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SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRMEN:
SENATOR KEVIN MEYER
SENATOR JOE THOMAS



MEMBERS:
SENATOR BETTYE DAVIS
SENATOR CHARLIE HUGGINS
SENATOR GARY STEVENS
SENATOR DONALD OLSON

TO: All Members

FROM: Senator Kevin Meyer, Senator Joe Thomas
Co-Chairs, Senate Education Committee

RE: Hearing: SB-235 "An Act relating to charter school approval and funding."

LOCATION: BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

DATE/TIME: Monday, February 8 – 8am

AGENDA

SB 235 - "An Act relating to charter school approval and funding."
Bills Previously Scheduled & Heard

Jomo Stewart, Committee Aide
(907) 465-6874

Murray Richmond, Committee Aide
(907) 465 - 6443

Senate_Education@legis.state.ak.us

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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SENATOR DONALD OLSON

Sponsor Statement Senate Bill 235

"An Act relating to charter school approval and funding."

Senate Bill 235 amends existing state statute to allow the Department of Education & Early Development to compete on behalf of Alaska charter schools for facility maintenance & start-up grant funds nationally available through the U.S. Department of Education. Alaska and its charter schools are currently ineligible.

Senate Bill 235 addresses this inequity in two ways:

First, Senate Bill 235 removes the statutory cap which limits the number of charter schools, on a statewide basis to sixty. As the only authorizer of charter schools, local school boards thoroughly examine and evaluate charter applications prior to agreeing to accept a charter for their district. In this way, local school boards act as a check on charter school over-proliferation and growth - today, there are only 26 charter schools in existence across Alaska - making a state mandated cap unnecessary.

Second, Senate Bill 235 creates in statute the programmatically required state funding mechanism necessary to comply under the federal grant program. It amends current law to establish in Alaska the per-pupil facilities aid program required under the U.S. Department of Education's applicant eligibility requirements. Senate Bill 235 then seeds the in-state aid program with a nominal \$1 dollar per pupil per year. However, it is communities and school districts which must arrange for themselves the means to provide the 10% local contribution necessary to achieve the initial 90% federal match and subsequent, escalating match proportions.

With minimal State involvement, but maximized local initiative & control, Senate Bill 235:

- • Improves the State of Alaska's ability to secure the Federal Start Up Funds for Alaskan Charter Schools.
- Makes charter schools eligible to compete for federal grants for facilities.
- Is strongly supported statewide by school boards, school districts, and charter schools.
- Reduces a major barrier to the development of charter schools.
- Benefits Alaska's children.
- Will increase educational choices for parents & opportunities for students.

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(907) 465 - 6874

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SECTIONAL ANALYSIS Senate Bill 235

SECTION 1:

Deletes cap (60) on number of charter schools the State Board of Education may approve for operation within Alaska.

SECTION 2:

Creates new Article 2 under AS 14.11 - CONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION, AND IMPROVEMENT OF SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION- RELATED FACILITIES

New sections include:

Sec. 14.11.121 - Supplemental charter school facilities construction, lease, and major maintenance grant program – creating, subject to legislative appropriation a five-year mechanism for state support in supplement of local contribution & federal aid, and describing administration of the program; and

Sec. 14.11.126 - State aid for costs of charter school construction, lease, and major maintenance – directing state to allocate not less than one dollar per charter school pupil per year to school districts or regional attendance areas receiving grants under the program.

SECTION 3:

Repeal of Sec. 14.11.121 and Sec. 14.11.126 on July 1, 2015.

26-LS1256\R

2/4/10

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FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: SB 235
 (S) Publish Date: 2/8/10

Identifier (file name): SB235-EED-ESS-2-05-10 Dept. Affected: Education and Early Development
 Title: An Act relating to charter school approval and funding RDU: Education Support Services
 Component: School Finance & Facilities
 Sponsor: Senate Education Committee
 Requester: Senate Education Committee Component Number: 2737

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

| | Appropriation Required | Information | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| | | FY 2011 | FY 2011 | FY 2012 | FY 2013 | FY 2014 | FY 2015 | FY 2016 |
| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | | | | | | | | |
| Personal Services | 300.0 | | 150.0 | 154.5 | 159.1 | 163.9 | 168.8 | |
| Travel | | | | | | | | |
| Contractual | | | | | | | | |
| Supplies | | | | | | | | |
| Equipment | | | | | | | | |
| Land & Structures | | | | | | | | |
| Grants & Claims | | | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL OPERATING | 300.0 | 0.0 | 150.0 | 154.5 | 159.1 | 163.9 | 168.8 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|
| CAPITAL EXPENDITURES | 1.0 | | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | |
|-----------------------------|------------|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|

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| CHANGE IN REVENUES () | | | | | | | |
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

| | FY 2011 | FY 2011 | FY 2012 | FY 2013 | FY 2014 | FY 2015 | FY 2016 |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1002 Federal Receipts | | | | | | | |
| 1003 GF Match | | | | | | | |
| 1004 GF | 301.0 | | 151.0 | 155.5 | 160.1 | 164.9 | 168.8 |
| 1005 GF/Program Receipts | | | | | | | |
| 1037 GF/Mental Health | | | | | | | |
| Other Interagency Receipts | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 301.0 | 0.0 | 151.0 | 155.5 | 160.1 | 164.9 | 168.8 |

Estimate of any current year (FY2010) cost: _____

POSITIONS

| | FY 2011 | FY 2011 | FY 2012 | FY 2013 | FY 2014 | FY 2015 | FY 2016 |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Full-time | 1.0 | | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Part-time | 0.5 | | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Temporary | | | | | | | |

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Sec. 1, removes limit on number of charter schools that can operate in the state. As there are only 25 operating charter schools in the state currently, there is no anticipated fiscal impact resulting from this provision.

Sec. 2, Establishes charter school construction program based on charter school enrollment. Establishing regulations will require an estimated \$150,000. Management of the program will require 1.5 FTE, one full-time grant administrator (Range 17), and a half-time administrative assistant (Range 14), to assist with the required reporting paperwork. The personnel costs are escalated at 3% per year to approximate cost of living increases. While it is difficult to say how much state funding might be required, the department has estimated that the program will impact 40% of the Charter schools in each year of the program. The bill requires the legislature to appropriate at least a dollar for each pupil enrolled in the charter school receiving funding which amounts to approximately \$1,000 per year.

Sec. 3, Sunsets the charter school construction grant program on July 1, 2015, however, the department's financial reporting and project oversight obligations will continue beyond sunset of the program.

Prepared by: Sam Kito III, P. E., School Facilities Engineer Phone (907) 465-6906
 Division: School Finance/Facilities Section Date/Time 2.5.2010
 Approved by: Larry LeDoux, Commissioner Date 2/5/2010

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
 Bill Version: SB 235
 (S) Publish Date: 4/7/10

Identifier (file name): SB235-EED-ESS-4-01-10 Dept. Affected: Education and Early Development
 Title: An Act relating to charter school approval and funding RDU: Education Support Services
 Component: School Finance & Facilities
 Sponsor: Senate Education Committee
 Requester: Senate Finance Committee Component Number: 2737

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

| | Appropriation Required | Information | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| | | FY 2011 | FY 2011 | FY 2012 | FY 2013 | FY 2014 | FY 2015 | FY 2016 |
| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | | | | | | | | |
| Personal Services | 150.0 | | 150.0 | 154.5 | 159.1 | 163.9 | 168.8 | |
| Travel | | | | | | | | |
| Contractual | | | | | | | | |
| Supplies | | | | | | | | |
| Equipment | | | | | | | | |
| Land & Structures | | | | | | | | |
| Grants & Claims | | | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL OPERATING | 150.0 | 0.0 | 150.0 | 154.5 | 159.1 | 163.9 | 168.8 | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|--|
| CAPITAL EXPENDITURES | | | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|--|

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|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CHANGE IN REVENUES () | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

| | FY 2011 | FY 2011 | FY 2012 | FY 2013 | FY 2014 | FY 2015 | FY 2016 |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1002 Federal Receipts | | | | | | | |
| 1003 GF Match | | | | | | | |
| 1004 GF | 150.0 | | 151.0 | 155.5 | 160.1 | 164.9 | 168.8 |
| 1005 GF/Program Receipts | | | | | | | |
| 1037 GF/Mental Health | | | | | | | |
| Other Interagency Receipts | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 150.0 | 0.0 | 151.0 | 155.5 | 160.1 | 164.9 | 168.8 |

Estimate of any current year (FY2010) cost: _____

POSITIONS

| | FY 2011 | FY 2011 | FY 2012 | FY 2013 | FY 2014 | FY 2015 | FY 2016 |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Full-time | 0.0 | | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Part-time | 0.0 | | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Temporary | | | | | | | |

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Sec. 1, removes limit on number of charter schools that can operate in the state. As there are only 25 operating charter schools in the state currently, there is no anticipated fiscal impact resulting from this provision.

Sec. 2, Establishes charter school construction program based on charter school enrollment. Establishing regulations will require an estimated \$150,000. Management of the program will require 1.5 FTE, one full-time grant administrator (Range 17), and a half-time administrative assistant (Range 14), to assist with the required reporting paperwork. The personnel costs are escalated at 3% per year to approximate cost of living increases. While it is difficult to say how much state funding might be required, the department has estimated that the program will impact 40% of the Charter schools in each year of the program. The bill requires the legislature to appropriate at least a dollar for each pupil enrolled in the charter school receiving funding which amounts to approximately \$1,000 per year. Personnel costs are not expected until after the first year, when regulations have been adopted and the department begins applying for any available federal grant opportunities.

Sec. 3, Sunsets the charter school construction grant program on July 1, 2015, however, the department's financial reporting and project oversight obligations will continue beyond sunset of the program.

Prepared by: Sam Kito III, P. E., School Facilities Engineer Phone (907) 465-6906
 Division: School Finance/Facilities Section Date/Time 4.1.2010
 Approved by: Larry LeDoux, Commissioner Date 4/1/2010

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 3
 Bill Version: HCS SB 235(FIN)
 (H) Publish Date: 4/15/2010

Identifier (file name): _____ Dept. Affected: DEED
 Title An Act relating to charter school approval and funding RDU Education Support Services
 Component School Finance & Facilities
 Sponsor Senate Education Committee
 Requester House Finance Committee Component Number _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

| | Appropriation Required | Information | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | FY 2011 | FY 2011 | FY 2012 | FY 2013 | FY 2014 | FY 2015 | FY 2016 |
| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | | | | | | | | |
| Personal Services | | | | | | | | |
| Travel | | | | | | | | |
| Contractual | | | | | | | | |
| Supplies | | | | | | | | |
| Equipment | | | | | | | | |
| Land & Structures | | | | | | | | |
| Grants & Claims | | | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL OPERATING | | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CAPITAL EXPENDITURES | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

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| CHANGE IN REVENUES () | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

| | FY 2011 | FY 2011 | FY 2012 | FY 2013 | FY 2014 | FY 2015 | FY 2016 |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1002 Federal Receipts | | | | | | | |
| 1003 GF Match | | | | | | | |
| 1004 GF | | | | | | | |
| 1005 GF/Program Receipts | | | | | | | |
| 1037 GF/Mental Health | | | | | | | |
| Other Interagency Receipts | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Estimate of any current year (FY2010) cost: _____

POSITIONS

| | FY 2011 | FY 2011 | FY 2012 | FY 2013 | FY 2014 | FY 2015 | FY 2016 |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Full-time | | | | | | | |
| Part-time | | | | | | | |
| Temporary | | | | | | | |

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

Prepared by: Co-Chair Bill Stoltze
House Finance Committee
Co-Chair Mike Hawker/
House Finance Committee

Phone 465-4958
 Date/Time 4/15/2010 12:00PM
 Date 4/15/2010

26-LS1256E
Mischel
4/14/10

HOUSE CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 235(FIN)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to charter school approval and funding."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 *** Section 1.** AS 14.03.250(a) is amended to read:

4 (a) A charter school may be established as provided under AS 14.03.250 -
5 14.03.290 upon the approval of the local school board and the state Board of
6 Education and Early Development of an application for a charter school. [THE
7 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT MAY NOT
8 APPROVE MORE THAN 60 CHARTER SCHOOLS TO OPERATE IN THE
9 STATE AT ANY ONE TIME.]

10 *** Sec. 2.** AS 14.11 is amended by adding new sections to read:

11 **Article 2. Charter School Facilities.**

12 **Sec. 14.11.121. Supplemental charter school facilities construction, lease,**
13 **and major maintenance grant program.** (a) The department shall establish a charter
14 school facilities construction, lease, and major maintenance grant program that
15 supplements grant aid otherwise available under this chapter and that is based on a per

1 pupil funding formula.

2 (b) The department shall apply for available federal funding and award federal
3 funding made available under the grant program established under (a) of this section
4 for not more than five years for approved projects for charter school facilities
5 construction, lease, or major maintenance as follows:

6 (1) 90 percent of the allowable costs for the first fiscal year for the
7 approved project;

8 (2) 80 percent of the allowable costs for the second fiscal year for the
9 approved project;

10 (3) 60 percent of the allowable costs for the third fiscal year for the
11 approved project;

12 (4) 40 percent of the allowable costs for the fourth fiscal year for the
13 approved project; and

14 (5) 20 percent of the allowable costs for the fifth fiscal year for the
15 approved project.

16 (c) The grant program established in this section is subject to legislative
17 appropriation and available funding and must be consistent with applicable federal and
18 state requirements.

19 (d) A school district or regional educational attendance area that submits an
20 application for a proposed project under AS 14.11.011 for funding under this section
21 that is approved for funding by the department shall provide a participating share that
22 is equal to the difference between the allowable costs of a project and the combined
23 available federal funding and the state aid provided under AS 14.11.126. Allowable
24 costs for a project approved under this section shall be based on the adjusted student
25 count for a charter school calculated under AS 14.17.450(a) and (c), as determined by
26 the commissioner.

27 **Sec. 14.11.126. State aid for costs of charter school construction, lease, and**
28 **major maintenance.** During each fiscal year, the state shall allocate to a school
29 district and regional educational attendance area that is approved for a charter school
30 facilities construction, lease, or major maintenance grant under AS 14.11.121 an
31 amount that is not less than one dollar for each pupil enrolled in the charter school.

1 * Sec. 3. AS 14.11.121 and 14.11.126, added by sec. 2 of this Act, are repealed July 1,
2 2015.

Alaska Charter School Law

- **Alaska**
- **Year Charter Law Enacted: 1995**

Background: The Alaska Legislature passed the Charter School Act in 1995. Governor Knowles signed the bill into law. House Bill 101 amended the existing Alaska statute for charter schools and was signed into law July 1, 2001. The major changes of the amendment are: length of charter was changed to a maximum of ten (10) years, total number of allowable charter schools to operate within the state set at 60, and the geographical restrictions on number of total schools per region or district was dropped.

Both the local school board and the State Board of Education must approve a charter school application before the school can begin operation. If a local school board denies an application, there is no appeal to a higher authority.

- **Amendment(s):** SB 57, the bill established a more equitable state funding of public charter and alternative schools. SB 57 states that charter schools with fewer than 150 students will have their student count adjusted by the same per-student rate as neighborhood schools with 400 students. SB 57 also contains a one-year, hold-harmless provision for charter schools and alternative schools that unexpectedly fall below the enrollment threshold, and are either in their first year of operation or were above the threshold the previous year. For a full-text version of the most recent amendment, see the [Alaska State Legislature](#).

Authorizers: local school boards, with final approval from the State Board of Education

Length of charter: maximum 10 years

Caps on number of schools: [October 2002 Amendment](#) increased the cap from 30 to 60 total schools in operation

Funding: Operational funding is equivalent to "the amount generated by the students enrolled minus a portion for administrative costs." The local school board is responsible for setting the charter school's budget based on student enrollment.

President Obama

October 1, 2009

- President Obama has called upon Congress to increase funding for the charter school programs by \$52 million dollars this year, bringing total funding for the charter school programs to \$268 million. As Congress works to finish its appropriations bills, it is critical that charter advocates voice their support for increased funding, helping the President's request become law.
- The federal public charter schools programs provide support at key points in the development of charter schools: helping cover the extraordinary costs of launching successful charters; disseminating their successful innovations to other public schools; and providing financial incentives to state governments and private lenders that help enable schools to build and renovate facilities.

“Significant Education Reforms”

November 9, 2009

The passage of the historic American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 enabled two competitive grant programs aimed at drastically improving public education in America.

Recently, the U.S. Department of Education released draft priorities and guidelines for the Investing in Innovation Fund (i3) grant competition. On behalf of over 4,900 public charter schools across the country educating over 1.5 million children, the Alliance strongly supports **the U.S. Department of Education's efforts to use the i3 fund to scale significant education reforms** and find the next generation of notable educational innovations..

Reform – Lift caps

In a speech earlier this year to the US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, President Obama explicitly called on states to “... reform their charter rules, and lift caps on the number of allowable charter schools, wherever such caps are in place.”

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan



For all the money at his disposal, Duncan is not making it easy to get. To qualify for the cash, states are being encouraged to remove laws limiting the expansion of public charter schools

Read more:

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1920299,00.html#ixzz0XdXGDuN5>

Race to the Top funding Criteria

See folder



State Charter School Facilities Incentive Grant Program

- Started in 2001, this program awards matching funds to states that offer per-pupil financial assistance to public charter schools to obtain facilities. The program is intended to encourage states to develop and expand per-pupil facilities aid programs and to share the costs associated with charter schools facilities funding.

Eligibility for Facilities Incentive Grants

- To be eligible to receive a grant, a state must establish or enhance, and administer, a per-pupil facilities aid programs for charter schools in the state. This per-pupil facilities aid program ***must be specified in state law*** and must provide annual per-pupil financing for charter school facilities.

Federal Start Up Grants for Charters

(In recent years, State Applications for Federal Start up grants have been denied)



Director's Office

State of Alaska Department of Education &
Early Development Division of Teaching &
Learning Support

Paul Prussing, Deputy Director
E-mail: paul.prussing@alaska.gov
Telephone: (907) 465-8721
Fax: (907) 465-6760

Concurrent Bill in House and Senate

1. Remove Cap of 60
2. Add language to provide annual per- pupil financing for charter school facilities

(Center for Education Reform ranks Alaska's law 8th weakest of the nation's 41 charter laws, with an overall grade of D.)

Some examples...Three State's Charter Facilities Language

California

Facilities Assistance Charter schools may lease space from public or private nonprofit, nonsectarian organizations with approval of Department of Education. Law provides lesser of up to \$1,200 dollars per pupil or 90% of actual lease cost.

Utah

Utah State Legislature created and funded a program, *Local Replacement Revenue for Charter Schools*. This program's funds replace some of the local property tax revenues that are not available to charter schools. Ten percent of the funds this program provides to a charter school are dedicated to facility costs only.

3rd example

District of Columbia

- Uniform Per Student Funding Formula for Public School and Public Charter Schools Act, which serves as the basis for current funding procedures. Each of the District's public charter schools is entitled to a per-pupil facilities allowance in addition to funds the Uniform Per-Pupil Funding Formula provides.
- The Credit Enhancement Fund helps provide access to financing to District of Columbia public charter schools to acquire, renovate and construct school facilities by pledging collateral. The Fund also guarantees leases.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
ASSEMBLY**

**AMENDING MSB 19.08.020, LOCATION OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS; AND MSB 19.080.23,
SITE APPROVAL PROCESS FOR LEASE OR CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITIES.**

(F) Charter School Site Selection Process:

- (1) A new or proposed Charter School shall follow the site approval process according to 19.08.023**
- (2) An existing Charter School that has been in existence for five years or more may request the borough and or the school district acquire permanent facilities for the Charter School. Permanent school facilities include providing for land and buildings as follows, but not limited to: a design build long term lease or lease purchase, use of an existing borough or school district facility, public financing and construction of a new facility or by private and or public grant funds for a new facility or upgrade of an existing facility.**

The 2009 ranking reflects the most critical components of a good charter school law, those the federal Education Department should focus on in order to evaluate those states most likely to make it in the Race to the Top

Charter School Law Ranking and Scorecard 2009

| STATE | T | OK | NC | IL | TN | NH | AR | MD | RI | AK | CT | HI | WY | KS | VA |
|-------------------------------------|----|------|------|-------|-------|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|----|----|
| Year Law Passed | 9 | 99 | 98 | 96 | 02 | 95 | 95 | 03 | 95 | 95 | 86 | 84 | 95 | 94 | 98 |
| Multiple Authorizers (15) | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Number of Schools Allowed (10) | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Operations (15) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • State Autonomy | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| • District Autonomy | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| • Collective Bargaining Equity (15) | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| • 100% Funding | 7 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| • Facilities Funds | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Implementation Points | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -5 | -3 | -3 |
| 2009 Total Score (out of 55) | 19 | 18.5 | 17 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 |
| 2009 Rank | 2 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 |
| 2008 Total Score | 27 | 32.5 | 33.5 | 27.75 | 23.75 | 26.5 | 24 | 21 | 15 | 20 | 23 | 20 | 20.25 | 19 | 16 |
| 2008 Rank | 2 | 19 | 17 | 26 | 31 | 29 | 30 | 33 | 39 | 36 | 32 | 35 | 34 | 37 | 38 |
| Number of Charters as of Feb. 2009 | 3 | 14 | 103 | 74 | 14 | 11 | 25 | 34 | 11 | 26 | 21 | 32 | 3 | 40 | 4 |

out of 55 pts possible

Definitions

- 1. Multiple Chartering Authorizers (15 points).** Does the state permit entities other than traditional school boards to create and manage charter schools independently, and does the existence of such a provision actually lead to the active practice of independent authorizing? Independent entities may include universities, independent boards, and mayors.
- 2. Equity (15 points).** Fiscal equity requires that not only are the amounts received the same, but charters receive monies from the identical streams and routes as other schools. If the law guarantees that charter schools receive money that is the same amount as and received in the same manner as traditional public schools, then they will be viewed as and treated the same as public schools in law and practice.

3. Operations (15 points). How much independence from existing state and district operational rules and procedures is codified in law and results in freedom and flexibility as intended? In the early charter laws, a provision known as the blanket waiver ensured that once opened, charter schools could set their own processes and rules for operations, while still adhering to standards, safety and civil rights requirements.

4. Number of Schools Allowed (10 points). How many charter schools are allowed to open, whether annually, in total throughout the state, or on a local level? Do the caps imposed through charter law hinder the growth and development of the charter school movement in the state? It is not enough to simply have an unlimited provision in a state law regarding the number of charters that can be approved. Virginia, Wyoming, and Delaware all, by law, allow an unlimited number of schools, but constrain growth in other ways. Restrictions are not only defined by how many schools exist—some states also restrict total enrollment and per pupil revenue to limit charter growth.

(States were able to score extra—or lose—points for accountability and other factors.)

http://www.edreform.com/Fast_Facts/Ed_Reform_FAQs/?Just_the_FAQs_Charter_Schools

NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL & ENROLLMENT STATISTICS 2009

| STATE | OPERATING IN 2008-2009 | OPEN IN 2009-2010 | APPROVED TO OPEN IN FUTURE | TOTAL OPERATING | TOTAL ENROLLMENT | LAWYER GRADE 09-10 | |
|---------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|---|
| Alaska | 26 | 1 | 0 | 27 | 5,489 | D | |
| Arkansas | 28 | 6 | 0 | 34 | 7,812 | D | |
| Colorado | 151 | 15 | 8 | 166 | 63,799 | B | |
| Delaware | 19 | 0 | 3 | 19 | 8,990 | B | |
| Florida | 375 | 38 | 12 | 413 | 131,183 | B | |
| Hawaii | 32 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 7,878 | D | C |
| Illinois | 80 | 8 | 1 | 88 | 33,400 | D | O |
| Iowa | 9 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 1,462 | F | M |
| Louisiana | 65 | 13 | 2 | 78 | 29,078 | C | I |
| Massachusetts | 63 | 2 | 1 | 65 | 25,579 | C | N |
| Minnesota | 158 | 4 | 1 | 162 | 28,371 | A | G |
| Nevada | 25 | 3 | 0 | 28 | 8,559 | C | |
| New Jersey | 65 | 7 | 1 | 72 | 20,496 | C | S |
| New York | 125 | 29 | 19 | 154 | 44,000 | B | O |
| Ohio | 323 | 15 | 0 | 338 | 94,171 | C | O |
| Oregon | 92 | 16 | 0 | 108 | 16,809 | C | N |
| Rhode Island | 11 | 2 | 0 | 13 | 3,106 | D | |
| Tennessee | 16 | 5 | 1 | 21 | 4,301 | D | |
| Utah | 68 | 8 | 6 | 76 | 30,183 | B | |
| Wisconsin | 219 | 4 | 0 | 223 | 37,432 | C | |

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Arizona | <p>Charter schools receive a per pupil allocation called "additional assistance." These monies can be used for anything from teacher salaries to transportation to facility construction. The amount of "additional assistance" is currently \$1,405 per pupil in kindergarten through grade eight and \$1,644 per pupil in grades nine through twelve. http://www.azleg.state.az.us/FormatDocument.asp?InDoc=/ars/15/00185.htm&Title=15&DocType=ARS (see B, 4)</p> |
| California | <p>A charter schools revolving loan fund allows charter schools to receive loans for as much as \$250,000, allowing up to five years for repayment. A school can use these loans for any start-up costs, including facilities. http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=edc&group=41001-42000&file=41360-41367 The charter school facilities program authorizes the State Allocation Board to provide per pupil facilities grant funding for 50% of the total project cost for new construction of charter school facilities. This program is subject to available statewide school bonds passed to support charter school facilities. Currently, no funding is available to support this program, while a backlog of almost \$2 billion of eligible charter projects exists. http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=edc&group=17001-18000&file=17078.52-17078.66 A lease aid funding program for charter schools in low-income areas provides up to \$750 per student. http://leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=edc&group=47001-48000&file=47610-47615 (See 47614.5)</p> |
| Colorado | <p>For FY 2009, \$5 million in capital construction funds have been appropriated and are provided to qualified charter schools on a per-pupil basis. See Word document entitled "CO Per-Pupil Charter Facilities Funds Statute." The legislature also provides a mechanism for limited credit enhancement for eligible, highly rated bond transactions for charter schools, by using the state's moral obligation to back up to \$400 million in debt. See Word document entitled "CO Moral Obligation for Charter Facilities Statute."</p> |
| Connecticut | <p>For the two-year budget cycle starting on July 1, 2006, the state provided \$10 million in bond financing to cover facilities costs at existing charter schools, disbursed through a competitive application process. For the two-year budget cycle starting on July 1, 2008, the state provided an additional \$10 million in bond financing to cover facilities costs at existing charter schools, disbursed through a competitive application process. http://www.cga.ct.gov/2007/pub/Chap164.htm#Sec10-66j.htm http://www.cga.ct.gov/2007/pub/Chap164.htm#Sec10-66hh.htm</p> |
| D.C. | <p>There is a per-pupil facilities aid program in D.C. The amount is based on a five year moving average of capital funds available to the school system. For Fiscal Year 2009, the allowance as calculated at \$3,109 per pupil. See Word document entitled "DC Charter Facilities Funding Statute." The City Build Charter School Initiative promotes community revitalization with a particular emphasis on strengthening public charter schools. Most of the grants from this program have been allocated for facilities and expansion projects. The Fiscal Year 2009 District of Columbia Appropriations Act includes \$3.25 million for the program. The Public Charter School Credit Enhancement Fund provides credit enhancement for the purchase, construction, and/or renovation of facilities for charter schools. The program offers guarantees or collateral pledges of up to \$3 million for two to five years. http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=browse_usc&docid=Cite:+20USC1155 (Sections 1155(e)(2)(B) and 1155(e)(3)) The District of Columbia's Direct Loan Fund for Charter School Improvement provides flexible loan capital for the construction, purchase, renovation and maintenance of charter school facilities. Loans are capped at \$2 million per school. \$4.5 million in federal appropriations was earmarked for this initiative for Fiscal Year 2009. http://government.westlaw.com/linkedslce/default.asp?rs=rvt1.0&vr=2.0&sp=dcc-1000 (Section 38-1833.02)</p> |
| Florida | <p>For FY 2009, Florida appropriated \$57 million for its per-pupil charter facilities funding</p> |

| State | Facilities Funding |
|---------------|--|
| | <p>program. http://www.flsenate.gov/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=Ch1013/Sec62.HTM</p> |
| Georgia | <p>The state has a per-pupil, needs-based capital-funding program. Approximately \$2 million was appropriated for FY 2010. See Word document entitled "GA Charter Facilities Funding Statute."</p> |
| Massachusetts | <p>Charter schools receive a per-pupil capital needs allowance as part of their per pupil tuition revenue. For Fiscal Year 2009, the per pupil capital needs component was \$893. http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/71-89.htm (See nn)</p> |
| Minnesota | <p>The state provides lease aid to charter schools in the amount of 90% of lease costs or \$1,200 per-pupil. With approval of the state department of education, charter schools may lease space from public or private nonprofit, nonsectarian organizations and from sectarian organizations. http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/stats/124D/11.html (See Subd. 4)</p> |
| New Mexico | <p>Lease payments for charter schools for FY 2010: \$700 per student. http://nmcharterschools.org/docs/charter_schools/charter_schools_act.pdf (See 22-8B-14)</p> |
| New York | <p>The Charter Schools Stimulus Fund provides discretionary financial support to charter schools for start-up costs and for costs associated with the acquisition, renovation and construction of school facilities. Grants awarded by the New York State Board of Regents are capped at \$200,000, and those awarded by the State University of New York are capped at \$350,000. \$5.5 million was appropriated for the FY 2009 school year. See Word document entitled "NY Charter Schools Stimulus Fund Statute."</p> |
| Oklahoma | <p>The charter school incentive fund provides up to \$50,000 per school to cover costs associated with renovating or remodeling existing buildings and structures for use by a charter school. See Word document entitled "OK Charter Facilities Funding Statute."</p> |
| Pennsylvania | <p>The state department of education calculates an approved reimbursable annual rental charge for leases of buildings or portions of buildings for charter school use which have been approved by the secretary of education on or after July 1, 2001. This charge is the lesser of (1) the annual rental payable under the provisions of the approved lease agreement or (2) the product of the enrollment times \$160 for elementary schools, \$220 for secondary schools or \$270 for area vocational-technical schools. See Word document entitled "PA Charter Facilities Funding Statute."</p> |
| Utah | <p>The Local Revenue Replacement Program provides an additional annual per pupil appropriation for charter schools to replace some of the local property tax revenue that traditionally covers maintenance and operation, capital projects and debt service. A minimum of 10% of the grant monies must be expended for facilities. This facilities dedication was \$143 per pupil in Fiscal Year 2009. http://le.utah.gov/~code/TITLE53A/htm/53A02032.htm The state has created a charter school revolving loan fund. This fund provides loans to charter schools for the costs of constructing, renovating, and purchasing charter school facilities. This fund is capitalized at \$6,000,000. http://www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r277/r277-487.htm</p> |



National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

Federal Charter School Programs

There are three federal programs that support public charter schools: the Charter Schools Program; the State Charter School Facilities Incentive Grant Program; and the Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities Program.

Charter Schools Program

Created in 1994, the Charter Schools Program (CSP) provides financial assistance to help cover charter school start-up costs. Through a competitive process, the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) awards grants to state education agencies (SEAs). In turn, SEAs make subgrants to charter schools. If an SEA doesn't apply for funding or if its application for funding is not approved, the DOE can make grants directly to charter school developers.

Since its creation, the CSP has received more than \$2 billion in funding. The CSP has been a tremendous success, helping create more than 4,600 public charter schools serving more than 1.4 million students in 40 states and the District of Columbia.

State Charter School Facilities Incentive Grant Program

Created via the No Child Left Behind Act, the State Charter School Facilities Incentive Grant Program provides federal funds on a competitive basis to states to help cover charter school facility costs. The program is intended to encourage states to develop and expand per-pupil facilities aid programs and to share in the costs associated with charter schools facilities funding.

Over the past seven years, the program has received over \$90 million in funding and has leveraged over \$1 billion dollars on the behalf of charter schools, serving over 472 schools (as of 2008). With those funds, it has made grants to four jurisdictions: California, the District of Columbia, Minnesota, and Utah.

Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities Program

The Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities Program provides grants on a competitive basis to public and nonprofit entities that enhance the ability of public charter schools to raise private capital to acquire, construct, renovate, or lease academic facilities. On behalf of charter schools, grantees use the monies to guarantee loans, reduce interest rates, and encourage other lenders to participate in charter facilities lending.

Since 2002, the program has received over \$213 million in funding helping over 265 charter schools finance facilities. It has done an exceptional job of using those funds to leverage private investment in charter facilities. In fact, more than \$8 private sector dollars have been raised for every \$1 dollar in federal funds.

Sponsored by: Assemblymember Colver
Adopted: 12/15/09

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 09-123**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY
SUPPORTING CHANGES IN STATE LAW TO ALLOW CHARTER SCHOOLS IN
ALASKA TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL FACILITY GRANTS.

WHEREAS, Alaska has many successful charter schools
excelling in academics; and

WHEREAS, charter schools in Alaska have not been able to
apply for Federal grants to provide for charter school
classrooms and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the limit on the number of charter schools in
Alaska needs to be repealed to be eligible to apply for Federal
grants; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska needs to establish a matching
fund with a minimal amount of funding per pupil to be eligible
to apply for Federal charter school facility grants; and


WHEREAS, a matching fund will have a minimal fiscal impact;

WHEREAS, without the charter schools in the Mat-Su School
District, the District would not have adequate space to house
all of the students; and


WHEREAS, the Matanuska Susitna Borough Assembly supports
legislation to change state law to allow Alaskan charter schools
to comply with federal requirements to apply for facility grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly respectfully requests of Governor Parnell and the Alaska State Legislature a change in State law allowing charter schools in Alaska to apply for federal facility grants.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 15 day of December, 2009.


TALIS J. COLBERG, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE MCKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Woods, Houston, Arvin, Ewing, Bettine, Colver, and Halter.



Partnership for Alaska Charter Schools

Dear Education Committee,

I ask for your support of SB 235. Charter schools throughout Alaska offer families a choice in public school education. While charter schools differ from one to the other, from curriculum to immersion in different languages, we all share a common issue: facilities. SB 235 offers solutions to our facility issues because it will provide an avenue for eligibility in federal charter school facility grants. Alaska charter schools are currently eliminated from consideration for federal charter school facility grants due to the current language in the law. The new language in SB 235 that removes the caps and allows a per pupil facility allotment would allow Alaska charter schools to compete nationally for the numerous federal charter school grants.

Generally, charter schools are relegated to leasing their facilities. Often times, our charter schools use their Basic Needs funds allocated by the state for use with students to pay for their leased facilities. When charter schools can start participating in federal facility grants, the money intended for the students can go to the students. The new language of SB 235 removes the road blocks and allows the State of Alaska to pursue other avenues of federal funding to provide facilities to charter schools.

Everyone wins with the new language of SB 235. These changes in the charter school law rates high on federal grading rubrics thereby allowing for higher scores for other School District's projects. So, not only will charter schools benefit, but Alaska's local School Districts will have a higher success in seeking federal grants for traditional public schools. The language of SB 235 also creates a funding stream for new charter schools allowing for eligibility for federal start up grants. Currently, new charter schools do not receive any additional funding to open their doors. SB 235 would meet criteria for \$400,000 of federal grant start up money.

On behalf of the members of Partnership for Alaskan Charter Schools, we support SB 235. It's essential for the growth and success of Alaska's charter schools. It's good for Alaska.

Sincerely,

Loretta Nardi
Partnership for Alaskan Charter Schools (PACS)
President



Academy Charter School Advisory Board
Palmer, Alaska

A Resolution from Academy Charter School's Advisory Board Supporting new Alaska State Charter School Law ↻ Sec. 14.03.250. Establishment of charter schools to eliminate caps on the number of charter schools allowed and to include language for a per pupil allotment for facility funding.

WHEREAS, the Academy Charter School Advisory Board invites support of changing Alaska State Law and

WHEREAS, removing language from the state law that limits the number of charter schools allowed in the state.

WHEREAS, charter schools give opportunities outside of traditional public schools for innovative programs to be implemented; and

WHEREAS, charter schools gain momentum and interest to meet the needs of the children of the community; and

WHEREAS, removing caps limiting the number of charter schools will allow the state of Alaska to pursue other avenues for federal funding not previously allowed due to limits.

WHEREAS adding per-pupil facility funding for charter schools,

WHEREAS, recognizing charter schools operate using funds allocated for use with students to pay for facilities,

WHEREAS, Charter schools allotted a per pupil facility fund gives economic relief by bringing a great dollar amount to the school allowing for adequate funding for students,

WHEREAS, adding an allotment for per pupil facility funding will allow the state of Alaska to pursue other avenues for federal funding not previously allowed due to lack of language.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Advisory Board of Academy Charter School, supports changing ↻ Sec. 14.03.250. Establishment of charter schools to remove caps on charter schools and adds state mandated per pupil facility funding.



David Dahms, Advisory Board President



Loretta Nardi, Advisory Board Secretary



Thunderbird Early College Charter School, Inc.

A Resolution from Thunderbird Early College Charter School, Inc, APC Directors, supporting new Alaska State Charter School Law Sec. 14.03.250.

WHEREAS, Thunderbird Early College Charter School, Inc. was organized as a nonprofit entity in 2008, to establish, develop, and oversee a Grade 5-12 public early college charter school in compliance with a five year contract with Matanuska Susitna Borough School District and the State of Alaska, proposing to open for the 2011-2012 School Year;

NOTING THAT, charter schools are nonsectarian public schools of choice that operate with freedom from many of the regulations that apply to traditional public schools. The "charter" establishing each such school is a performance contract detailing the school's mission, program, goals, students served, methods of assessment, and ways to measure success;

FURTHER NOTING, charter schools are accountable to their sponsor, usually a state and local school board, to produce positive academic results and adhere to the charter contract ;

FURTHER NOTING, the basic concept of charter schools is that they exercise increased autonomy in return for this accountability and they are accountable for both academic results and fiscal practices to several groups: the sponsor that grants them, the parents who choose them, and the public that funds them;

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION, that charter schools increase new opportunities for learning and quality education for all students; they are established for a variety of reasons and have many benefits; they create choice for parents and students within the public school system; they provide a system of accountability for results in public education; they encourage innovative teaching practices; they create new professional opportunities for teachers and encourage community and parent involvement in public education;

WHEREAS, Thunderbird Early College Charter School, Inc., APC Directors support the changing of Alaska State Law and removing caps limiting the number of charter schools as it will allow the state of Alaska to pursue other avenues for federal funding not previously allowed due to limits;

NOTING WITH REGRET, that charter schools in our state currently operate using funds allocated for use with students to pay for facilities;

APPROVING, that if Charter schools are allotted a per pupil facility fund it provides economic relief by bringing a great dollar amount to the school allowing for adequate funding for students;

FURTHER APPROVING, that by adding an allotment for per pupil facility funding the state of Alaska will be able to pursue other avenues for federal funding not previously allowed due to lack of language;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Thunderbird Early College Charter School, Inc. APC Directors,

1. Support the changing Sec. 14.03.250. Establishment of charter schools, by removing language from the state law that limits the number of charter schools allowed in the state and adding language requiring state mandated per pupil facility funding.

electronic signatures on file _____

Anna Wilbur Roys, President

Heather Pelletier, Treasurer

Jomo Stewart

From: Josh Applebee
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 8:28 AM
To: Jomo Stewart
Subject: FW: SB 235, please add to public testimony for Feb. 8th

-----Original Message-----

From: Roger & Contessa Gossett [mailto:messa@gci.net]
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 8:33 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: Re: SB 235, please add to public testimony for Feb. 8th

Dear Senator Meyer, we am writing you regarding SB 235 that is being considered.

Alaska Charter Schools are currently eliminated from consideration for federal charter school facility grants due to caps on the number of charter schools and no language for per pupil facility funding.

The new language proposed in SB 235 will remove the caps and allow a per pupil facility allotment. With that new language, Alaska charter schools will be able to compete nationally for the numerous federal facility grants that are available to charter schools.

Please consider these proposed changes. This will remove the road bloaks and allow the State of Alaska to pursue other avenues of federal funding.

In addition, this new language will open the door to eligibility in 90/10 splits where the federal government would pay 90 % of the costs for facilities for charter schools.

As parents of a charter school 5th grader, we respectfully request that SB 235 be considered.

Thank you, Roger and Contessa Gossett, Palmer, Alaska

Jomo Stewart

From: Josh Applebee
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 7:21 AM
To: Jomo Stewart
Subject: FW: SB 235

From: Kim & Brent Taylor [mailto:taylorkb@gci.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2010 6:02 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: SB 235

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter to ask for your support of SB 235. As a parent of two charter school children, I can attest to the need for better facilities. I believe investing in successful educational programs benefits us all.

Sincerely,

Brent Taylor

Jomo Stewart

From: Josh Applebee
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 7:23 AM
To: Jomo Stewart
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 235

-----Original Message-----

From: clph28@gci.net [mailto:clph28@gci.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2010 9:42 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: Senate Bill 235

Greetings Senator Meyer,

I am writing to you in support of Senate Bill 235 and beneficial charter school legislation. Currently, starting and running a charter school in Alaska is a very challenging task with the limited funding available from school districts and other government agencies.

Charter schools need access to state and federal financial support and start up grants, which will be instrumental in the growth and sustenance of healthy charter school options. Charter schools provide a unique educational format and/or curriculum, allowing students and their families a choice in the scope of their education. The roadblocks for charter school education need to be removed. Our public education system should encourage new models to reach the greatest number of students with quality education that meets student needs as well as public demand.

I urge you to pass this Bill and show the state and the country that we all can benefit from charter schools as a part of our public education system. Without the ability to use the money that is out there for this purpose, charter schools now in existence, are not able to operate to their fullest potentials. In addition, it is much more difficult for new charter schools to begin.

Thank you for your careful consideration of the positive impact this Bill can have.
Sincerely,

Alysia Loughlin-Bushey
Wasilla, Alaska

Please include this letter in the public testimony packet. Thank you.

Jomo Stewart

From: Josh Applebee
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 7:25 AM
To: Jomo Stewart
Subject: FW: SB 235
Attachments: image001.gif

From: Ryan and Erin [mailto:eleaders@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2010 11:12 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: SB 235

Senator Meyer,

I would like to request my name be added to the Public Testimony packet in support of SB 235.

Regards,

Erin Leaders
eleaders@mtaonline.net

From: Nancy Hiney [mailto:hineynancy@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 6:38 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: Senate Bill 235

Dear Kevin

I apologize for not having researched your position on this bill. I am a teacher who works for Family Partnership and was informed recently about this bill. I believe that the benefits of passing this bill will allow ASD to apply for federal money which will directly benefit those of us who work for homeschooled students. As you may or may not know the face of homeschooled students is vast. It is often the traditional stay at home mom but more often than we would like, it is a child who really likes regular school but because they had a broken leg or the H1N1 virus and missed two months of school can no go to school because they are too far behind and are brought home to catch up for the year. Sometimes bringing these students together for a small class can be a life-saver for them. This is just one example of why being able to access facilities would be helpful for our school.

Thanks.

Nancy Hiney
522-2838

Jomo Stewart

From: Josh Applebee
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2010 12:54 PM
To: Jomo Stewart
Subject: FW: In support of SB 235

From: Monica G. [mailto:wisdomak@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2010 12:54 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: In support of SB 235

Dear Sirs:

My name is Monica Gilpin of Wasilla and I am in support of SB235. Charter schools are critical in providing exceptional educational opportunities to the public at large. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Hotmail: Powerful Free email with security by Microsoft. [Get it now.](#)

Jomo Stewart

From: rustyandliz@gci.net on behalf of rustyandliz [rustyandliz@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 12:35 AM
To: Jomo Stewart
Subject: Expediting SB 235

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I would greatly appreciate your help in expediting SB 235 passage through the committees and on to final approval.

Please put this attached letter in the file as public testimony.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth D. Thatcher

Dear Senators and Representatives,

February 3, 2010

I am the Father of two charter school students. Charter Schools provide an important parent choice option in public school education! The education my children are receiving is very impressive. After 13 years, the majority of Academy's students still attend class in old, worn out portables. I would greatly appreciate your help in expediting SB 235 passage through the committees and on to final approval. Successful passage of SB 235 will give Alaska charter schools a chance to compete for grants to obtain funding for a permanent facility.

Thank you for your support and assistance.

Please put this in the file as public testimony.

Sincerely,

Russell R. Thatcher

Russell R. Thatcher
1950 N. Spruce Dr.
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Jomo Stewart

From: Josh Applebee
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 2:29 PM
To: Jomo Stewart
Subject: FW: SB 235
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.gif

From: Heather R.S. Oberholtzer [mailto:heather@crystalcreeklodge.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 1:33 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: SB 235

Hello Senator Meyer,

I am writing to you today to state my support for SB 235. Currently, charter schools in Alaska use their Basic Needs funds allocated by the state for use with students to pay for leased facilities. When charter schools start participating in federal facility grants, the money intended for the students can go to the students.

Federal Facility grants were created for this reason.

Please take my voice into consideration when you vote.
Thank you.


Heather Oberholtzer
Palmer, Alaska

Sincerely,

Heather R. S. Oberholtzer
Guest Relations Manager
907.357.3153

Please save my new email address to your Address Book and Spam filter
heather@crystalcreeklodge.com



 If you are actively reducing your environmental footprint, we are happy to send all invoices, receipts, brochures, and trip information electronically.

Jomo Stewart

From: Josh Applebee
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 12:45 PM
To: Jomo Stewart
Subject: FW: Please support SB 235

-----Original Message-----

From: Lisa Leeper [mailto:lleeper@nomeschools.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 11:33 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: Please support SB 235

Dear Senator Meyer,

I am a teacher at Anvil City Science Academy. Our school is over ten years old and is offering a unique program for 5th through 8th grade students. The program is project based learning with an emphasis in math and science. It is proven that we have helped most students increase their scores in all areas on the Standards Based Assessments.

Our school is housed in facility that needs major upgrades. We've been provided spare space, but we have a vision of building our own school to better fit our basic needs. We do not have the funds to build or relocate, but federal assistance could change this.

Please support SB235 so that we may be eligible to access federal grants for charter schools. In addition, having new charter schools throughout the state is good for kids. More options means more kids will succeed in school.

Thank you for considering my request and for your dedicated service, Lisa Leeper Teacher, Anvil City Science Academy



Anvil City Science Academy

Nome, Alaska

Senator Meyer,

On behalf of the Anvil City Science Academy's Academic Policy Committee, I would like to express our thanks for your support for SB 57 during the last legislative session. At this time, we would request your support for the passage of SB 235. Currently, charter schools all over Alaska are using a substantial portion of their funding from the student based allocation to pay for the facilities they use, since they are unable to compete for federal grants due to the cap on the number of charter schools that can operate in Alaska. SB 235 would eliminate this restriction, allowing charter schools to compete for the grants, thus getting more dollars into the classroom.

The Charter School Act has allowed parents, community members, and teachers to take the lead in developing unique educational programs and to be involved in the decision making for school policies. The result of which is a flexible education process, which provides for the needs of students and parents alike. Charter schools can create a distinctive school culture in which everyone takes ownership in the program.

Anvil City Science Academy was created twelve years ago by parents, teachers, and community members interested in a family oriented school characterized by high academic standards and a well-rounded curriculum, with an emphasis in science and math. In that time, ACSA has been able to meet the needs of its fifth through eighth grade students who come to the program with a wide variety of backgrounds, learning styles, experiences, and needs.

ACSA is currently housed in a building, which is over forty years old. The building has a roof that leaks and has past issues with Radon. If we chose to remodel, asbestos abatement could be an issue. Passage of SB 235 would allow our APC to pursue federal dollars to help finance the construction of a safe, new, permanent facility, a benefit to the students and families we serve.

In a small community such as Nome, a program such as ACSA is valuable resource to the city by providing an alternative education program. A safe, new, permanent facility would be a guarantee that our dedicated staff and parent volunteers would be able to continue serving the community of Nome for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter,

Todd Hindman, Lead Teacher
Anvil City Science Academy
Nome, Alaska

Jomo Stewart

From: Josh Applebee
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 9:40 AM
To: Jomo Stewart
Subject: FW: support of SB 235

-----Original Message-----

From: Greg Miller [mailto:Greg.Miller@matsuk12.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 9:35 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: support of SB 235

Senator Meyer,

I wanted to convey my support for SB 235.....an important step in securing charter school facilities for our students. Because Districts do not provide funding or facilities, most of our charter schools must lease. At Twindly Bridge Charter School we lease an old strip mall with nine separate exit doors for our students., not the best environment for teaching our kids. Also, the fact that we lease means we will never have our own building....and that lease money from our budget always goes to a landlord instead of our students' education.

Thanks for your support of this bill.
Greg Miller
Palmer, Alaska

Jomo Stewart

From: Josh Applebee
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 9:39 AM
To: Jomo Stewart
Subject: FW: I support SB 235

-----Original Message-----

From: Janigo_Melissa [mailto:janigo_melissa@asdk12.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 9:25 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: I support SB 235

Dear Senator Meyer,

My name is Melissa Janigo, I live in Anchorage and I am one of the four founders of Winterberry Charter School. I am writing to you to pledge my support of SB 235. Winterberry Charter School is currently in its fifth year. The birth and growth of Winterberry has been a very difficult but worthwhile endeavor, it's success is due to the devotion and hard work of many volunteer parents and teachers. Our biggest challenge has been, and continues to be in finding and funding adequate space to house our school. We are currently outgrowing our space and are having great difficulty in finding an adequate facility that is affordable and does not compromise the integrity of our educational program. I believe SB 235 is a step forward in supporting the success of Charter Schools. Please add my pledge of support to the public testimony.

Sincerely,
Melissa Janigo
Founder and Board Chair of
Winterberry Charter School
Anchorage, Alaska

Jomo Stewart

From: Josh Applebee
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 3:49 PM
To: Jomo Stewart
Subject: FW: SB 235

From: Tom Adams [mailto:tomisty@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 2:49 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: SB 235

Dear Senator Meyer,

As a registered voter, and parent of two children who have attended a Charter school from k-8th grade and one child who will attend a Charter school in two years, I am writing to you asking that you work hard to push through SB235. This is a huge opportunity for Alaska Charter Schools that have proven to be successful an avenue to secure a permanent facility at minimal cost to the state. While my first two children received an excellent educational opportunity, I can only imagine what it could be like if our school no longer had to worry about maintaining a poor facility and focus only on education. I appreciate your support.

Misty Adams

Jomo Stewart

From: Lanissa Grogan [lilsu@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 2:49 PM
To: Jomo Stewart
Subject: SB235

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I am a parent of 3 charter school students. Charter Schools provide an important parent choice option in public school education! After 13 years, the majority of Academy's students still attend class in old, worn out portables. I would greatly appreciate your help in expediting SB 235 passage through the committees and on to final approval. Successful passage of SB 235 will give Alaska charter schools a chance to compete for grants to obtain funding for a permanent facility.

Thank you for your support and assistance.

Please put this in the file as public testimony.

Sincerely,

Rob and Lanissa Grogan
961 E McAdoo Way
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Jomo Stewart

From: Dawn Robinson [Dawn.Robinson@matsuk12.us]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 2:16 PM
To: Jomo Stewart

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I am a parent of a charter school student. My daughter Claire has attended Academy Charter school for 3 years now. Charter Schools provide an important parent choice option in public school education! After 13 years, the majority of Academy's students still attend class in old, worn out portables. I would greatly appreciate your help in expediting SB 235 passage through the committees and on to final approval. Successful passage of SB 235 will give Alaska charter schools a chance to compete for grants to obtain funding for a permanent facility. They have done a wonderful job in getting a gym and main building but it sure would be nice for my 2nd grade daughter to be walking in the halls of a real school instead of running from portable to portable in all kinds of weather.

Thank you for your support and assistance.

Please put this in the file as public testimony.

Sincerely,

Dawn Robinson
1100 W. Granville St.
Palmer, AK 99645
907-746-3430

Jomo Stewart

From: Donna Button [donna@travelservicesinc.com]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 1:45 PM
To: Jomo Stewart
Subject: SB 235

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I am a parent of a charter school student, for 12 years. Charter Schools provide an important parent choice option in public school education! After 13 years, the majority of Academy's students still attend class in old, worn out portables. I would greatly appreciate your help in expediting SB 235 passage through the committees and on to final approval. Successful passage of SB 235 will give Alaska charter schools a chance to compete for grants to obtain funding for a permanent facility.

Thank you for your support and assistance.

Please put this in the file as public testimony.

Sincerely,

Donna Button

POBox 1892

Palmer, AK 99645

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Jomo Stewart

From: lorettanardi@gci.net on behalf of Loretta Nardi [lorettanardi@gci.net]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 1:30 PM
To: Murray Richmond; Jomo Stewart
Subject: Support SB 235 Public Testimony

To: Senate Education Committee
Re: SB 235
Note: Please add to the Public Testimony Packet

Dear Senator Meyers and Senator Thomas,

My children attend a k-8 charter school in Palmer. My daughter graduated from 8th grade after attending Academy Charter School since kindergarten. My youngest son just started at Academy in the fall. His class room is the same old temporary portable class room that was my daughter's old temporary portable class room in the fall of 2000. This is the case for all the grades at Academy Charter School. My husband and I drive our children almost 15 miles to school each day where they attend class in old temporary portable class rooms. We do this because we love the education that our children receive.

SB 235 will answer our prayers. SB 235 would enable Alaska charter schools to be eligible for federal charter school facility grants for the first time in 13 years, since Alaska first allowed charter schools. Changing the language of the current Alaska Charter School Law and adopting SB 235 will open doors to a funding stream of federal grants that were previously closed to us.

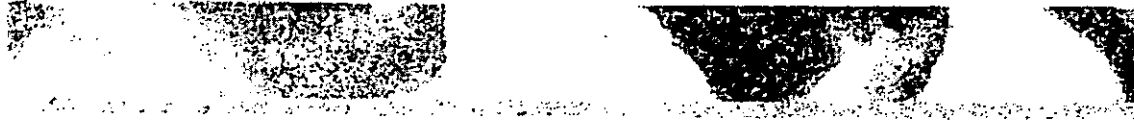
I urge your support for SB 235 so our state can pursue federal charter school facility grants that will give my kindergartner the chance to attend classes in a real school with inside doors and hallways.

Thank you,

Loretta Nardi
Palmer, Alaska
907-373-6032

Jomo Stewart

From: Tracy Adams [tadams@mta-telco.com]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 1:17 PM
To: Jomo Stewart
Subject: SB 235
Attachments: image002.gif; image001.gif



Dear Senators and Representatives,

I am a parent of a charter school student. Charter Schools provide an important parent choice option in public school education! After 13 years, the majority of Academy's students still attend class in old, worn out portables. I would greatly appreciate your help in expediting SB 235 passage through the committees and on to final approval. Successful passage of SB 235 will give Alaska charter schools a chance to compete for grants to obtain funding for a permanent facility.

Thank you for your support and assistance.

Please put this in the file as public testimony.

Sincerely,

Tracy Adams
1750 E Scotwood Dr
Wasilla, AK 99654
(907)841-1345

Jomo Stewart

From: Harmon_Jennifer [harmon_jennifer@asdk12.org]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 11:54 AM
To: Jomo Stewart
Subject: SB 235

Dear Representative Cissna,

I am one of your constituents in Anchorage. Thank you for your service! I am a teacher at a local charter school, and I am writing in regards to SB 235.

I am so excited to see that the charter school bill, SB 235, has been calendared in the Senate. I would greatly appreciate your help in facilitating something similar from the House. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Harmon (teacher, Winterberry Charter School)

Jomo Stewart

From: Josh Applebee
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 10:16 AM
To: Jomo Stewart
Subject: FW: SB 235

-----Original Message-----

From: Mall_Shanna [mailto:Mall_Shanna@asdk12.org]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 10:12 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: SB 235

Dear Senator Meyer,

Please support SB 235. Charter School's greatest challenge is finding and maintaining safe, viable facilities. Please be a strong voice in Juneau helping to lead the way in passage of this charter school bill. I greatly appreciate your help in this matter.

The State of Alaska is currently ranked 34 out of 40 states in its interpretation and practice of National Charter Law. It is within your power to assure that our great State becomes a forerunner in charter school legislation.

Sincerely,

Shanna Mall

Principal
Winterberry Charter School
508 W 2nd Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
907.301.1201

"I hope it will be said we taught them to stand tall and proud, even in the face of history and the future was made whole for us all,
one child at a time" -Brian Andreas

Jomo Stewart

From: Josh Applebee
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 8:17 AM
To: Jomo Stewart
Subject: FW: Support of SB235

-----Original Message-----

From: Joe Kennedy [mailto:kennedyfish@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2010 7:20 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: Support of SB235

Dear Senator Meyer: I am writing in support of proposed SB235. I am the parent of three elementary-school age children attending school in Nome, Alaska. One child attends a public charter school and the other two will follow in the near future. I am in favor of eliminating the caps on the number of charter schools allowed in the state of Alaska and a state appropriation to be allotted for charter school facilities. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you. Sincerely, Paula Kennedy, PO Box 1128, Nome, AK 99762.

Jomo Stewart

From: Kern, Dean [Dean.Kern@ed.gov]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 10:34 AM
To: barbara.gerard@matsuk12.us
Subject: Charter Facilities Programs

Hi Barbara,

It was great talking with you today. Information about the State Charter School Facilities Incentive grant program can be found at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/statecharter/index.html>. As you are aware, States that have enacted a state law authorizing per-pupil facilities aid for charter schools may apply. The program provides grants to eligible states to help them establish or enhance, and administer, per-pupil facilities aid programs for charter schools. States eligible for these grants are those with per-pupil aid programs to assist charter schools with their school facility costs. Federal funds are used to match programs funded with nonfederal dollars that make payments, on a per-pupil basis, to provide charter schools with facilities financing.

Priority is given to states that meet the criteria in section 5202(e) which include states that provide for a periodic review and evaluation by the authorized public chartering agency, at least once every 5 years and do all of the following: demonstrate progress in increasing the number of high-quality charter schools; provide for an authorized public chartering agency that is not a local educational agency or, if local educational agencies are the only authorized public chartering agencies, allow for an appeals process; and ensure that charter schools have a high degree of autonomy over the charter school's budget and expenditures.

This program is a five-year program and conducted a competition during FY09 for a new five-year cohort. The next competition is not scheduled until FY13.

State and local officials have the responsibility for determining per pupil funding and facilities funding formulas and the administration of these programs. We strongly encourage all states to provide equitable facilities funding and participation for all students attending public schools, including public charter schools, for purposes of construction, modernization, renovation, or repair of public schools.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or need further assistance.

Dean Kern
Director, Office of Charter Schools Program
Office of Innovation and Improvement
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave., SW
LBJ-4W231
Washington, D.C. 20202



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Purpose

CFDA Number: 84.282
Program Type: Discretionary/Competitive Grants
Also Known As: Charter Schools, Public Charter Schools Program, CSP

ED PROGRAMS

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A Commitment to Quality National Charter School Policy Forum Report PDF (1.28MB)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program provides financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools, and the dissemination of information on charter schools. Grants are available, on a competitive basis, to SEAs in states that have charter school laws; SEAs in turn make subgrants to developers of charter schools who have applied for a charter. If an eligible SEA elects not to participate or if its application for funding is not approved, the Department can make grants directly to charter school developers.

TYPES OF PROJECTS

An eligible applicant that receives a grant or subgrant may use the funds only for post-award planning and design of the education program of a charter school. It may carry out such activities as the refinement of the desired education results, the refinement of the methods for measuring progress toward achieving those results, and the initial implementation of the charter school. Implementation may include informing the community about the charter school and acquiring necessary equipment, materials, and supplies. Other eligible operational costs that cannot be met by state and local sources also may be covered. A state may reserve up to 10 percent of its allocation to support eligible charter schools for dissemination activities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Public Charter Schools Program supports the planning, development, and initial implementation of charter schools. Charter schools provide enhanced parental choice and are exempt from many statutory and regulatory requirements. In exchange for increased flexibility, charter schools are held accountable for improving student academic achievement. The objective is to replace rules-based governance with performance-based accountability, thereby stimulating the creativity and commitment of teachers, parents, and citizens.

States--and specifically their State educational Agencies (SEAs)-- are eligible to compete for grants if they have a charter school law in place. If an eligible SEA does not participate, charter schools from the State may apply directly to the U.S. Department of Education. Grantees receive up to 3 years of assistance, of which the charter school may use not more than 18 months for planning and program design and not more than 2 years for the initial implementation of a charter school.

In awarding grants, the Department must give preference to States that have multiple chartering agencies (or an appeals process for prospective charter schools that initially fail to be approved by a single agency), that ensure accountability of public charter schools for reaching clear and measurable objectives, and that give public charter schools a high degree of autonomy over their budgets and expenditures.

In addition, States may reserve up to 10 percent of their grant for dissemination sub-grants to spread lessons learned from high-quality charter schools with a demonstrated history of success to other public schools, including other public charter schools, about how to create and sustain high-quality, accountable schools.

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Eligibility

Who May Apply: (by category) State Education Agencies

Who May Apply: (specifically) SEAs in states with a state statute specifically authorizing the establishment of charter schools may apply. After SEAs receive awards, they make competitive grants to charter schools. If an eligible SEA chooses not to compete for PCSP funding, then charter schools in that state may apply directly to the secretary.

(a) State educational agencies (SEAs) in States with a specific State statute authorizing the establishment of charter schools may apply for funding. The Secretary awards grants to SEAs to enable them to conduct charter school programs in their States. SEAs use their PCSP funds to award sub-grants to "eligible applicants," as defined in this notice, for planning, program design, and initial implementation of a charter school; and to support the dissemination of information about, including successful practices in, charter schools. A charter school may apply to an SEA for funds to carry out dissemination activities, whether or not the charter school has applied for or received funds under the PCSP for planning or implementation, if the charter school has been in operation for at least three consecutive years and has demonstrated overall success, including--

1. Substantial progress in improving students achievement;
2. High levels of parent satisfaction; and
3. The management and leadership necessary to overcome initial start-up problems and establish a thriving, financially viable charter school.

(b) Non-SEA eligible applicants may apply for funding directly from the U.S. Department of Education (Department) if the SEA in the State elects not to participate in the PCSP or does not have an application approved under the program. An "eligible applicant" is defined as a developer that has applied to an authorized public chartering authority to operate a charter school and has provided to that authority adequate and timely notice, and a copy of its PCSP application, except that the Secretary or the SEA may waive these requirements in the case of a pre-charter planning grant. If an SEA's application is approved in this competition, applications received from non-SEA eligible applicants in that State will be returned to the applicants. In such a case, the non-SEA eligible applicant should contact the SEA for information related to the State's subgrant competition.

Note: The Department plans to hold separate competitions for non-SEA eligible applicants under CFDA # 84.282B and # 84.282C.

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Awards

Number of New Awards Anticipated

4-6 for SEAs; 50-75 for others.

Average Award

\$3,000,000 for SEAs; \$150,000 for others.

Range of Awards

\$500,000 - \$8,000,000 for SEAs; \$10,000 - \$150,000 for others.

STATES WITH CURRENT APPROVED APPLICATIONS

The following States currently have approved applications under this program:

- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Louisiana
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Nevada
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Rhode Island
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Wisconsin

Charter schools and charter school planning groups in these states may not apply directly to the U.S. Department of Education for funds, but must apply to the SEA in their state.

EXAMPLES OF FUNDED PROGRAM ABSTRACTS

These abstracts are taken from the grant applications submitted to the U.S. Department of Education in 2002.

State Education Agencies

New Jersey--New Jersey's Charter School Program Act of 1995 became the nation's twentieth charter school law, thereby stimulating development of an important model for innovation in the State's system of public education. As amended in November 2000, the Charter School Program Act has enabled a flourishing charter school movement to take hold in New Jersey by providing a balance of flexibility, autonomy, and accountability. The number of charter schools in the state has grown from 13 in the first cohort to 50 charter schools currently in operation, serving nearly 13,000 students. Six additional charter schools are scheduled to open in September 2002. Forty of these 56 schools, or 71 percent of New Jersey's charter schools are located in the poorest urban districts in the state and provide service to educationally disadvantaged students. Forty-eight percent of all students in charter schools meet the definition of economically disadvantaged (eligible for free lunch). This percentage is equal to the percentage of students who are economically disadvantaged in the districts in which they are located, and is significantly higher than in New Jersey's traditional public schools. Charter schools serve predominantly minority students. Overall, minority students account for 89 percent of the students in the 50 operating schools.

The New Jersey Charter Schools Grant Program seeks to promote high student academic achievement and attainment of New Jersey's Core Curriculum Content Standards through the design and implementation of viable new charter schools, and the dissemination of successful charter school practices and innovations that show promise of effecting broader reforms in our traditional system of public education. The goals of this grant program parallel the state's overall objectives for the charter school initiative:

- To improve student learning and achievement;
- To increase the availability of choice to parents and students when selecting a learning environment;
- To establish a new system of accountability for schools; to make the school the unit for educational improvement;
- To establish new professional opportunities for teachers and school leaders.

Assessing the achievement of the objectives of the charter school grant program is closely aligned with evaluating the success of our charter school initiative as a whole. Specific assessment tools have been developed for both programs: required quarterly program and fiscal reports and on-site monitoring to track achievement of charter school grant program objectives; and a three-phase evaluation procedure consisting of the Annual Report, Program Review, and Renewal Process for tracking the success and viability of operating charter schools.

New Jersey's charter school program has a proven track record of success beginning with the first cohort of schools that commenced operations in the 1997-98 school year. The New Jersey Charter School Grant Program, by supporting the planning and implementation of new charter schools, has significantly contributed to this success. Going forward, the New Jersey Department of Education anticipates improved results based on refinement of programs as we incorporate lessons learned in the first six years of the charter school initiative.

New Jersey Charter School Grant Program awards will be made in two categories: Planning and Implementation Grants targeted to new charter schools; and Dissemination Grants, aimed at assisting "veteran" charter schools in adapting and sharing their successful programs with other schools, and enabling the dissemination of information about the charter school. The New Jersey Department of Education anticipates providing assistance to an estimated 30-35 new charter schools over the next 3 years through the New Jersey Charter Schools Grant Program. Dissemination grants are expected to become an increasingly important component of New Jersey's charter school initiative, and are projected at 6 grants per year over the next 3 years. The Office of Innovative Programs and Schools, Charter School Unit, is dedicated to providing administrative oversight of the charter school grant program to ensure that objectives are achieved in a timely and efficient manner.

Wisconsin--Wisconsin has 101 operating charter schools and anticipates an increase of 40 percent by the year 2005. Wisconsin Charter School growth is the result of a strong and flexible Wisconsin charter school law and the Wisconsin Charter School Program (WCSP) subgrant awards for planning, start up, implementation, and dissemination activities. Our charter schools are exempt from most state regulations. There is no limit on the number of schools to be chartered, the chartering authority and planners are given great flexibility in designing the schools, and our state law has recently expanded chartering authority. No state approval is required. However, an appeal process for denied charters is in place for a portion of our state. Our law works in concert with federal charter school statutes. The WCSP Dissemination grant program that was begun in 1999-2000, has enhanced the growth of and interest in charter schools by sharing best practices and by providing innovative models and ideas for charter school planners and developers.

The Wisconsin Charter School Program is aligned to our state content standards, the state accountability system and our state plan. The New Wisconsin Promise, which promotes early learning opportunities, educator quality, career and technology education, increased parent and community involvement, and building reading skills to close the achievement gap for minorities, children in poverty, and other children at-risk of school failure. The goals of this project are to increase the number of high quality charter schools, increase the availability of and access to resources and expertise for operators, planners and authorizers, and to award planning subgrants to groups establishing strong, innovative charter schools which support state priorities; by awarding implementation subgrants to new charter schools, and by expanding our dissemination program to share best and promising practices.

Local Education Agency

Avondale Learning, located in the suburbs of Maricopa County west of Phoenix, is a college preparatory high school for 150 students of all backgrounds and learning abilities in grades 9-12. It is based on a program the charter holder created and led for three years for a Phoenix-based charter school. Under this program, upper class students successfully attended nearby community colleges and did exceptionally well on the state's writing test Avondale Learning is a Local Educational Agency according to Arizona State law.

Avondale Learning features instruction that is student-centered. Extended lectures and worksheets are discouraged; rather, students do various projects, many of which are interdisciplinary. Required courses include four years each of English and Social Studies and three years each of Math and Science. Also, students take the sequences of career and Life Success, Leadership, and Internship courses. Leadership includes two hours minimum per week of community service, and Internship enables students to practice professional skills in a paid or nonpaid off-campus job. Students also study speech, fine arts, technology, a second language, and College Prep. College Prep improves reading comprehension and vocabulary, reduces the unknown about college life, and prepares students for standardized tests.

The mission of Avondale Learning is to help students prepare for postsecondary education and entry into careers. Our

goals are to have a strong instructional focus for all students; help establish a positive school climate; meet individual student needs; offer ongoing, relevant staff development, vary school assessment, and encourage strong parental involvement. Being accredited by North Central Association is a priority.

Juniors and seniors are encouraged to take one course each semester at nearby community colleges. Advisors and instructors from the colleges will visit our campus to ease the students' way into the college environment. Our school will provide tuition reimbursement and set the calendar to accommodate the colleges' schedule of classes.

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Last Modified: 08/29/2006



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Funding Status

2009

Appropriation: \$216,031,000
Number of New Awards Anticipated: 6-10 for SEAs; 20-25 for non-SEAs
Average New Award: \$5,000,000 for SEAs; \$150,000 for non-SEAs
Range of New Awards: \$500,000-\$10,000,000 for SEAs; \$10,000-\$150,000 for non-SEAs
Number of Continuation Awards: 41
Average Continuation Award: \$5,410,000 for SEAs; \$137,342 for non-SEAs

2008

Appropriation: \$190,000,000
Number of New Awards Anticipated: 10-12 for SEAs; 20-25 for non-SEAs
Average New Award: \$5,000,000 for SEAs; \$150,000 for non-SEAs
Range of New Awards: \$500,000-\$20,000,000 for SEAs; \$10,000-\$150,000 for non-SEAs
Number of Continuation Awards: 41
Average Continuation Award: \$5,410,000 for SEAs; \$137,342 for non-SEAs

2007

Appropriation: \$200,000,000
Number of New Awards Anticipated: 10-12 for SEAs; 20-25 for non-SEAs
Average New Award: \$5,000,000 for SEAs; \$150,000 for non-SEAs
Range of New Awards: \$500,000-\$20,000,000 for SEAs; \$10,000-\$150,000 for non-SEAs
Number of Continuation Awards: 54
Average Continuation Award: \$5,410,000 for SEAs; \$137,342 for non-SEAs

2006

Appropriation: \$214,782,480

2005

Appropriation: \$216,952,384

2004

Appropriation: \$218,702,000

2003

Appropriation: \$198,700,000

2002

Appropriation: \$200,000,000

2001

Appropriation: \$190,000,000

2000

Appropriation: \$145,000,000

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this Guide.

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**Green Schools:
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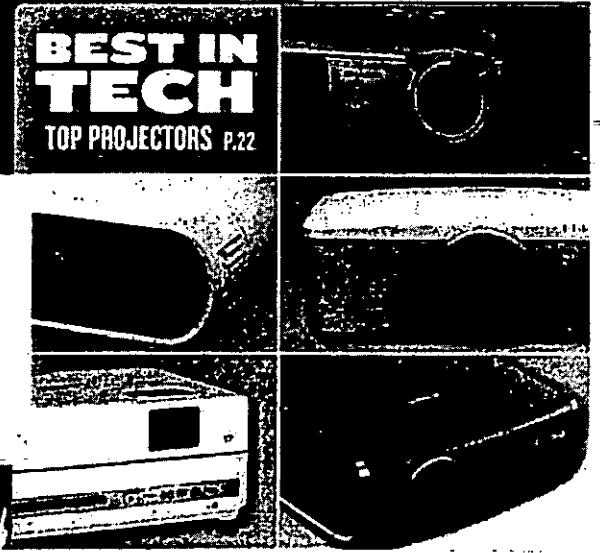
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SpeakOut: Should States Lift the Caps on Charter Schools?

With Race to the Top, the public school landscape may change. BY JACQUELINE HEINZE



lift the cap is a tiered level of funding. There should be a prorated amount that remains with the host district that's used to sustain programs that the school district is required to provide by law. Any lifting of the cap should be done with an eye toward what it truly costs to educate students in the charter environment and what it truly costs to educate students in the traditional host district."



"Instead of increasing charter schools, let's learn from what they do well,"

says Bernard Pierorazio, superintendent of Yonkers Public Schools in New York. "What is the attraction of charter schools for parents? Why is the federal government bullying states into increasing the charter school cap in the recent Race to the Top legislation? The attraction is a rigorous core curriculum that challenges all students; a support staff that cares about children; an extended daily learning schedule and a year-round program; smaller class size; parental involvement; dynamic school leaders who use data and have empathy for children; and, most importantly, an instructional staff that disaggregates data, individualizes learning, and consistently evaluates student progress through formative assessments.

"Urban school superintendents across this nation struggle to implement the same goals as charter schools on a daily basis but are thwarted time and again by the well-negotiated but adult-centered rules imposed by organized labor, as well as state and city governmental financial constraints that cause an annual disruption to education. Unions must become cognizant of the big picture. Teacher evaluation based on student

"There's got to be some consideration given to those left in the host district,"

says Dr. Bernard Taylor, superintendent of Grand Rapids Public Schools in Michigan. "I have no problem with charters, but we need to think about the district as a whole. Who's left in the host school district? How are those children going to be educated? If the charter cap is lifted, it has to be done in such a way that does not erode the ability of the traditional public school system to meet the needs of all of the rest of the students.

"We are in a financial crisis in Michigan. In our school district, fully 85 percent of our students are eligible for free and reduced lunch, and roughly half of our 19,000-student population is designated special ed, ELL, or both. Districts like mine are faced with edu-

cating the children who have the most pressing needs, and we have declining resources to meet those needs at the same time. We have a middle class in Grand Rapids, but our school district itself is deplete of any semblance of a middle class. Those students go to private school, parochial school, charter school, and our district loses those resources.

"If you look at our population relative to those populations in charter schools, they are significantly different. And charter laws state that every student is treated the same without consideration of educational need. A charter school is not obligated to the same degree that a traditional public school system is. So if the cap is lifted, are new charter schools going to be targeted to meet the needs of students with special needs? Because I have yet to see that happen. I have yet to see a charter school specifically open to meet the needs of special ed students. We can't look at this like we're able to fund everyone in the same exact way. So what I'm hoping you'll see if they

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LEADERSHIP

success must be woven into every contractual agreement. Tenure rules must be reexamined to enable retraining and dismissal of continuously unsatisfactory teachers. Commensurate salaries and recognition of master teachers must also be part of every negotiated agreement. In addition, a longer school day and an elongated school year, including a robust early childhood program, must be part of every large urban district. This is how we make our public schools system strong and keep our students in it."



"Lift the charter cap, but keep the laws rigorous,"

says Carol Comeau, superintendent of Anchorage School

District. "In Alaska, the only charter schools that are allowed are those that are approved by a local school board, and then approved by the state board of education. But if the local school board doesn't approve them, then the state board cannot overrule that decision. Also, there is no outside entity that can approve charter schools. So because of that, I would have no objection whatsoever to lifting the cap.

"Anchorage has a large number of public school choices and has since the early 1970s. For example, we have a Montessori public school and language-immersion public schools built into our regular system. Also, charter schools are an integral part of any school district in the state of Alaska. So we still have those students; they are included in our count.

"We go through a very rigorous evaluation of each charter school proposal. Our school board has approved a lot of proposals, but they have also not approved some because the proposals were weak. In some cases, the proposals returned to us much stronger, and in some cases they just didn't come back. If the proposal passes, that charter school has the real support of the district.

"In some ways, the charter schools have helped the district overall. We have two charters that are homeschooling-based and they are partner schools with us. So students who have been out of the system and receive most of their education through homeschooling now have the opportunity to take some classes in the public system. That has been a

very good partnership, and it has helped bring students into the system who were formerly out of the system.

"Alaska does have certain limitations. For example, we require parents to transport their students to their choice schools. This creates a concern about the equity of access. Also, there is a lack of facilities, which is a large impediment to charter school development. The operators of these schools need to go out and lease commercial space and then renovate it. That is a big chunk out of their operating budget. But I will say, in talking to superintendents around the country, I hear their stories about charter schools and how many students have been taken out of their system and the consequences of that. It makes me glad that we have the laws that we do."



"Charter schools are not a silver bullet for what ails education,"

says Dr. Alan J. Ingram, superintendent of Springfield Public Schools in Massachusetts. "Opponents often cite the loss of revenue and the adverse impact on fixed costs as challenges to supporting charter schools. In my view, the conversation underscores the fierce sense of urgency that underperforming public schools should feel to improve student proficiency in a meaningful and measurable way. The alternative is that we will continue to lose students and finances to charter schools. It is the reality facing Massachusetts and school districts nationwide.

"The question is not whether we should have charter schools or not. More importantly, we should seek answers to questions that speak to the autonomies that charter schools enjoy; the educational practices they use with evidence of success; and how regular public schools might replicate those best practices.

"The overarching challenge is to move beyond the debate on charter schools and provide the right incentives and pressures for transforming chronically underperforming schools, particularly those in urban districts. In the words of James Baldwin: "These are all our children. We will all profit by, or pay for, whatever they become." ■

Alaska

Year Charter Law Enacted: 1995

Background: The Alaska Legislature passed the Charter School Act in 1995. Governor Knowles signed the bill into law. House Bill 101 amended the existing Alaska statute for charter schools and was signed into law July 1, 2001. The major changes of the amendment are: length of charter was changed to a maximum of ten (10) years, total number of allowable charter schools to operate within the state set at 60, and the geographical restrictions on number of total schools per region or district was dropped.

Both the local school board and the State Board of Education must approve a charter school application before the school can begin operation. If a local school board denies an application, there is no appeal to a higher authority.

Amendment(s): For a full-text version of the most recent amendment, see the [Alaska State Legislature](#).

Authorizers: local school boards, with final approval from the State Board of Education

Length of charter: maximum 10 years

Caps on number of schools: October 2002 Amendment increased the cap from 30 to 60 total schools in operation

Funding: Operational funding is equivalent to "the amount generated by the students enrolled minus a portion for administrative costs." The local school board is responsible for setting the charter school's budget based on student enrollment.

October 1, 2009

President Obama has called upon Congress to increase funding for the charter school programs by \$52 million dollars this year, bringing total funding for the charter school programs to \$268 million. As Congress works to finish its appropriations bills, it is critical that charter advocates voice their support for increased funding, helping the President's request become law.

The federal public charter schools programs provide support at key points in the development of charter schools: helping cover the extraordinary costs of launching successful charters; disseminating their successful innovations to other public schools; and providing financial incentives to state governments and private lenders that help enable schools to build and renovate facilities.

November 9, 2009

The passage of the historic American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 enabled two competitive grant programs aimed at drastically improving public education in America.

Recently, the U.S. Department of Education released draft priorities and guidelines for the Investing in Innovation Fund (i3) grant competition. On behalf of over 4,900 public charter schools across the country educating over 1.5 million children, the Alliance strongly supports the U.S. Department of Education's efforts to use the i3 fund to scale significant education reforms and find the next generation of notable educational innovations. The current draft is a commendable start, but we do believe it can be improved further.

Download our comments below to read the suggestions Alliance experts offer in the spirit of positive collaboration.

In a speech earlier this year to the US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, President Obama explicitly called on states to "... reform their charter rules, and lift caps on the number of allowable charter schools, wherever such caps are in place."

Eligibility for Facilities Incentive Grants

To be eligible to receive a grant, a state must establish or enhance, and administer, a per-pupil facilities aid programs for charter schools in the state. This per-pupil facilities aid program must be specified in state law and must provide annual per-pupil financing for charter school facilities.

State Charter School Facilities Incentive Grant Program

Started in 2001, this program awards matching funds to states that offer per-pupil financial assistance to public charter schools to obtain facilities. The program is intended to encourage states to develop and expand per-pupil facilities aid programs and to share the costs associated with charter schools facilities funding.

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

First Committee of Referral

DATE: 1/22/10

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: _____
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 2/8/10

Education Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 235

SB 235 CHARTER/ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL FUNDING

"An Act relating to charter school approval and funding."

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| SENATE BILL: | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Same Title |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | New Title |
| <hr/> | |
| HOUSE BILL: | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Same Title |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Technical Title Change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | New Title w/ SCR # _____ |


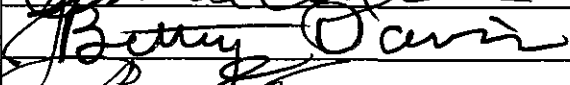

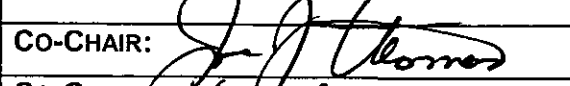

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

| Department | Date | Fiscal | Indet. | Zero | FN# |
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| EED | 2/5/10 | ✓ | | | |
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PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

| Department | Date | Fiscal | Indet. | Zero | FN# |
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APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

| SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS: | PRINTED LAST NAME | DO PASS | DO NOT PASS | NO REC | AMEND |
|---|-------------------|---------|-------------|--------|-------|
|  | OLSON | | | ✓ | |
|  | DAVIS | X | | | |
|  | STEVE Huggins | X | | | |
| CO-CHAIR:  | Thomas, J.J. | ✓ | | | |
| CO-CHAIR:  | Meyer, K. | ✓ | | | |