



MN ASSOCIATION OF
CHARTER SCHOOLS

The Charter School Advocate

Friday, February 27, 2015

Good Afternoon,

With the February financial forecast now in hand, the legislature will begin focusing on what to do with the surplus – there are already calls for spending it on infrastructure projects, nursing homes, tax cuts, education, and the list goes on from there. It will be interesting to watch how it all comes out between the Governor, the Democratic Senate and Republican House. There probably is enough in the pot to give everyone credit for something and make everyone happy – but then again.

EP

HEADLINES - WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23 - 27, 2015

- Projected State Budget Surplus Grows to \$1.87 Billion
- Action in Legislative Committees This Week
- 8th Annual Charter School Day @ the Capitol
- The Charter Current

PROJECTED STATE BUDGET SURPLUS GROWS TO \$1.87 BILLION

Earlier today, Minnesota Management and Budget announced that the projected surplus for the next biennium will be \$1.87 billion, an increase of \$800 million since the last forecast in November. The February forecast is the one that the legislature uses to do the budget for the next two years.

ACTION IN LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES THIS WEEK

HOUSE

Universal All Day Pre-School Bill – was heard in the House Education Innovation Policy Committee. The bill was **defeated on an 11-8 vote**. The Senate Education Committee tabled the Senate companion bill in late January.

American Indian Education Report – was heard in the House Education Finance Committee. The Report revealed that the graduation rate for American Indian students in the state is only 50% and that there is a significant disparity in funding between traditional districts and tribal contract schools.

Computer Science as a Math Credit Bill – was heard in the House Education Innovation and Policy Committee and **laid over for consideration** in the Omnibus Bill. The bill would allow students to satisfy a math credit required for high school graduation by taking a computer science course that meets state math standards.

Compulsory Attendance to Age 18 Bill – was heard in the House Education Policy Committee and was **laid over for consideration** in the Omnibus Bill. The companion bill in the Senate has not yet been scheduled for a hearing. **Note:** *During the last legislative term the age was raised from 16 to 17.*

SENATE

Confirmation of Commissioner – a hearing to confirm the Commissioner of Education was held by the Senate Education Committee. The **Committee voted to refer** the appointment to the full Senate.

American Indian Education Report – was also heard in the Senate Education Committee.

School Lunch Aid Increase Bill – was heard in the Senate Education Committee and **laid over for consideration** in the Omnibus Bill.

School Basic Revenue Formula Increase Bills – were heard in the Senate Education Budget Committee and **laid over for consideration** in the Omnibus Bill.

- **S.F. 163** would increase the formula from \$5,381 to **\$6,131** in FY 16 and future years.
- **S.F. 541** would increase the formula from \$5,381 to **\$6,064** in FY 16, **\$6,307** in FY 17, and then **index it to inflation** annually in 2018

8th ANNUAL CHARTER SCHOOL DAY @ THE CAPITOL

First, we want to thank the schools that will be taking part in our Annual Charter School Day at the Capitol next Thursday, March 5th. I know that Dan DeBruyn, Associate Director and Maggie Sullivan, Administrative Assistant appreciate the cooperation they have received from these schools so that appointments could be arranged with legislators.

Over 75 meetings with State Senators and Representatives have been scheduled for the folks who will be joining us next Thursday. The Annual Charter School Day at the Capitol is an important visible way of showing the scope and diversity of chartered schools to legislators.

Again – we look forward to welcoming folks to the Capitol.

THE CHARTER CURRENT

We invite you to subscribe to [THE CHARTER CURRENT](#) for information on legislation, school and association news, as well as events and other issues about charter schools in Minnesota and the nation.