



MN ASSOCIATION OF  
CHARTER SCHOOLS

# The Charter School Advocate

Friday, March 6, 2015

**Good Afternoon,**

Yesterday was the **8th Annual Charter School Day** at the Minnesota Capitol, organized by the Association. Over 140 school administrators, board members, teachers, parents and high school students from across the state – including *Apple Valley, Bemidji, Clarkfield, Cross Lake, Duluth, Echo, Minneapolis, Milroy, St. Paul, and Ramsey* – had meetings with at least 85 legislators.

We want to thank all of the participants who came to the Capitol to tell the charter school story, and ask their legislators to support a number of specific bills and issues that will benefit charter school students and the charter school movement.

I want to especially thank the participants who traveled 2, 3, 4, and more hours from their home towns to be part of the day – some of those folks were on the road at 4:30 am to make early morning appointments with their legislators. That is an example of folks understanding the value and importance of being active participants in the advocacy work in which all schools need to be engaged.

## **HEADLINES - WEEK OF MARCH 2 - 6, 2015**

- Proposed Desegregation and Integration Rule - Charter School Meetings
- Senate Education Committee Hears Bill to Recodify Charter School Law
- The Charter Current

## **PROPOSED DESEGREGATION AND INTEGRATION RULE – CHARTER SCHOOL MEETINGS**

Just a reminder to register for the Charter School Meetings to examine the proposed Desegregation and Integration Rule and potential impacts on charter schools.

**Monday, March 16th, St. Paul - 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Thursday, March 19th, Brooklyn Center – 1:30 – 3:30 PM**

As public schools of choice, **charter schools have been exempt** from the state's Desegregation and Integration Rule since the Rule was written.

The **new proposed rule would affect nearly every charter school** as it would apply to all charter schools that have an enrollment composed of **20% or more** of students who are "protected students". It would also affect every charter school that has either 20% more or 20% less of protected students compared to the nearest public school **site** serving the same, but not necessarily all grades of the charter.

**"Protected students"** in the proposed rule are: *American Indian/Alaskan Natives; Asian/Pacific Islander; Hispanic; and Black.*

An initial review of the proposed rule and its underlying law raises a number of questions, concerns, and implications for charter schools that would have long-term effects.

**To Register your Attendance, Click [HERE](#).**

## **SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE HEARS BILL TO RECODIFY CHARTER SCHOOL LAW**

On Tuesday, the Senate Education Committee heard **S.F. 1189** authored by Senator Wiger that would **recodify Minnesota's Charter School Law**. The legislation is a technical bill needed by the Revisor of Statutes to complete re-codifying the law which the legislature ordered last session.

While Minnesota continues to have the best charter school law in the nation in terms of autonomy, accountability, authorizing and finances; in terms of organizational structure, the law is somewhat confusing. Recodification will arrange the law in a systematic order, and upon recodification the charter school law would be renumbered to be Minnesota Statute 124E.

The Association testified in support of S.F. 1189 as it has been something the Association has been in favor of for several years.

## **THE CHARTER CURRENT**

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