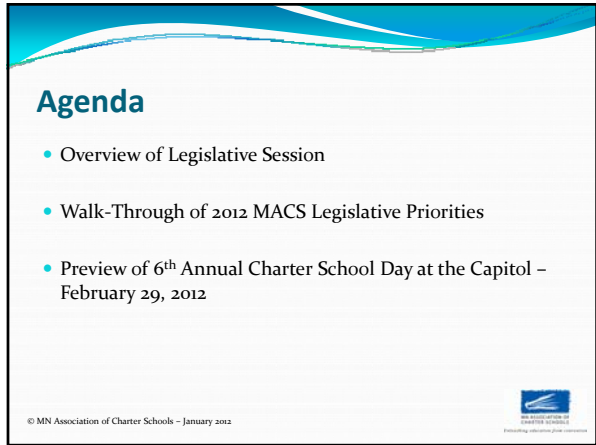


A MACS Government Affairs Webinar
2012 MACS Legislative Priorities


MN Association of Charter Schools
Tuesday, January 10, 2012



Agenda

- Overview of Legislative Session
- Walk-Through of 2012 MACS Legislative Priorities
- Preview of 6th Annual Charter School Day at the Capitol – February 29, 2012

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**Legislative Session
Overview**

2012 Legislative Session

January

- 24th - Tuesday: 2012 Legislative session convenes
- ? : State economic forecast

February

- 7th - Tuesday: Precinct caucuses, 7 PM
- 21st - Tuesday: Redistricting plan announced by courts
- ? : Biennium budget forecast - update
- 29th - Wednesday: Charter School Day at the Capitol

May

- 21st - Monday: Session adjournment (last possible date)

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Minnesota Precinct Caucuses Tuesday, February 7th

MN Statutes 202A.19 Subd. 5 states:

“No public elementary or secondary school may hold a school sponsored event after 6:00 PM on the day of a major party precinct caucus.”

The law also prohibits public state and local government meetings from being held after 6:00 PM.

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2012 MACS Legislative Priorities

We urge the Minnesota Legislature to enact legislation to:

Education Funding

- 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


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Facilities

- 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


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Governance

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


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Authorizer/MDE and School Roles and Relationships

- 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


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Teachers & Administrators

- 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


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Academics & Assessment

- 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


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Academic Standards

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


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Online Education

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

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Innovation

- 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

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