A recent *Education Week* article, [TOP U.S. Companies: How Schools Can Help Make Students Better Thinkers and Workers](https://www.edweek.org/), reminded me of what I heard from the business community twenty-five years ago when, as Assistant Commissioner of Education (then Children, Families, & Learning), I led the state’s School-to-Work initiative.

Like business executives a quarter century ago, the 10 business executives highlighted in the article shared what skills and attributes they believe schools should teach and foster. It should come as no surprise what they said: "Problem solving; creativity; real-world scenarios and experiences; collaboration; teamwork; intellectual curiosity; computational thinking; analytical skills; communication skills; leadership; ability to ask questions; and appreciate diversity."

What also is not surprising is that while businesses want these skills and attributes, what they look at in terms of what schools "produce" – a business term, not an education term – is reduced to one or two measures. Too often, the only measure of what a school produces are standardized tests, which measure reading and math, and maybe science or writing.

The problem is that standardized tests do not measure creativity, real-world problems, or collaboration and teamwork, let alone intellectual curiosity, leadership, or the ability to appreciate diversity.

People know that what gets measured is what gets incentivized. If the primary or only measure of success in schooling is standardized tests (whether high stakes or not), one should not expect schooling to be laser focused on the skills and attributes that businesses say they want.

If businesses want the skills and attributes taught and fostered which they have stated for decades, it is time for businesses to support public policies that incentivize innovative ways of...
assessing these skills and attributes - instead of a one-size measuring system which does not acknowledge, foster, or recognize them.

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**NEWS**

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**CHARTER SCHOOL DAY @ THE ST. PAUL SAINTS**

We are excited to announce that the Charter School Day at the St. Paul Saints will be Sunday, June 12th. There will be interesting on-field events and entertainment. Tickets for the game are only $17 and include a St. Paul Saints baseball cap. All charter school families, staff, and boards are invited. Click [here](#) for more information.

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**MACS BOARD ELECTIONS - VOTING ENDS FRIDAY**

A reminder that the voting period for the MACS Board elections closes this [Friday, May 13th](#). Directors from member schools are eligible to vote and should have received a ballot via email. If you have any questions about voting or have not received the ballot, please reach out to [Addie](#).

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**NOMINATIONS FOR RELICENSEURE COMMITTEE**

Nominations are being accepted for seats on the MACS Relicensure Committee. We have 2 seats opening for licensed teachers and 1 admin seat opening. Seats are for 2-year terms running [August 1, 2022 - July 31, 2024](#). Applicants must be from a MACS member school. **If people do not run for seats, we will not be able to continue to process license renewals next year.** Please let your staff know!

If you are interested in running, please complete the [self-nomination form](#) and submit it us no later than [Friday, May 20](#).

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**ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON - POSTPONED**

Due to a myriad of reasons -- including unexpected hospitalizations, staffing reconfigurations, and COVID -- the annual Innovation and Leadership Awards Luncheon has been postponed. The awards will be given at the Annual Meeting/Celebration on September 29th.

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**MN FRONTLINE WORKER PAY**

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The Legislature recently passed a bill signed by Governor Tim Walz to provide eligible COVID-19 frontline workers with bonus pay. Details are still being finalized. The application will open sometime in mid-June and eligible workers will have 45 days to apply. Click here to sign up for email updates.

SCHOOL NEWS

- **Duluth Edison Charter Schools**, *Duluth: The Duluth News Tribune* published an article highlighting how North Star Academy is incorporating nature into educational practice. Taking students to “Chickadee Landing,” a clearing adjacent to the surrounding woods, the school focuses on engaging students who may not otherwise engage in traditional classroom settings by bringing the learning outside. Learn more here.

- **Minnesota Online High School, St Paul**, and **Jane Goodall Environmental Sciences Academy, Maple Lake**: Building Hope named 27 semi-finalists for awards in community engagement, educational innovation, and student empowerment. Two MN charters – MN Online High School and Jane Goodall Environmental Sciences Academy – are semi-finalists in the categories of community engagement and education innovation, respectively. Learn more here.

We want to hear from you! Please send any school stories or news to Addie.

CALENDAR

**May/June**

- Monday, May 9 - 13 - [MACS Board of Directors Elections](#)
- Monday, May 16 - [MACS Board of Directors Meeting](#)
- Sunday, June 12 - [Charter School Day at the Saints](#) - CHS Field
- Wednesday, June 22 - [MACS Board of Directors Retreat](#)

Click on an event or visit our website for details, registration, and other events.

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"Unleashing education from convention" - is more than the MACS motto, it is a reminder of our purpose, our goals and it serves as a clarion Call To Action.

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