



MN ASSOCIATION OF
CHARTER SCHOOLS

The Charter School Advocate

Friday, January 9, 2015

Happy New Year – we hope that the New Year is off to great start even though it has been a cold start.

Beginning today, **THE CHARTER SCHOOL ADVOCATE** resumes a weekly publication schedule until the end of the 2015 Legislative Session, which must by law adjourn May 18th.

HEADLINES – WEEK OF JANUARY 5-9, 2015

- **Governor Dayton Focuses on Education in Inaugural Address**
- **Senate Education Committee - First Hearing**
- **First Bills of Session Introduced**
- **Opportunity for Stakeholder Input in ESEA Waiver**
- **Annual Charter School Day at the Capitol – March 5th**

Governor Dayton Focuses on Education in Inaugural Address

On Monday, **Governor Dayton** spoke at length about how “*a good education has been a key to our success*” and “*that a good education is the key to our survival*” as a state. He called for creating a “STATE OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE” and investing in education for the future. He also drew a clear distinction between what he meant by an investment verses just spending more money.

He outlined **broad targets for investments in education**: early-childhood and child-care programs, child protection services, mental health services, better elementary and secondary school academics, emotional and career guidance, year-round school options, after-school and special help services, advanced high school and college courses related to skills needs of the future.

Inaugural Address: <http://mn.gov/governor/newsroom/pressreleasedetail.jsp?id=102-152020>

Senate Education Committee – First Hearing

On Thursday, Senator Wiger, Chair of the Senate E-12 Education Committee invited education advocacy organizations to give two-minute presentations to the Committee outlining their respective organization's priorities for the session.

Thirty one (31) organizations made presentations on their priorities. Among the common themes: additional funding on the formula and indexing it to inflation, facilities, reducing assessments, early childhood education, teacher workforce supply, workforce readiness, teacher evaluation, teacher licensing reform, to name a few. There were also calls for no new mandates and programs for the next two years and freeing schools from rules and paperwork.

[MACS Presentation to the Committee](#)

[2015 – MACS Legislative Priorities Handout](#)

First Bills of Session Introduced

Thursday, was the first day in both chambers that that legislators could introduce bills. In the Senate 8 bills related to education were introduced and in the House 4 bills. Among the bills:

- universal pre-school for 4 year olds,
- tuition assistance for high school graduates who attend community/technical colleges,
- raising compulsory attendance age to 18,
- special technology revenue,
- unrequested leave provisions for schools with collective bargaining agreements,
- teacher license reciprocity with adjoining states, revising teacher license portfolios, and providing more flexibility for community expert variances.

Opportunity for Stakeholder Input in ESEA Waiver

MDE has invited schools to provide input into the next ESEA Flexibility Waiver during a webinar on Monday, January 12th and at regional meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday. Schools should have received an email on how to join the webinar and the regional meetings. Contact Stephanie Graff at Stephanie.graff@state.mn.us for more information.

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](#).