



MN ASSOCIATION OF  
CHARTER SCHOOLS

# The Charter School Advocate

Friday, January 16, 2015

**Good Morning,**

With the ceremonial events of the first week now past, **bill introductions and legislative committee meetings started in earnest**. This week, 155 bills were introduced in the House and 114 in the Senate on everything from taxes, bonding projects, environment, criminal justices, and the topics go on and on.

We will be highlighting bills that impact charters weekly in our blog – [THE CHARTER CURRENT](#).

Meanwhile in **Washington D.C.**, **Senator Lamar Alexander** (TN), Chairman of the Senate Education Committee unveiled a 357 page discussion draft of the ESEA re-authorization bill. Next Wednesday, January 21 Senator Alexander's Committee will hold its first hearing. The topic: "**Fixing No Child Left Behind: Testing and Accountability**". *Maybe Congress will adopt a new ESEA this year.*

We hope that everyone will take time on Monday, **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** to reflect and focus on what we as individuals can do to be of service in creating a more non-violent and tolerant community, state, and nation.

## HEADLINES – WEEK OF JANUARY 12 - 16, 2015

- **House Education Committees Hold Information Hearings**
- **Senate Education Committee Focuses on World's Best Workforce**
- **Bills Introduced This Week – Highlights**
- **School Choice Week Event – Celebrating Public School Choice in Minnesota**
- **Charter School Day at Capitol – March 5, 2015**

## **HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEES HOLD INFORMATION MEETINGS**

The House Education Committees (Finance and Innovation Policy) both held multiple days of information meetings and issue briefings. The Education Finance Committee invited organizations to present testimony on their priorities for 2015. The **MACS presentation** was on Thursday and included a quick Primer on Charter Schools and focused on our priorities for funding equity and addressing facilities.

## **SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE FOCUSES ON WORLD'S BEST WORKFORCE**

On Thursday morning, the Senate Education Committee focused its attention on the Implementation of the World's Best Workforce legislation by school districts and charter schools. **Rep. Paul Marquart**, the chief House author of the 2013 law, spoke eloquently of the purpose and the five goals of the World's Best Workforce law. He stated that the purpose was to create a system for strategic planning for a new level of accountability and provide schools with a tool for public engagement.

MDE reported on what it was doing to inform schools, boards and others about the World's Best Workforce, as well as the technical assistance it has as is providing to districts to implement the law. It also reported on the issues that districts and schools have had with implementation and initial state level data on achieving the five goals.

A couple of school districts testified about their implementation and what a positive experience it has been in terms of pulling together all the various plans of the district and engaging parents and community members. They both indicated the biggest implementation issue they faced was time.

Comments and questions from senators on both sides of the aisle indicated that they expected districts and charters to be taking implementation of the law seriously.

## **BILLS INTRODUCED THIS WEEK – HIGHLIGHTS**

This week we began highlighting bills Introduced in posting on our news blog - [THE CHARTER CURRENT](#)

### **Postings**

1.15.2015 – [H.F.194] – **Alternative Accountability Measures for Charter Schools**

1.14.2015 – [S.F. 76] – **Long Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue Program**

1.13.2015 – [S.F. 17], [S.F. 18], and [S.F. 78] – **Technology Funding for Schools**

1.12.2015 – [H.F. 2] – **Teaching License Policy Changes**

**For highlights about bills introduced during the week that would impact charter schools sign up to receive notices of blog postings.**



## **SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK EVENT– CELEBRATING PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE IN MINNESOTA**

Join us in Celebrating Public School Choice in Minnesota!

**WHEN:** Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at 9:30 am

**WHERE:** Best Western Capitol Ridge (formerly Kelly Inn), 161 St. Anthony Avenue, St. Paul, MN

**PROGRAM:**

- 9:30am to 10:00am - Registration and Refreshments
- 10:00am to 11:00am - Program of Celebration

**MORE INFO:** Ember Reichgott Junge, ember@visi.com, 612-750-1262

<http://www.educationevolving.org/files/MN-School-Choice-Invite-2015.pdf>

## **ANNUAL CHARTER SCHOOL DAY AT THE CAPITOL – MARCH 5th**

Charter school administrators, board members, and parents are invited to attend the **2015 Charter School Day @ the Capital** 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!

No worries – we'll even walk you through the process of talking with legislators on the day of the event.

To register your participation, click [here](#).