developmental/Remedial English and/or Math (A, B or C)
- Algebra II (A, B or C)
- International Baccalaureate Exam (4+)

Standardized Testing Benchmarks (minimum score)

- SAT Exam: Math (530) | Reading and Writing (480)
- ACT Exam: English (18) | Reading (22) | Science (23) | Math (22)
- College Readiness Placement Assessment (determined by post-secondary institution)

Additional Factors that Contribute to College Success

Earning As, Bs, Cs; FAFSA completion; enrollment in career pathway course sequence; college academic advising; participation in college bound bridge programs; senior year math class; completion of a math class after Algebra II.

Career Ready Indicators

Students are **Career Ready** if they have identified a career interest and meet two of the behavioral and experiential benchmarks listed below. In addition, students entering the military upon graduation must meet the passing scores on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) for each branch of the military.

Career Cluster Identified and **two or more** of the following benchmarks:

Academic Indicators - GPA 2.8 out of 4.0 and **one or more** of the following academic indicators:

- 90% Attendance
- 25 hours of Community Service
- Workplace Learning Experience
- Industry Credential
- Dual Credit Career Pathway Course
- Two or more organized Co-Curricular Activities

SSC Offering Redefining Ready Cohort Opportunity

By Kari Kubicek

SSC is launching a two year Redefining Ready (RR) cohort opportunity for member districts in August of 2021 through July of 2023. Districts participating in a SE MN Redefining Ready cohort would commit a team of up to five individuals to a two year experience working through a process that would include, but not be limited to: 1) defining, accurately tracking and reporting of district metrics based on the RR indicators in alignment with the district strategic plan, 2) educating and maintaining communications with staff, community, local businesses, families and students on the importance of tracking and meeting these indicators to support student success, 3) providing resources to support the

work including financial and district leadership buy in, 4) learning to utilize the data to improve student experience and success, and 5) produce an annual district scorecard illustrating the district's progress in the multiple metrics being tracked based on the RR indicators.

The cost per team to participate in the two year cohort is \$1,800. Based on the alignment of the RR college and career indicators with the mission of Perkins, experiential learning, and alternative ways to assess readiness in youth, SE Perkins Consortium Coordinator Brian Cashman has offered to subsidize half of the \$1,800.00 cohort participation fee for districts in the SE Perkins Consortium.

Interested in participating in the Redefining Ready cohort or have additional questions? Please **contact** Kari Kubicek at SSC.

Redefining Ready 101 Webinar

For those of you who want to learn more about Redefining Ready and have questions about this opportunity, please join us for a **Redefining Ready 101** webinar on Monday, May 10, at 1:00 PM, during which Jeff Dickert, Director of CESA 7, will provide an overview of the program and answer any questions you may have.

Jeff and his colleague, Dr. Colleen Timm, will be facilitating the cohort training sessions for the SE MN cohort. Sign up for the webinar by clicking [here](#).

Have You Optimized Your Playground Safety?

According to CPSC and ASTM guidelines, it is recommended that annual playground audits and monthly playground inspections are conducted.

IEA can assist and train in the development of a playground management plan to retain the annual audits, monthly in-house inspections, and the inspector's certification.

Documenting the safety of your playground by a qualified, 3rd Party, certified resource can provide:

- Documentation for new install of play structures, and layout
- Verify surfacing materials are safe before the manufacturer warranty expiration
- Regular inspections for playground users, administration, and stakeholders
- Ongoing guidance and support for a functional safety program for your playground structures and surfaces
- Training resources for inspection staff, administration, or playground user

Click [here](#) or call (507) 281-6682 for more information.



Winning Teams Celebrate Walking Challenge Victories!

By Nicole LaChapelle-Strumski

Over 500 individuals from 17 SSC member organizations had a great time competing in the 2021 SSC Member vs. Member Walking Challenge.

Winners of the School District Challenge

Wabasha-Kellogg – 1st Place, **Goodhue** – 2nd Place, **Grand Meadow** – 3rd Place. The remaining teams, of which each received an honorable mention, are listed in the order of their ranking: PEM, Byron, Red Wing, Lewiston-Altura, Zumbrota-Mazeppa, and Albert Lea. **Goodhue** won the Participation Award.



Members of Rice-Steele 911's winning team



Members of Goodhue's winning team



Members of Wabasha-Kellogg's winning team

Winners of the Local Government Challenge

Rice Steele 911 Center - 1st Place, **City of Dodge Center** – 2nd Place, **Austin HRA and Goodhue County**– Tied for 3rd Place. The honorable mention placements included – Mower County, City of Byron, Freeborn County, and Workforce Development, Inc. **City of Dodge Center** won the Participation Award.

Wabasha-Kellogg School District Wellness Coordinator Ashley Scheel shared, "A good movement challenge is just what the doctor ordered this time of year! The Wabasha-Kellogg Falcon Steppers always look forward to this competition. This year the Falcon Steppers came out hot starting with the stepping lead and maintained the lead the entire race. Ever since the contest added the addition of the

participation award, it has been our goal to win both in the same year. Kudos to Goodhue for having the highest participation percentage and we will try again next year! We missed it by a mere 3%! Everyone keep taking those steps towards becoming a healthier you!" Goodhue School District Wellness Coordinator Chris Heitman added, "We greatly improved this season and can't wait for next year to go for gold--or in our case PURPLE! GO WILDCATS!"

Derrek Matson, a Rice-Steele 911 Center team member, stated, "Over the last few years, I have really enjoyed and now look forward to the January Walking Challenge. I like the extra motivation, and fun spirit of competition it brings to the New Year. Early morning walks in the crisp fresh air are a great way to start the day and a good time to listen to audio books. Over the years we have walked our way up the standings, coming in

2nd last year and 3rd in 2019. I am excited to step-up our game and defend the title next year! City of Dodge Center wellness coordinator Bryce Lange shared, "The City of Dodge Center enjoyed participating in SSC's step competition in January. 11 staff members participated, and we enjoyed encouraging each other to improve and get more steps each week. Participating in the challenge helped us make conscious decisions to get moving throughout the day."

The contest, which ran the month of January, was based on the number of steps walked by participating members. Trophies (and bragging rights) are awarded to the winning teams.

*If your organization would like to participate in next year's challenge, **contact** Nicole LaChapelle-Strumski.*



IAQ Confidence for Return to School

By Dan Fitch, IEA

Value of CO₂ Monitoring

In occupied buildings, monitoring carbon dioxide (CO₂) aids as an indicator to overall ventilation function.

The MDH recommends CO₂ levels be maintained below 800 parts per million (ppm) during a pandemic in high occupancy rooms.

Field monitoring CO₂ during occupied times gives direct measurements that can be responded to immediately for ventilation adjustment needs.

More MDH Considerations:

- Conduct Airflow Management
- Improve Air Circulation
- Provide Best Filtration Possible for Systems

Please contact IEA if your district would like to document the IAQ conditions in your facilities.

WWW.IEASAFETY.COM

Many MN districts have managed their buildings indoor air quality (IAQ) as part of their statute required IAQ Management Plans *.

A District's IAQ Management plan should include the EPA "Tools for Schools" guidelines and recommendations. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) provides guidance on development and implementation of an IAQ management plan that can improve facility health for the occupants.

Documenting the IAQ in your facility allows for reporting that can be shared with concerned occupants to communicate the success of the building program in providing adequate ventilation to returning occupants.

IAQ Surveys should be conducted using calibrated air quality measurement devices and monitored for Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Temperature (°F) and relative humidity while the building is in typical classroom occupancy.

IEA recommends IAQ walkthrough measurements throughout your facility and to focus on challenge areas. Monitoring the CO₂ during occupied conditions and during extreme winter HVAC settings could help minimize infectious hazard risks.

Due to current pandemic concerns and district efforts to minimize risk of spread of Sars-CoV-2 while school buildings are occupied, a review of any previous air quality measurements can be used in identifying challenge areas for return to school.

Making controls, schedule and HVAC revisions during the winter months can provide confidence that the building ventilation system is supporting the Return To School plan for your district.

*Public Schools: Minnesota Statutes, 123B.595, Subd 4. Facilities plans.
Charter Schools: Minnesota Statutes, 124E.03, Subd.2. General federal, state and local requirements. (a) A charter schools.

Enhanced Wood Fiber Sale!

CPC has partnered with SafetyFirst Playground Maintenance for an Enhanced Wood Fiber sale! The promotional discount runs until 10/31/2021.

Product: Nature'sPlus Playground Safety Surfacing

- 100% Tamarack, naturally resistant to mold and decay
- ADA Compliant and IPEMA Certified
- Price is \$18.95/Cubic Yard or \$2653/Truckload

Orders can be placed online, by phone, or by email: Marissa.Bauer@safetyfirstplayground.com; (763) 389-



For more information, click [here](#), or watch [this recorded webinar](#).

SSC Upcoming Events*

May

Redefining Ready 101 Webinar
May 10

**Young Authors, Young Artists
Elementary School Virtual
Conference**
Begins May 10

**Community and Industry
Partner Awards**
May 14

ELL Relicensure Training
May 19

SAC Meeting
May 25

Board Meeting
May 26

June

MASA Region 1 Spring Session
June 9

Facilities Management Town Hall
June 10

SAC Meeting
June 22

Board Meeting
June 23

And Beyond...

**Future Ready Schools
Leadership Institute**
September 28

MASA Region 1 Fall Session
October 20

**Check our webpage for the most
current information. Most sessions will
be held virtually.*

Community Partnerships:
**Building a Vision for
the Future Together**



When cities, counties, hospitals, school districts, and other community organizations partner together, strong relationships are formed. Pursuing these partnerships provides areas and spaces for community members to learn and grow together for generations to come!

We invite you to watch our video interviews of these partnerships to the right, and check out our community partnerships page [here](#). If you have any questions or if you would like to start the conversation around your own potential community partnership, please reach out to Karen Klein at karen.klein@ics-builds.com or (651) 728-1880.

**Healthcare + Public Schools
(Welia Wellness Center in Mora)**

Interview video [here](#)

Project informational write-up [here](#)

**Local Business Community + Public Schools
(Brainerd Public Schools in Brainerd)**

Interview video [here](#)

Project informational write-up [here](#)

**Community Programming + Public School
(Deer River Public Schools in Deer River)**

Interview video [here](#)

Project informational write-up [here](#)

**Local Cities + Public Schools
(ISD 318 – Grand Rapids Public Schools in
Grand Rapids)**

Interview video [here](#)

Project informational write-up [here](#)



SSC Board Actions and Information

In addition to routine fiscal and business actions, the Board took the following actions in recent meetings. Complete SSC Board of Directors meeting minutes are available on the SSC website at www.ssc.coop.

January

- Approved Board officers: Mary Blair-Hoeft for Board Chair, Brein Maki for Vice-Chair, Lynn Gorski for Treasurer, and Jean Roth for Board Clerk.
- Chair appointed the following Committee Appointments:
 - **Finance:** Mike Christensen, Lynn Gorski, Mary Blair-Hoeft, Tess Arrick-Kruger, Jean Roth
 - **Personnel:** Monica Sveen-Ziebell, Don Leathers, Mary Blair-Hoeft, Brein Maki, Tess Arrick-Kruger
 - **Policies/Bylaws:** Don Leathers, Jason Marquardt, Monica Sveen-Ziebell, Jean Roth, Brein Maki
 - **Canvassing:** Brein Maki, Mary Blair-Hoeft
 - **Minnesota Service Cooperatives (MSC) Board:** Brein Maki, Mike Christensen (1/1/20-12/31/23)
 - **Cooperative Purchasing Connection (CPC) Board:** Mary Blair-Hoeft
 - **Minnesota Healthcare Consortium (MHC) Board:** Lynn Gorski
- Approved the hiring of Ashley Ayotte as Career Navigator, effective January 11, 2021.
- Approved the resignation of Ashley Ayotte, effective January 15, 2021.
- Approved the hiring of Sue Lawlor-Rod as Career

Navigator (serving Cannon Falls Area Schools, Zumbrota-Mazeppa Public Schools, Pine Island Public Schools, and Goodhue County Education District), effective January 26, 2021.

- Approved the 2021-2022 Board meeting schedule.
- Approved the 2019-2020 school health insurance pool settlement.
- Approved the Pay Equity Report and Implementation Report.
- Approved the statement of work from Heartland Business Solutions for Phase I of development of a new online registration system and database for SSC.

February

- Voided Steve Sallee's 2020-2023 contract and approved a revised contract for the years 2021-2024.
- Approve the security equipment purchase and installation contract with USA Security, a Cooperative Purchasing Connection vendor, in the amount of \$32,229.27.
- Accepted a \$100,000 Youth Skills Training grant from the Department of Labor and Industry.
- Approved the addition of Healthiestyou services by Teladoc for SSC staff members.

March

- Reassigned Ashley Karlsson to the role of Education Systems Specialist, effective July 1, 2021.
- Reassigned Melanie Lawrence-Smith to the role of Advocate, effective July 1, 2021.

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Shaping the Future
for communities of leaders and learners

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