



DCALS



Intermediate District 917

Fall Leadership Conference (October 22 & 23, 2026)

&

Spring MAAP STARS Conference (May 4 & 5, 2027)

Fall Leadership Conference

The **Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs (MAAP)** sponsors a student organization called **MAAP STARS**, dedicated to building student leadership, voice, and agency across alternative learning schools. As part of this effort, we are excited to have DCALS reengage with MAAP STARS by giving students the opportunity to attend the upcoming Fall Leadership Conference.

Details:

- Where: Long Prairie MN
- When: **October 22 and 23, 2026**
- Who: 10 students (5 from Main and 5 from North) and 2 staff
- Cost: \$750. Price includes (Grant funding through MAAP STARS may cover this cost):
 - Lodging
 - Food
 - Activities
- Transportation: Staff will be driving the district van

This two-day overnight conference is designed specifically for student leaders from alternative schools across Minnesota. Each school is invited to bring students who have demonstrated interest or potential in leadership. The purpose of the conference is not only to provide leadership training, but also to develop a strong cohort of student leaders who can return to their schools ready to inspire, organize, and motivate their peers to actively participate in MAAP STARS activities.

Over the course of the two days, students will participate in:

- Interactive workshops **focused on leadership growth.**
- Team-building activities **that strengthen collaboration and trust.**
- Hands-on leadership development sessions **are designed to build confidence and practical skills.**

Key focus areas will include:

- Communication skills – **learning to express ideas clearly and effectively.**
- Problem-solving and decision-making – **navigating challenges with confidence.**
- Collaboration – **understanding the value of teamwork and uniting people toward common goals.**

In addition to structured sessions, students will connect with peers from across the state, share ideas, and learn from one another's experiences. These connections help students see themselves as part of a larger statewide network of leaders.

By the conclusion of the conference, each student team will leave with concrete action plans to bring back to their schools. They will be prepared to model leadership, increase student involvement and advocacy, and organize local MAAP STARS activities that align with statewide events such as **Legislative Day**, the **Spring Events Conference** (where students showcase artistic, career, and life skills), and other key gatherings.

The Fall Leadership Conference serves as both a launch point and a catalyst for ongoing student leadership development. It is designed to empower students with confidence, skills, and vision to make a lasting impact in their schools, communities, and beyond.

Thursday, October 22

9:00am – 12:30pm

12:15 - 12:45

1:00 - 2:00

2:10 – 5:00

5:15 - 5:45

6:00 - 6:50

7:00 - 9:30

9:45 – 10:45

11:00

PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Lunch for participants of pre-conference activities

Speaker: Joe Beckman in the Pine Ridge Building (at the top of the hill)

Breakouts:

- MDE Listening/role with MAAP STARS Leadership
- Low ropes team building
- MAAP STARS Intro - led by Officers

Dinner in Lakeview Dining Hall

Opening session, MSO Candidate Speeches in Pine Ridge

Breakouts:

- "Lights-Out" Dodgeball
- What makes a leader? Who is in my region?(School describe location, number of students what they like about their school...) led by Officers
- Team building games

Campfire, Indoor Games, Team/Cabin Time, Shower Time

CURFEW

Friday, October 23

7:15 -8:00

Breakfast in Lakeview Dining Hall **** Clean & Empty Lodge Rooms/Cabins ****

****Turn in MAAP State Officer Voting Ballots to Patti Haasch**

8:15 - 12:30

Workshops for Students and Advisors

- Joe Beckman
- Derek Greenfield
- Tips and Tricks for a successful STARS Chapter/Program planning time

12:40

Closing Ceremony and Announcement of Officer election results

1:00

Lunch to go will be provided in the Lakeview Dining Hall

Spring MAAP STARS Conference

The **Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs (MAAP)** sponsors a student organization called **MAAP STARS**, dedicated to building student leadership, voice, and agency across alternative learning schools.

MAAP STARS Spring Events Conference Details:

- Where: Mankato MN
- When: May 4-5, 2027
- Who: 4 students and 1 staff
- Cost: \$1,250.00. Price includes:
 - Lodging
 - Food
 - Activities
- Transportation: Staff will be driving the district van

This overnight conference is designed specifically for students from alternative schools across Minnesota. Each year about 350 students from around the state participate. It gives students an opportunity to demonstrate the artistic, career, and life skills in a wide variety of competitive and demonstrative events including public speaking, career portfolio, employment interview, management decision making, parenting decision-making, community service projects, Life Smarts, display artwork and perform project/artistic demonstrations that are done individually and/or in teams.

MAAP STARS Spring Events Conference

Location: Mayo Event Center, Mankato, MN

Dates: May 4-5, 2027

Thursday, May 4, 2027

- 7:30am: Leave DCAS North
- 10:30am - 11:30am: In person registration for individual events
 - Art Display set up
 - Turn in manuals at Judges Headquarters
- 11:30am - 12:00pm: Opening Ceremony
- 12:00pm - 5:00pm: All competitive events
- 4:30pm - 6:00pm: Dinner, main dining room
- 6:30pm - 7:30pm: Preliminary awards ceremony
- 8:30pm - 9:15pm: Ice cream social/ Advisory meeting

Friday, May 5, 2027

- 7:00am - 8:30am: Breakfast served in main dining room
- 8:00am - 10:30am: Semi Finals in all events begin
- 10:30am - 12:45pm: Finals in all events
- 10:30am - 11:30am: Bingo in main dining room
- 11:15am - 12:45pm: Lunch served in main dining room
- 1:00pm - 1:45pm: Final Award Ceremony, closing of conference
- 4:00pm: Return to DCALS North

DCALS Permission Form

(generic sample, will personalize for each event)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your student has been selected to participate in the MAAP STARS Conference, an event sponsored by the Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs (MAAP). The Fall Leadership Conference is an opportunity for your student to attend presentations and participate in activities sponsored by MAAP STARS and will be held off site sup[revised by DCALS staff.

All meals and transportation will be provided. The group will leave DCALS on Thursday at approximately 9am. Their return will approximately be 4:00pm on Friday. Please contact Frank Herman with any questions you may have.

I give permission for _____ to participate
Student's Name
in the MAAP STARS Conference and will hold harmless Intermediate District 917 from liability.

Parent Name (print)

Parent Signature

Date

Parent cell number

Insurance Information

DCALS Permission Form MAAP STARS Spring Event Conference

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your student has been selected to participate in the MAAP STARS Spring Event Conference, an event sponsored by the Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs (MAAP). The Spring Event Conference is an opportunity for your student to attend presentations and participate in activities with other students from around the state.

The Spring Conference will be held in Mankato, MN on Thursday, May 9 and Friday, May 8, 2026.

All meals and transportation will be provided. The group will leave DCALS on Thursday at approximately 7:30am. Their return will approximately be 4:00pm on Friday. Students will be staying in a hotel during this event with school staff.

I give permission for _____ to participate

Student's Name

at the MAAP STARS Spring Event Conference.

Parent/Guardian Name (print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian cell number

Insurance Information