The Charter School Advocate

Friday, February 6, 2015

Good Afternoon,

While it was a relatively quiet week at the legislature this week, there were a number of bills on a variety of education issues introduced. We will be highlighting several of them over the next week in **THE CHARTER CURRENT**.

This weekend, the **Star Tribune** is expected to publish a major story on charter schools in the metropolitan area that focuses on how well charters are doing in terms of the school's growth target.

This coming Monday, the **proposed new Integration Rule** is scheduled to be published in the **STATE REGISTER.** The publication of the proposed rule will begin the Public Comment Period. The proposed new rule would bring charter schools under another law and set of rules, which charters have been exempt from since 1991.

Watch for information on meetings that MACS will be holding to discuss the proposed rule, its potential impact on charters, and what should be our official position on the rule.

HEADLINES - WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2-6, 2015

- Congress Working on Re-authorization of ESEA
- U.S. Departments of Justice and Education Issue Guidance to Schools on Legal Responsibilities to English Language Learners
- The Charter School Current
- Charter School Day at the Capital

CONGRESS WORKING ON RE-AUTHORIZATION OF ESEA

- **U.S. SENATE** - In the last three weeks the U.S. Senate Education Committee has held two full committee hearings and a roundtable of the re-authorization of ESEA. On 1/21 there was a

hearing on Testing & Accountability and on 1/27 a hearing on Supporting Teachers and School Leaders. On 2/3 the Committee held a Roundtable on Supporting Innovation in Education.

- **U.S. HOUSE** – Earlier this week Rep. Kline, Chair of the Education and Workforce Committee Introduced H.R. 5 the Student Success Act – the House version of reauthorizing ESEA. It is similar to the bill passed in the House last session.

U.S. DEPARTMENTS OFJUSTICE AND EDUCATION ISSUE GUIDANCE TO SCHOOLS ON LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

In mid-January the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education issued a Dear **Colleague Letter on English Learner Students and Limited English Proficient Parents.** The letter outlines the legal obligations public schools have to EL students.

It addresses the following topics:

- State and Local District Obligations;
- Common Civil Rights Issues – *Identifying and Assessing All Potential EL Students, Staffing an EL Program, Providing Meaningful Access to All Curricular and Extracurricular Programs, Avoiding Unnecessary Segregation, Evaluating EL Students for Special Education, Meeting Needs of Students Who Opt Out of EL Programs, Monitoring and Exiting Students from EL Programs/Services, Evaluating the Effectiveness of the EL Programs, Ensuring Meaningful Communication with Limited English Proficient Parents.*

THE CHARTER SCHOOL CURRENT

Sign up to get notice of new postings on the MACS Blog - The Charter Current.
This week there were postings about the following bills introduced in the legislature:

- A requirement for elementary school recess period
- Modification to the procedures for exemptions to immunization requirements

CHARTER SCHOOL DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Charter school administrators, board members, and parents are invited to attend the **2015 Charter School Day @ the Capitol** being held on ***Thursday, March 5*.**

In order to maintain the positive momentum of charter schools, it's important that charter school leaders connect with their local legislators. MACS takes care of setting up the meetings and you get to enjoy a day making connections!

To register your participation, click here.