

September 2020



Accredit Memo from MNSAA

Welcome back to school! We are hearing that school leaders are thrilled to have staff and students back in school. You worked hard for months to have safety protocols and procedures in place to bring students and teachers back and assure families their children safe in your good hands. From behind the scenes, please know you were cared about your efforts and continue to support you in every way we can.



In this edition of our monthly newsletter you will find the following information:

- Thanks for paying your annual dues! ([September 15](#)) [Request a new invoice](#)
- Instructions for filing your **Basic Information Report** ([October 15](#))
- Opportunity for **Head of School Training** brought to you by MNSAA mentor
- Meeting MNSAA's **Legal, Health, & Safety** requirements
- MNSAA's **Modified Onsite Visits** in 2020
- Just for school administrators: **MNSAA 5.01: Administrator Credentials**
- **Continuous School Improvement model:** New or MNSAA leading the way?

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions about MNSAA accreditation. Wishing your school community a year of joy and togetherness!

Sarah W. Mueller
Executive Director

ANNUAL DUES & RENEWAL FEES DUE SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

Did you miss your annual dues invoice that arrived via the principal's email in August? Thanks to the many schools that have already paid their dues and fees for the year. If you missed your invoice, contact us for a new copy. **Dues and renewal fees not paid by October 1st are subject to a late fee.**

Contact smueller@mnsaa.org if you need a new invoice.

Basic Information Report DUE October 15, 2020

All MNSAA accredited schools need to file a Basic Information Report by October 15th. Our streamlined process has made this fairly quick and very manageable. Use the link below for instructions and resources. Forgot your username and password? Contact smueller@mnsaa.org for support.

[Basic Information Report resources](#)

HEAD of SCHOOL TRAINING October 2020

MNSAA wants all leaders have the understanding and resources necessary to be successful in the essential work of accreditation. As such, we are offering training and mentoring opportunities across the state this fall and throughout the year. There is no cost for this support, and CEUs will be provided. Whether you are new to MNSAA or would just like a refresher course, plan now to participate when your mentor reaches out to you! If you have not heard from your appointed mentor by October 1st, let us know.

Training may be presented in person or electronically.

Contact [Director Mueller](#) to arrange a visit to your school!





Legal, Health and Safety Requirements Keeping Schools Safe

MNSAA requires our schools to remain in compliance with specifically identified statutes, laws and safety requirements. Annually, schools advise MNSAA that they are in compliance when filing your Basic Information Report. When a school is visited by an onsite team, evidence of compliance is checked onsite. We are pleased to provide you with a guideline to support you in meeting these requirements.

[Learn more about compliance requirements here!](#)

Modified Onsite Visits in 2020 Meeting the Needs of Our Schools

With the restrictions that COVID-19 brought, MNSAA has adjusted our onsite visits for the remainder of this calendar year through December 2020. We will be instituting a Modified Visit protocol that limits the number of guests in your school and provides you with the opportunity to engage with your onsite team electronically. In December, the MNSAA Board of Directors will revisit this plan with a hope to return to our normal onsite visit procedures in 2021.

[Check out what a modified visit will look like!](#)



Administrator's Credentials MNSAA Standard #5.01

An essential MNSAA standard requires accredited schools have a head of school who has a Minnesota administrative license; or at a minimum has a masters degree in education from an accredited institution. Schools need to have a clearly defined leadership structure that articulates a clear mission and vision, identifies responsibility for the development and oversight of personnel, directs continuous improvement of curriculum and instruction, outlines responsibility for the day-to-day operations, and ensures the school's operational vitality.

[Review our Administrator's Credentials policy](#)

An Evolution in K-12 School Accreditation



MNSAA Leads the Way in Continuous Growth

"In a quest for relevance, regional accrediting bodies move away from counting school library books to plotting paths for continuous growth." Linda Chion Kenney report in the August 2020 edition of [School Administrator](#) magazine that regional agencies are moving toward a continuous improvement model that MNSAA has had in place for nearly 20 years. We are proud to have built partnerships with both Middle States Association - Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CES) and Cognia (formerly AdvancEd). Our accredited schools can opt for MNSAA processes and protocols and have the prestige of a regional accrediting agency added, as well.

[Take a look at the article!](#)