



Celebrating Chartering @ 30 – MINNESOTA'S STORY

When the chartered public-school law was enacted in 1991, the schools were not called chartered schools. In the law, they were called "Outcome-based Schools" as the authors of the legislation believed that the name would broaden support for passage, given that "charter schools" legislation failed in 1989 and 1990. The name "charter schools" did not appear in legislation until 1995.

In 1992, there was an effort to repeal the "Outcome-based Schools" charter school law. It failed by eight votes in the House.

In 1993, there was new momentum to the charter school movement due to recognition that there were issues that needed to be addressed in the 1991 legislation. The following amendments were enacted in 1993:

- The cap on the number of schools was raised from 8 to 20
- An appeal process to the State Board of Education was created when a local district elected not to sponsor an outcome-based school
- Recognized that teachers who provided instruction and contracted with a cooperative could vote in the board elections
- Allowed for the conversion of an existing school to become an outcome-based school
- Required sponsor authorization to be in written form and signed by both the sponsor and the board of the outcome-based school.
- Allowed outcome-based schools to be located outside of the sponsoring district if there was no objection by another district
- Eliminated the ability of the school to limit enrollment to pupils who had a specific affinity for the school's teaching methods, such as learning philosophy, or specific subjects such as math, science, fine arts, performing arts, or a foreign language
- Expanded the types of facilities a school could lease
- Required that the sponsor and school operators disseminate information on how to form and operate an outcome-based school to targeted groups - low-income families and communities, and students of color.

- Allowed a school to appeal a nonrenewal or termination decision by a sponsoring district to the State Board of Education.

In 1994, the Legislature made only two changes to the "charter school" law:

- The cap on the number of schools was raised from 20 to 35 schools
- Allowed schools to lease space from sectarian organizations if the space was constructed as a school facility.

NEXT WEEK: 1995 – OUTCOME-BASED SCHOOLS ARE AGAIN CALLED CHARTER SCHOOL



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