

What The Heck Is MAAP STARS?

The Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs (MAAP) began a student organization back in 1993 to recognize students who have chosen to fulfill their academic career in a different setting. The organization's name is **MAAP STARS**. **STARS** stands for **S**uccess, **T**eamwork, **A**chievement, **R**ecognition and **S**elf-esteem. Its vision is: ***Achieving extraordinary life changing results for learners throughout the world.*** The motto is: **We Make A Difference!**

Each school/program can have a **STARS** chapter. Some offer it as an elective class and students earn credits for the work they complete. Others run it as a vocational club. There is an annual membership fee that entitles schools to participate in three statewide events each year. Those events are the Fall Leadership Conference, Legislative Day, and the Spring Events Conference.

Fall Leadership Conference

November 2016

Programs from around the state send up to 6 students who demonstrate leadership potential with an advisor or two. They participate in team building and leadership training sessions to help them begin a **STARS** Chapter at their schools. Also, students elect State **STARS** Officers who will represent **STARS** throughout the school year. Each program can have one candidate run for an officer position. Sessions are also held for advisors on how to run a Chapter and prepare students for events. Everyone learns more about **STARS**.

Legislative Day At The State Capitol

February 22, 2017

Each member school sends a group of student leaders to the State Capitol to meet with their legislators. A general session is held by the **STARS** Officers along with key MAAP and Legislative leaders to provide information on the MAAP platform, educational issues, and how to talk with legislators. This is an opportunity for students to share about their school experiences with legislators as well as see how their state government works firsthand.

Spring Events Conference At Doubletree Hotel, Bloomington

April 26 & 27, 2017

This is a two day conference for all the chapters from around the state (approximately 300+ students). It gives students the opportunity to demonstrate artistic, career, and life skills they have developed. Students participate in a wide variety of competitive and demonstrations events including: public speaking, career portfolio, employment interview, management and parenting decision-making, community service projects, life smarts, art display, and project/artistic demonstrations that are done individually and/or in teams.

The MAAP Board has divided the state into 9 regions. Each region is encouraged to hold **STARS** activities to connect students and advisors. Often they have a spring competition or workshop to help students prepare for the major Spring Events Conference – a “dry run” so to speak to help students build their confidence and improve their skills or projects.

A MAAP STARS Chapter does make a difference in the lives of alternative ed. students!