OMNIBUS EDUCATION BILL – POLICY CHANGES ENACTED

While there were a significant number of education policy proposals in both the DFL House and the Republican Senate – in the end there were only a limited number of policy changes enacted in the Omnibus PreK-12 Education Bill during the Special Session.

We have prepared a Two-Page overview of the Policy Changes enacted as a quick reference for you.

DISTANCE LEARNING PROVISIONS NOT PASSED

Among the policy proposals that did not make it into the Omnibus Bill were the House and Senate proposals to address distance learning for the 2021-2022 school year, or on a long-term basis.

SCHOOL BUS STOP – SIGNAL ARM CAMERAS ENACTED

The Omnibus Transportation Bill provides over $15 million dollars over the next two years for grants to school districts, nonpublic schools, charter schools, and companies that provide school bus services, for the purchase and installation of school bus stop-signal arm camera systems.

The MN Association of Charter Schools was a member of the Coalition which advocated and lobbied for the legislation.
BOARD MEETINGS BY INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY

With the expiration of the Emergency Orders of the Governor due to the Pandemic, the rules for meetings by bodies subject to the Open Meeting Law go back to the normal five (5) requirements which are stated in MN Statutes 13D.02.

STATE AUDITOR TO ESTABLISH SCHOOL FINANCE ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM

The Special Session authorized the State Auditor to establish ‘a school finance accountability team’ in the audit practice division to allow for the audits of school districts that have volunteered with and been selected by the state auditor to have their annual audit performed by the state auditor at no cost to the district. The state auditor must establish a selection process. The state auditor may not bill a school district for any work conducted by the school finance accountability team prior to July 1, 2025.

NOTE: One can expect that at some time in the future the voluntary provision of this may change as the authority to do School Finance Audits has been a legislative priority for the Office of the State Auditor.

"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.