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## Celebrating Chartering @ 30 – MINNESOTA'S STORY

In last week's installment of Celebrating Chartering @ 30 – Minnesota's Story we introduced the first of the five criteria of the 1988 Citizens League Report: **Chartered Schools = Choices for Educators + Quality for All Students laid out for chartered schools.** Today, we look at the other four, three of which (licensed teachers, transportation aid, leasing of facilities) were incorporated into the 1991 law. The one not included in the charter school law (desegregation) is at the heart of the Cruz-Guzman Case today.

**"2. Chartered schools must be operated by licensed educators.** *The group applying for the authority to operate a chartered public school could include school teachers, administrators, or other licensed personnel, as well as people out the education profession. However, the people teaching in the chartered school must be licensed educators. (This in not intended to preclude the use of teacher aides in the classroom.)*

**3. Students attending chartered schools would be eligible for transportation aid.** *Student transportation would be provided under the same arrangement as the current system. Students from outside Minneapolis or St. Paul would have to transport themselves to the boundary line, from where the district would be responsible for delivering them to the school. Low-income students who are unable to transport themselves to the district boundary should be eligible for state-provided transportation money, similar to that provided in the open enrollment law.*

**4. Chartered schools must meet desegregation guidelines.** *The State Department of Education should require the chartered public schools to meet the same desegregation guidelines that govern other schools. **The only exception would be those cases where a school specializes in voluntary educational programs specifically for disadvantaged students.** (See text below for additional discussion of desegregation.)*

**5. Groups receiving the public school charters could set up their innovative programs in existing schools or in buildings leased for this purpose.** *The building need not be a school building in the traditional sense."*

In the next installment – **Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> of Celebrating Chartering @30** – learn about how the Citizens League proposed that desegregation in Minnesota's schools be defined.



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