



Friday, May 13, 2022



The Charter School *Advocate*

THIS WEEK @ THE LEGISLATURE

This week, the Education Conference Committee met five times to walk through the Senate and House bills and try to find a compromise between them. They also heard testimony in Committee to emphasize the importance of mental health, special education, and literacy.

Senator Chamberlain indicated on Thursday that the Senate would have a proposal to the House members for consideration. The conference committee is expected to meet again on Monday to discuss literacy proposals.

The conference committee is not meeting this weekend because the Republican State Convention is being held in Rochester. It is also unlikely that the conference committee will meet next weekend due to the DFL State Convention, which will also be held in Rochester.

So, time is running short for a deal, as the Legislature must adjourn according to the State Constitution no later than the first Monday following the third Saturday in May of any year. This year, that means no later than **Monday, May 23rd**.

PROPOSED NEW CSP RULES GARNERS BIPARTISAN OPPOSITION

In addition to the almost 30,000 comments submitted to the US Department of Education about the proposed new Charter School Program Rules, there is bipartisan opposition to the proposal.

Last week, Senator Tim Scott (R-S.C), Senator Diane Feinstein (D-Calif.), Senator Michael Bennet

(D-Colo.), Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Bill Cassidy (R-La.), Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), and Richard Burr (R-N.C.) wrote to Secretary of Education Cardona that the new rules *"would make it difficult, if not impossible, for new public charter school start-ups, and for high-performing public charter schools seeking to replicate or expand, to access [Charter Schools Program] funding."*

Meanwhile, the ranking Republicans on the House and Senate Education Committees also threatened to repeal the proposed rule if the administration doesn't change it. Under law, Congress has the power to review and repeal proposed rules.

CHARTER SCHOOL PROGRAM (CSP) FUNDING FY23

While everyone is waiting to see if the U.S. Department of Education will do their proposed new regulations for the Charter School Program, Congress is working on FY23 funding for the program. Biden's proposal before the Education Appropriations Subcommittee for the CSP is frozen at \$440 million again, while the number of states seeking funding has grown.


Without an increase in CSP funding, it is likely that there will be states, which currently receive funding, that will not receive future funding because of the demand for the available funds.

USDOE - OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS PLANS - 504 REGULATIONS


Last week, the U.S. Department of Education announced plans to gather public input on possible amendments to Section 504 regulations in order to strengthen and protect the rights of students with disabilities. Section 504 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in public and private programs and in activities that receive federal financial assistance, including schools and postsecondary institutions.

As part of the development of the proposed amendments to the Section 504 regulations, the Department is soliciting public input. For information, click [here](#).

"Unleashing education from convention" - is more than the MACS motto, it is a reminder of our purpose, our goals and it serves as a clarion **Call To Action.**

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