



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

Reimbursement grants for special education leaders across Minnesota

ABOUT MNSSELF

The Minnesota Special Education Leaders Foundation (MNSSELF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to strengthening special education leadership across Minnesota. We work in partnership with MASE to build a capable, connected network of leaders who can better serve students with disabilities.

100% of funds raised through MNSSELF events and donations go directly to leadership training, professional development, scholarships, and resources for participants.

WHO CAN APPLY

School Districts & Ed Districts	Cooperatives & Charter Orgs	Individual Leaders & Nonprofits
--	--	--

WHAT MNSSELF FUNDS

Registration Fees Conferences, workshops, and training events	Materials & Supplies Books, toolkits, and learning resources	Other Allowable Costs Facilitation expenses aligned with the PD purpose
---	--	---

CREATIVE IDEAS FOR USING MNSSELF FUNDING

These ideas go beyond the typical district PD cycle — skill-specific, out-of-the-box, and designed to build real leadership capability:

AI Tools	Using AI to Strengthen IEP Quality & Compliance Train leaders to use AI tools to analyze IEP language, identify compliance gaps, and improve goal quality—freeing time for deeper student-centered work.
Book Study	A Principal's Guide to Special Education (CEC, 4th Ed.) Structured study cohort for building principals covering IDEA, IEPs, least restrictive environment, and the principal's legal and instructional leadership role in sped.
Coaching	Executive Coaching for Special Education Directors One-on-one leadership coaching focused on the unique pressures of a sped director role—political navigation, staff retention, parent conflict, and board communication.

Data Fluency	<p>Special Education Data Literacy Intensive</p> <p>Skill-specific training on reading and acting on sped data: disproportionality dashboards, exit rates, LRE trends, and discipline data disaggregated by disability category.</p>
Legal Deep Dive	<p>Due Process Fluency for Building Leaders</p> <p>Intensive training on navigating prior written notice, procedural safeguards, evaluation timelines, and dispute resolution—skills rarely covered in administrator prep programs.</p>
Equity	<p>Reducing Disproportionality: A Leader's Playbook</p> <p>Out-of-the-box training on systemic root-cause analysis and evidence-based strategies to address racial and linguistic disproportionality in special education identification and discipline.</p>
Design Thinking	<p>Human-Centered IEP Team Facilitation</p> <p>Design thinking applied to IEP team dynamics—train leaders to facilitate meetings that are trauma-informed, family-centered, and solution-focused rather than compliance-driven.</p>
Conferences	<p>MASE or CEC National Conference Registration</p> <p>Cover registration and materials for state or national conferences, giving leaders access to cutting-edge policy, research, and peer networking outside their usual district cycle.</p>

HOW THE REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS WORKS

1. Submit Proposal	2. Get Approved	3. Pay Upfront & Complete PD	4. Submit Receipts & Final Report	5. Receive Reimbursement
---------------------------	------------------------	---	--	---------------------------------

Board review takes approximately 4–6 weeks after submission. Reimbursement is issued after your final report is approved.

Apply through the MNSELF RFP — posted at <https://www.mnase.org/mnself>