

Hastings

Participation Data for the 2024-2025 School Year



MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN SCHULTZ

I want to thank all of you for your support of BrightWorks and the participation of your students and staff in our programs. A noteworthy addition to BrightWorks and SparkPath programming this year is Minnesota's first Braille Challenge, with 4 of the 12 participating students, moving on to the Braille challenge finals. For the 2025-2026 school year BrightWorks is partnering with the Minnesota Department of Education in supporting teachers and school leaders in best practices in Literacy, Math, MnMTSS, and School Climate and Culture. We are expecting your teachers and leaders to participate in our professional development to help you meet school improvement goals. We have a committed team of educators who have planned and are prepared to collaborate with school district staff. We continually look to you and other partners in education to explore new ways to support student learning, professional development, and school-based services. Thank you for your participation this year and we look forward to your engagement next year.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

E-12 Professional Development BrightWorks provides a variety of in-person, virtual, and hybrid professional development opportunities for staff in districts and other government agencies. These opportunities include best practices for supporting educators through COMPASS (Collaborative Minnesota Partnerships to Advance Student Success) in the following areas: Minnesota Multi-Tiered Systems and Supports, Science of Reading, Culturally Responsive, Instructional Leadership, Continuous Improvement, Evidence-based practices in Literacy and Math instruction, Supporting a healthy and robust School Culture and Climate

We provide working sessions using research-based strategies and methods as we work alongside the Minnesota Department of Education and school and district partners in implementation and assessing the impact on instruction and learning.

E-12 Professional Development

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Professional Networks BrightWorks learning facilitators supported collaborative networks that provided the opportunity to meet with leaders in various fields. These include Metro Area Equity Leaders and Home School Liaisons Network.

Professional Networks

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BrightWorks also offers several Communities of Practice (CoP) for leaders in the area of Special Education that are disability specific. The data for these CoPs is included with numbers for Special Education Programs.

SPARKPATH STUDENT PROGRAMS

BrightWorks collaborated with SparkPath in the planning and coordination of four student conferences and four academic competitions. Whether strengthening their writing skills, exploring STEM careers, problem-solving through creative thinking, designing future cities, or competing in Knowledge Bowl meets, students had unique opportunities to engage in hands-on learning activities with local professionals, teachers, and fellow students.

CreativeCon CreativeCon is an event for 5th-8th graders to expand and apply critical thinking, engage in creative and alternative problem solving, and take part in conversations on where and how creativity, arts, and STEM meet. Students attend an opening performance and three interactive breakout sessions led by professionals from the arts and sciences.

CreativeCon

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Creativity Festival Creativity Festival is an event for 3rd-5th graders to explore and hone their creative potential. Students learn first-hand the importance of flexible thinking, risk-taking, and effective communication. Students attend an opening performance and three hands-on sessions led by visual and performing artists and STEM professionals.

Creativity Festival

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Future City Competition (FCC) is a national project-based STEM program. The Minnesota FCC is open to 6th-8th graders throughout the state. Under the guidance of an educator and a volunteer engineer mentor, students who participate in Future City are challenged to think like engineers in order to design a futuristic city. This semester-long program runs from September to January. Competing teams are judged by panels of volunteers from the engineering community on four program deliverables: project plan, city essay, city model, team presentation and Q&A.

Future City Competition

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Knowledge Bowl Knowledge Bowl for grades 6-8 (Middle Grades KB) and grades 9-12 (High School KB) is an academic team competition that promotes academic achievement and rewards excellence. The program requires students to use their powers of recall, critical thinking, and teamwork to answer questions on a wide variety of topics related to middle school and secondary curriculum

Knowledge Bowl

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Minnesota Braille Challenge The Region 11 Low Incidence Project at BrightWorks and SparkPath worked together to coordinate the first MN Braille Challenge. Braille Challenge is the only academic competition of its kind for students in grades 1-12 who are blind or visually impaired.

Minnesota Braille Challenge

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STEMLink At STEMLink fifth and sixth grade students learn the practical applications of science, technology, engineering, and math and how these skills can lead to a career that is stimulating and meaningful. Students attend a keynote address and participate in three sessions led by local STEM professionals and college faculty.

STEMLink

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Twin Cities Regional Spelling Bee At the Twin Cities Regional Spelling Bee, the top 50 spellers in grades 4-8 from Metro area schools compete against each other. Students increase their vocabulary, improve their spelling, and develop useful language skills for life. The Twin Cities Regional Spelling Bee champion attends the Scripps National Spelling Bee in National Harbor, Maryland.

Regional Spelling Bee

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Young Authors Conference At the Young Authors Conference students in grades 4-8 attend a keynote address and three interactive writing sessions led by established Minnesota authors, illustrators, playwrights, poets, journalists, storytellers and more. Students learn the power of the well-written word and the way it can inform, inspire and transform.

PUBLICATIONS

Annual Class Size Study BrightWorks collects school district data for an Annual Class Size Study which describes class size statistics in public schools in the Twin Cities metro area. The study provides administrators and other interested parties with class size data useful for planning and budgeting. The study is available to area school districts upon request.

Composite Calendar The Composite Calendar lists first/last days for students, teacher inservice days, and planned school closings for metro districts to assist administrators in event scheduling. The calendar is available to member districts upon request.

edNews edNews provides information about our workshops and services to all metro district staff. edNews also includes articles that cover timely topics, examples of successful practice, and techniques that assist educators. edNews is published electronically four times per year.

SERVICES

Pre-Service Teacher Education Brightworks serves as a multi-employer sponsor for teacher apprenticeship programs, and is implementing the first teacher apprenticeship program in the state. In 2024-2025 apprentices finished their first year of two, where they will complete their bachelor's degrees in teaching, leading to a dual licensure in Autism Spectrum Disorders and Emotional Behavioral Disorders. Through this work, Brightworks also provides technical assistance to districts and university partners who are developing apprenticeship programs. BrightWorks works directly with the Department of Labor & Industry and Apprenticeship Minnesota, the state agency that oversees all apprenticeships in the state. BrightWorks has partnered with local districts and unions participating in teacher apprenticeships to incorporate the Minnesota Teacher Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee, which functions as a 501(c)3. and can be thought of as the school board for teacher apprenticeship.

Registered Teacher Apprenticeship	0
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Praxis ParaPro Assessment Exam & ParaEducator Courses & Assessment

BrightWorks serves as an administration site for both the Praxis ParaPro Assessment Exam and the ParaEducator Courses & Assessment. Taking these assessments provides individuals aspiring to work as paraprofessionals the ability to display the skills and knowledge they possess in the core exam areas of reading, writing, and math. This value-added service from BrightWorks ensures that schools and school districts are better able to effectively screen potential paraprofessional candidates to meet the mandates of ESSA.

Praxis ParaPro Assessment Exam	0
ParaEducator Courses & Assessment	8

Cooperative Purchasing Our Cooperative Purchasing Connection program offers members an opportunity to purchase products and services at discounted pricing. Vendor contracts are established through a formal bid process conducted by the Minnesota Service Cooperatives (MSC). Purchasing from our partnered vendors satisfies Minnesota competitive bidding requirements to save members time, money, and resources. Vendor partners provide a huge variety of products and services, from office supplies, furniture, classroom supplies, and playground equipment to roofing, flooring, heating/cooling components, and many other solutions.

Your district has taken advantage of discounted pricing through this program: No

Environmental Health & Safety Program This program provides members with information on OSHA and other mandated regulations, finances, and other concerns in the area of health and safety, as well as Chemical Hygiene, and Registered Unlicensed Electrical training. In 2025-2026 we are launching a new program to support leadership in school facilities, which will focus on Long Term Facilities Management.

Health & Safety

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GRANT FUNDED PROGRAMS (STATE AND FEDERAL)

BrightWorks is the fiscal agent for a number of state and federally funded programs offering technical assistance, resources and other services to districts.

Special Education Programs Special Education programs that supported services for students with disabilities, including "low incidence" disabilities, in 2024-2025 are listed below. Paraprofessional training included workshops, sub-awards to districts and a conference in the spring. Workshops and conferences were offered in the following areas:

ASL Interpreter/Cued Trainings	0
Assistive Technology	118
Autism Spectrum Disorders	1
Blind/Visual Impairment	0
Centers of Excellence in Early Childhood	4
Charting the C's	0
Deaf/HH	0
DeafBlind	0
Developmental Adapted Physical Education	0
Developmental Cognitive Disability/Severe Multiple Impairment	0
Early Hearing Detection & Intervention	0
Literacy	0
Minnesota Mentor Program	0
OT/PT	3
Paraprofessional Professional Development	1
PI/OHD/TBI	0
Speech/Language	5

Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) School-wide PBIS provides an operational framework for ensuring all students have access to the most effective and accurately implemented instructional and behavioral practices and interventions.

Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports

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