



A Minnesota Service  
Cooperative

2 Pine Tree Drive, Suite 101  
Arden Hills, MN 55112  
Phone: 612-638-1500  
Fax: 612-706-0811  
[www.brightworksmn.org](http://www.brightworksmn.org)

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**DATE:** July 24, 2024  
**TO:** BrightWorks Member District Superintendents  
**FROM:** John Schultz, Executive Director  
**RE:** General Services Fee for Membership – 2024-2025

I want to thank all of you for your support of BrightWorks and for your students and staff's participation in our programs. We continually look to you and other partners in education to explore exciting new ways to support student learning, professional development, and school-based services.

BrightWorks is excited to partner with the Minnesota Department of Education to provide evidence-based support to districts and schools through the statewide system of COMPASS (Collaborative Minnesota Partnerships to Advance Student Success). The new Brightworks COMPASS team will offer support for districts using the Minnesota Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MnMTSS) framework to support continuous improvement in several areas (see attached flyer). Through this program, we will continue our dialogue with your leaders to offer relevant and effective professional development in 2024-2025. We look forward to and expect your teachers and leaders to participate in the COMPASS professional development.

I also want to announce an exciting program to address the shortage in special education. BrightWorks is sponsoring an apprenticeship program for paraprofessionals to achieve their special education licensure in EBD or ASD. BrightWorks is in partnership with the four metro intermediate districts, the Department of Labor and Industry, Minnesota State University Mankato, PELSB, and the Minnesota Department of Education.

We will also review our pilot that provided licensed mental health care providers in schools to support school staff and will again offer this service to school districts. We hope to expand this program in the 2024-25.

BrightWorks will continue to offer:

- Networks – including Homeschool Liaison and Equity Leaders
- Cooperative Purchasing Options
- Early Childhood Special Education Support
- Building Management Assistance
- ParaPro & ParaEducator Courses and Testing Site
- Professional Development for Teaching & Administrative Staff – services delivered regionally or to your site
- Resources/Libraries
- Low Incidence Special Education Professional Development – including Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), DeafBlindness, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), physical impairment, and others
- Student Enrichment Programs (provided by SparkPath) – including the Young Authors Conference, Middle Grades and Senior High Knowledge Bowl, Creativity Festival, CreativeCon, STEMLink, Minnesota Future City Competition, and the Spelling Bee. New in 2025 is the Minnesota Braille Challenge.

We are committed to offering quality services in the resource-challenged environment that BrightWorks and districts face. We are proposing a modest increase to our membership fees to meet inflation. BrightWorks fee for 2024-2025 will be a \$1200 base plus \$1.30 per pupil, not to exceed \$12,500. Your district's membership is important. It not only ensures our services will be available when needed, it also reduces their costs (by approximately 45%). An invoice requesting payment for the 2024-2025 general service membership fee is enclosed.

Participation data from the 2023-2024 year is included with this letter.



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We always welcome input from our members to ensure that needs are met. Please contact me at any time for information or questions about membership. I can be reached at 612-638-1525 or via email at [john.schultz@brightworksmn.org](mailto:john.schultz@brightworksmn.org).

All of us at BrightWorks are dedicated to serving your district, schools, staff, and students. We look forward to working together to create yet another outstanding year of facilitating cost-effective collaboration among metro area educators!

encs.

Sincerely,

BrightWorks provides comprehensive service to districts and schools in the 7-county metro area. Resources for: Superintendents, Business Managers, Teaching & Learning Directors, Professional Development Coordinators, Principals, Teachers, Students, Special Education Leaders, Paraprofessionals, Facilities Directors, and Health Services Directors are outlined below.

### Administrative Services & Publications

- Annual Class Size Study
- Composite Calendar
- Cooperative Purchasing (satisfies Minnesota competing bidding requirements)
- Education Policy Development
- Mental Health Services for School Staff
- ParaPro and ParaEducator Testing
- Professional Development Catalog

### Special Education

#### State-Initiated, Federally Funded Programs

- Early intervention strategies for children with disabilities
- Greater MN Launch PAD
- Minnesota School-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports
- Network developing, conferences, and cutting-edge staff training
- Professional development and technical assistance for staff in the low incidence areas of Special Education
- Special Education libraries (Judy Wolff Library, Zot Artz Library, DeafBlind Toy Lending Library)



### Professional Development

Our Collaborative Minnesota Partnerships to Advance Student Success (COMPASS) team will support schools in the following areas:

- Leadership Development
- Literacy Instruction & Support
- Math Instruction & Support
- Minnesota Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MnMTSS)
- Equity & Cultural Competency
- Culturally Responsive Instructional Leadership
- Healthy Culture & Climate

### Health & Safety

- Professional development
- Building management assistance services

### Student Programs

Conferences and competitions for students in grades 3-12

- CreativeCon
- Creativity Festival
- Future City Competition
- Knowledge Bowl
- Minnesota Braille Challenge
- Spelling Bee
- STEMLink
- Young Authors Conference

\*BrightWorks members save 30%-50% on SparkPath student program registration fees.



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# SparkPath

**OUR VISION:**  
Expand curiosity,  
confidence, and  
creativity in students.

SparkPath is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created by BrightWorks, a Minnesota Service Cooperative, to provide student enrichment programs. BrightWorks member districts/schools save 30%-50% on SparkPath registration fees. Learn more about membership at [www.brightworksmn.org](http://www.brightworksmn.org).

## Engaging Field Trips

Opportunities to learn from and with Minnesota professionals in our local arts, writing, and STEM communities

**CreativeCon** - Grades 5-8

**Creativity Festival** - Grades 3-5

**STEMLink** - Grades 5-6

**Young Authors Conference** - Grades 4-8



## Exciting Academic Competitions

Challenging experiences that emphasize academic excellence, leadership, healthy competition, good sportsmanship, and effective communication

**Future City Competition** - Grades 6-8

**Middle Grades Knowledge Bowl** - Grades 6-8

**Minnesota Braille Challenge** - Grades 1-12

**Senior High Knowledge Bowl** - Grades 9-12

**Twin Cities Regional Spelling Bee** - Grades 4-8



## 2024 Student & Teacher Testimonials

- I learned that being creative is your choice and you can express it in many ways.
- At STEMLink, I got to do a lot of cool stuff, I got to build/create, work with my team, achieve stuff, and so much more.
- Attending the Young Authors Conference made me a way better writer. PLEASE SEND ME BACK NEXT YEAR!
- My favorite Future City Competition memory is the time we worked in the maker space for two days. By the end we were so proud of ourselves and proud of each other.
- My favorite Knowledge Bowl memory is knowing the answers to a question and getting it right with confidence.
- Future City Competition is a wonderful event for students of varied interests and abilities to work together to research and present engineering solutions to actual city planning issues.



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### **Creativity Festival**

Grades 3-5

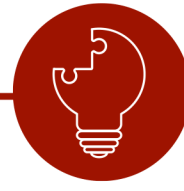
**January 7-8, 2025**

Ted Mann Concert Hall, U of MN

Aligns with Minnesota Academic Standards  
in Arts Education

Features:

- Opening performance
- Breakout sessions (led by visual/performing artists and STEM leaders) that promote curiosity, develop creativity, and strengthen problem-solving skills



### **CreativeCon**

Grades 5-8

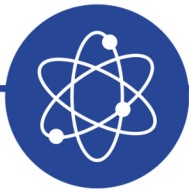
**January 9, 2025**

Ted Mann Concert Hall, U of MN

Aligns with Minnesota Academic Standards  
in Arts Education

Features:

- Opening performance
- Breakout sessions (led by visual/performing artists and STEM leaders) that promote curiosity, develop creativity, and strengthen problem-solving skills



### **STEMLink**

Grades 5-6

**Spring 2025**

Aligns with Minnesota Academic Standards  
in Science

Features:

- Keynote and breakout sessions led by college faculty and STEM professionals
- Students learn real-world applications of math and science



### **Young Authors Conference**

Grades 4-8

**March 14 & May 27-29, 2025**

Bethel University

Aligns with Minnesota Academic Standards  
in English Language Arts

Features:

- Keynote and breakout sessions led by local authors
- Students learn new strategies, ideas, and skills to become stronger writers

#### **Rates per student:**

BrightWorks Members\*: Early Bird - \$41 / Regular - \$43

Non-Members: Early Bird - \$55 / Regular - \$57

\*SparkPath presents its programs in collaboration with BrightWorks.

BrightWorks member districts/schools save 34% on registration fees.

Learn more about membership: [www.brightworksmn.org](http://www.brightworksmn.org)

## 2024-2025 ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS



### Future City Competition

Grades 6-8

September 2024 - January 2025

**Regional Competition  
January 2025**

Dakota County Technical College

Rate per school:  
\$25

Aligns with Minnesota Academic Standards  
in Science, Math, Social Studies, and  
English Language Arts



### Middle Grades Knowledge Bowl

Grades 6-8

November 2024 - February 2025

Rates per team:  
\$150 (Members\*)  
\$300 (Non-Members)

Aligns with Minnesota Academic Standards  
in Science, Math, Social Studies, and  
English Language Arts



### Senior High Knowledge Bowl

Grades 9-12

December 2024 - March 2025

Rates per team:  
\$265 (Members\*)  
\$510 (Non-Members)  
Tiered discount with additional teams

Aligns with Minnesota Academic Standards  
in Science, Math, Social Studies, and  
English Language Arts



### Twin Cities Regional Spelling Bee

Grades 4-8

March 2025

Fridley High School Auditorium

Rate per school:  
\$175 (through Scripps)

Regional Bee with top 50 spellers

Rate per speller:  
\$40 (Members\*)  
\$80 (Non-Members)

Aligns with Minnesota Academic Standards  
in English Language Arts

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Learn more about membership: [www.brightworksmn.org](http://www.brightworksmn.org)