



MN ASSOCIATION OF
CHARTER SCHOOLS

The Charter School Advocate

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Mission Statement:

The MN Association of Charter Schools, as a membership organization, advocates for charter school policy issues, supports charter school innovation, quality and accountability, and facilitates cooperation in Minnesota's charter school community to assure excellence in education for our students.

[Click here](#) to visit the Charter Current.

[Click here](#) to see the latest news in the charter school community.

1st Education Bills of 2013 Session Introduced

Senate - the first education bill introduced by the Senate was [S.F. 2](#), authored by **Senators Clausen, Bakk, Hoffman, Johnson and Wiger**. This bill would authorize funding for voluntary full-day kindergarten programs effective in FY 2015.

House - The first education bill introduced by the House was [H.F. 1](#), authored by **Representative Selcer and 34 other members**. This bill would restore the school funding formula to the 90/10 holdback formula effective FY 2014.

Comment: *The Minnesota Association of Charter Schools is supportive of legislation (like S.F. 2) that would provide funding for full-day kindergarten programs for all families that wish that option for their children.*

MACS also supports legislation that would restore the 90/10 holdback formula as timely as possible.

MACS Graduation Incentives Work Group Exploring Accountability System Proposal

Earlier this week the MACS Graduation Incentives Work Group began reviewing a draft proposal for an accountability system for charter schools that serve significant populations of students eligible under Minnesota's Graduation Incentive Law.

The proposal outlines the charter schools that would be eligible to utilize this alternate accountability system. It defines three areas of accountability and performance: 1] student academic performance, 2] student postsecondary and workforce readiness, and 3] student engagement.

The proposal would provide charter schools with a menu of performance measures. A charter school would locally choose a certain number of performance measures in each area and then the school board and the authorizer would agree upon performance targets for each of those performance measures. Those performance targets would then serve as the basis of the charter contract between the school and authorizer.

The Graduation Incentives Work Group will meet again next Tuesday, January 15th at the MACS Office to continue its work on the proposal.

The goal of the work being done is threefold:

1. to provide guidance to schools and authorizers for accountability systems for schools serving significant populations of students eligible under the Graduation Incentives Law,
2. to serve as the framework for a legislative proposal to fulfill the unique characteristics of these charter schools, and
3. fulfill the purposes of the charter school law for charters to develop innovative outcome measures and accountability

systems.

Comment: *A big thank you to the folks who have been faithful participants of the Graduation Work Group over the last nine months. Their willingness to engage in the ongoing dialogue and research that was necessary to be able to reach the point of putting a proposal on paper is a tribute to their commitment to finding a way forward on this challenging issue. The work is far from done –but we have a real start because of their willingness to be active participants.*

A Message from Peg Larsen, MACS' Lobbyist

Please follow the link to see Peg Larsen's first message of this legislative session, now posted below Related Content on MACS' [Government Affairs](#) page.

MN Legislature Special Elections

The Governor has called a special election for districts 19A and 14A which will be held February 12th, 2013. Lafayette Charter School is part of district 19A.

House Education Finance Committee holds First Meeting

On Thursday, the House Education Finance Committee under the Chairmanship of Rep. Paul Marquart held its first meeting. The meeting focused on each member introducing themselves and their priorities as committee members.

There were a number of common themes – but the overarching priority that was mentioned by each member was the need for Minnesota to close the **achievement gaps** between students of color and white students, suburban verses rural, and economically disadvantaged and students of means. A number of legislators spoke about the achievement gap in terms of how these gaps are going to be the basis of an economic crisis in the state if not addressed and overcome.

The other priorities that most of the legislators spoke about were about repaying the shift, not borrowing again from schools, equal and equitable funding, and the fiscal disparity gaps between districts.

Next Tuesday, the Committee is going to focus on developing 3 -5 priorities that will guide its work for the session.

Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday, March 6 - Charter School Day at the Capitol

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