U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROPOSES NEW RULES THAT WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGE THE FEDERAL CHARTER SCHOOL PROGRAM (CSP)

These new regulations and requirements would create new Federal Standards and override state charter school laws and policies. If these new rules go into effect, the likelihood of new schools, or school expansions receiving CSP grants, would be diminished.

Look for an ACTION ALERT Today with more information and a request for everyone to submit concerns and comments to the U.S. Department of Education by the COMMENT PERIOD DEADLINE OF APRIL 13th.

THIS WEEK @ THE LEGISLATURE

HOUSE EDUCATION FINANCE COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 29th – The Committee heard:

- HF 1729: Would create the “Healthy and Hunger-free Schools Program”. It would require eligible schools to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) of the federal school lunch program and offer free breakfast and lunch to all students regardless of household income. Schools would be reimbursed for the cost of meals not covered by the federal reimbursement. It would also require MDE to help ineligible schools become eligible for CEP, notify schools if they are eligible and provide them with assistance in
getting federal reimbursements, and assist in expanding “breakfast after the bell” programs. **Laid over for possible inclusion in the Omnibus bill.**

- **HF 3265:** Would make schools remediate lead in their drinking water if it exceeds 5 ppb. It would require schools to notify the Department of Health and parents of test results and remediation efforts. **Passed and sent to the Health Finance and Policy Committee.**

**Thursday, March 31st** – The Committee heard:

- **HF 3401:** The Committee heard the amended Governor’s Education Policy Omnibus Bill.
- **HF 3937:** Would allow a school board and nonpublic school to enter into an agreement for nonpublic school student transportation. **Laid over for possible inclusion in the Omnibus bill.**

**Friday, April 1st** - The Committee will hear:

- **HF 4570** – Governor’s proposal to transition to voluntary prekindergarten program, school readiness plus program, and early learning scholarship Phase II into a new voluntary prekindergarten program.

**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE:**

**Wednesday, March 30th** –

- The Committee held an informational hearing on the Governor’s literacy plan contained in **SF 4113.**

**OTHER EDUCATION BILLS INTRODUCED THIS WEEK**

- **SF 4363 / HF 4648** - Would require schools to provide gender-neutral single-user restroom and locker room facilities.
- **SF 4384 / HF 4207** – Would modify high school graduation requirements to include a personal finance course beginning with 9th graders enrolled in 2023-24.
- **HF 4699** – Would create and fund the “Air Ventilation Program Act” to improve indoor air quality in schools to protect student and staff health

**NOTE:** Please keep in mind that when a bill is introduced, it does not mean it will be heard or will be enacted into law.

**LEGISLATOR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Representative Jen Schultz** (DLF – 7A) – No Charters in District – Announced she is running for 8th U.S. Congressional District.

**NEXT WEEK @ THE CAPITOL**
Omnibus Bills will be unveiled, heard, and voted on in Committee by April 8th when the legislature adjourns for Passover and Easter.

Monday April 4th – Senate Ed Finance and Policy Committee
Will hear a “delete-all” amendment to the Governor’s education funding bill. This will serve as the vehicle for Senate Education appropriations bill.

"Unleashing education from convention" - is more than the MACS motto, it is a reminder of our purpose, our goals and it serves as a clarion Call To Action.