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including literacy and global language programming, MOMENTUM Design and Skilled Trades, VANTAGE Advanced Professional Studies, and more.

A certificate ceremony will be held for participants once the program concludes, recognizing Citizens Academy graduates as informed ambassadors for Minnetonka Public Schools, according to the May 28 agenda packet.

The Citizens Academy is in alignment with the board's goal of excellence in leadership and organizational support. It intends to provide the public with opportunities for feedback and engagement, offer a clearer understanding of challenges affecting public schools, and build strong relationships while exploring new community engagement opportunities.

"I think it's really a good idea to bridge the district to the community and help us get connected even better," Minnetonka School Board Chair



(SUN FILE PHOTO BY NATALIE TRIMBLE)

Students seated at the 2025 Minnetonka High School graduation ceremony.

Kemerie Foss said.

Minnetonka Citizens Academy requirements

The Citizens Academy is a good fit for parents and caregivers, residents without children currently enrolled in the

district, alumni, grandparents, community partners, local business leaders, and volunteers or prospective volunteers. No previous experience with the school district is required to apply.

However, participants must meet the following requirements:

- 18 years of age or older
- Not a current Minnetonka Public Schools student
- Live in the school

district, or be a parent/guardian of a current Minnetonka Public Schools student, or be a district alumnus or alumna

- Commit to attending nearly all nine monthly

sessions

- Submit an application by July 31
- Pass a criminal background check
- Have no undisclosed conflicts of interest with the district

Application timeline

Those interested in participating in the Minnetonka Citizens Academy are encouraged to complete an application. Participant selection will be based on the goal of creating a well-rounded cohort with a variety of perspectives, backgrounds and connections to the school district, as space is limited. Applicants will be alerted of their status prior to the start of the first session.

- Mid to late May 2026: Applications open
- End of July 2026: Application deadline
- Mid-August 2026: Applicants evaluated and selected
- Late August 2026: Acceptance notifications
- Late September 2026: Program begins

Applications to the Minnetonka Citizens Academy are open and available at bit.ly/4xdK7dg.



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