



Unleashing education from convention

MN Association of Charter Schools 2012 Legislative Session Priorities

Education Funding

We urge the Minnesota Legislature to enact legislation to:

- Provide charter schools with access to aid anticipation loans with a low interest guarantee
- Provide charter school startups with a 90/10 funding formula for the first three years of operation
- Adjust the holdback formula for schools that are not assisted by 2011 funding schedule changes
- Provide charter school students with equitable funding from local operating levies

Facilities

We urge the Minnesota Legislature to enact legislation to:

- Prohibit discrimination against charter schools leasing or affiliated building companies purchasing surplus public school district facilities
- Clarify the charter school law to recognize that IRS regulations allow for overlap of charter school boards and affiliated building company boards

Governance

We urge the Minnesota Legislature to enact legislation to:

- Eliminate MDE approval of board training providers
- Provide a process for charter schools to merge

Authorizer/ MDE and School Roles and Relationships

We urge the Minnesota Legislature to enact legislation to:

- Amend the charter school law to change the role of MDE in school expansions to Review & Comment
- Amend the charter school law to change the role of MDE in school transfers between authorizers to Review & Comment
- Establish a conflict resolution requirement in charter contracts between schools and authorizers and schools and MDE
- Establish a conflict resolution process between authorizers and MDE

- Prohibit authorizers from charging a fee for school transfers between authorizers
- Requiring the commissioner, employees and agents of MDE to get written permission from a parent/legal guardian or an emancipated minor or a student over the age of 18 before demanding that a public school provide MDE with the student's transcript

Teachers and Administrators

We urge the Minnesota Legislature to enact legislation to:

- Amend the charter school law to require that charter school boards adopt and implement a teacher and administrator evaluation process that includes longitudinal data on student academic growth, other outcome measurements related to student performance, and the school mission

Academics and Assessment

We urge the Minnesota Legislature to enact legislation to:

- Develop and recognize multiple forms of assessment for accountability purposes
- Recognize that schools which serve over-age and under-credited students need to have a longer time for measuring success for accountability purposes

Academic Standards

We urge the Minnesota Legislature to enact legislation to:

- Clarify the definition and legal status of benchmarks in relationship to the graduation standards

Online Education

We urge the Minnesota Legislature to enact legislation to:

- Require MDE to redesign the online program re-approval process to be performance based and extend program re-approvals to between 3-5 years

Innovation

We urge the Minnesota Legislature to enact legislation to:

- Create an independent nonprofit commission on education innovation and then transfer approval and oversight of authorizers, MDE functions related to charter schools, charter school development, and the administration of the federal charter school grant to the commission