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July 8, 2026

**Dear Educational Partners,**

Thank you for your continued support of BrightWorks and your participation in our programs. Your partnership drives us to develop innovative ways to enhance student learning, professional development, and school-based services.

**Value of a BrightWorks and SparkPath Membership**

Throughout the year, my leadership team and I harvested comments and compliments educators have made about the many programs and services we offer. The attached list describes what others in education are saying about BrightWorks and SparkPath.

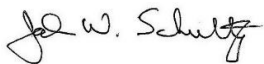
**Membership Investment**

To maintain quality services in today's challenging environment, we're implementing a modest fee increase: \$1,500 base plus \$2.50 per pupil (maximum \$19,000). Your membership reduces service costs by approximately 45% while ensuring availability when you need us most. Your 2026-2027 invoice is enclosed. We welcome your input to ensure we're meeting your needs effectively.

We're dedicated to serving your district, schools, staff, and students. Together, let's create another outstanding year of cost-effective collaboration among metro area educators!

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Sincerely,



Executive Director

[John.schultz@brightworksmn.org](mailto:John.schultz@brightworksmn.org)

612-638-1525

## Stronger Districts. Brighter Futures.

BrightWorks partners with Twin Cities metro area school districts to deliver exceptional programs, professional development, and direct support services — all designed to help your students thrive and your district succeed.

### Your BrightWorks Membership...

- Develops professional educators through the Minnesota Teacher Apprenticeship program.
- Supports your hiring process by providing ParaEducator, ParaPro, and ParaPathway assessments for paraprofessionals to earn their “highly qualified” designation.
- Delivers relevant and dynamic professional development in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Education in reading, math, and culturally relevant instruction.
- Engages Metro Area Equity Leaders to shape professional development and policy that helps schools connect meaningfully with disenfranchised students and families.
- Connects educational professionals to statewide networks of special education professionals, reading and math instruction teachers, and home-schooling educators.
- Brings premier academic competitions to students statewide, including Knowledge Bowl, Braille Challenge, Future City, and Cane Quest.

### District Support Services

BrightWorks offers a full suite of services available to all metro area districts:

- Special Education Support — access a robust network of low incidence programs, PBIS, regional Early Intervention resources and programs such as Help Me Grow.
- SparkPath Student Field Trips and Special Education Student Events— engaging enrichment experiences that ignite student curiosity and career awareness.
- Facilities Services — operational support to help your buildings run efficiently.
- Professional Development via COMPASS - Targeted, evidence-based learning aligned with MDE’s system of support for continuous improvement.
- Teacher Apprenticeship Program — grow your own educators with a proven, state-registered apprenticeship.
- Cooperative Purchasing — leverage shared buying power to reduce costs district-wide.
- Relevant training on education trends, such as Artificial Intelligence.
- Support for metro school educators in the event of a school crisis.
- External Coaching for districts exploring targeted literacy instruction for low incidence learners.

Membership in BrightWorks is an investment in every student, educator, and family in your district. We invite you to join the growing community of metro area school districts that rely on BrightWorks as a trusted partner.

**Let’s connect. We’d love to show you what BrightWorks can do for your district.**

John Schultz, Executive Director | BrightWorks  
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## Professional Development

The BrightWorks Collaborative Minnesota Partnerships to Advance Student Success (COMPASS) team provides professional learning and implementation support in the following areas:

- Culturally Responsive Instruction Leadership
- Literacy Instruction & READ Act Support
- Math Instruction
- Minnesota Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MnMTSS)
- School Culture & Climate

State-wide COMPASS Pathways are also available to support professional learning and implementation in the areas of:

- American Indian Education Supports
- Attendance
- Data and Assessment
- Early Childhood
- Equitable Access for Multilingual Learners
- Equitable Access for Students with Disabilities
- Tier 1 Instruction

Additional professional learning opportunities include:

- Leadership Development
- Strengths-Finder Coaching
- Education Policy Fellowship

## Student Programs

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

## Administrative Services & Publications

- Annual Class Size Study
- Composite Calendar
- Cooperative Purchasing (satisfies Minnesota competing bidding requirements)
- Mental Health Services for School Staff
- ParaPro, ParaPathways, and ParaEducator Testing
- E-12 Professional Development
- Teacher Apprenticeship

## 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)



## Facilities Planning

- Professional development
- Building management assistance services





***Expanding curiosity, confidence, and creativity in students.***

SparkPath is a non-profit created by BrightWorks to house field trips and academic competitions for students in the Twin Cities metro region, throughout Minnesota, and into western Wisconsin.

## Engaging Field Trips

Students spend a day learning from and with Minnesota professionals in our local visual and performance arts, writing, and STEM communities.

**CreativeCon** - Grades 5-8 | January 14, 2027

**Creativity Festival** - Grades 3-5 | January 12-13, 2027

**STEMLink** - Grades 5-6 | March 19, 2027 & April 16, 2027

**Young Authors Conference** - Grades 4-8 | Spring 2027



## Exciting Academic Competitions

Students participate in challenging experiences that emphasize academic excellence, leadership, healthy competition, good sportspersonship, and effective communication.

**Future City Competition** - Grades 6-8 | January 2027

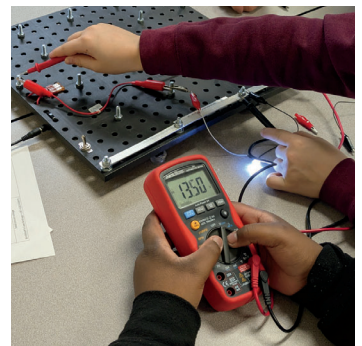
**Middle Grades Knowledge Bowl** - Grades 6-8 | Nov. 2026 - Feb. 2027

**Minnesota Braille Challenge** - Grades 1-12 | February 6, 2027

**Minnesota Cane Quest** - Grades 1-12 | Spring 2027

**Senior High Knowledge Bowl** - Grades 9-12 | Dec. 2026 - Feb. 2027

**Twin Cities Regional Spelling Bee** - Grades 4-8 | March 2027



Information about registration, where our events take place, and how our programs align with Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards can be found on our website.



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**BrightWorks**  
A Minnesota Service  
Cooperative