

PLEASE REPLY TO:

☐

SACRAMENTO ADDRESS:  
STATE CAPITOL  
95814  
(916) 445-5405  
FAX: (916) 322-3304

☐

DISTRICT OFFICE ADDRESSES:  
1216 STATE STREET  
SUITE 507  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101  
(805) 966-1766  
FAX: (805) 965-1161

☐

801 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE  
SUITE 301  
VENTURA, CA 93003  
(805) 654-4648  
OXNARD: (805) 656-8505  
FAX: (805) 654-4639



## California State Senate

**GARY K. HART**

SENATOR  
EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

COMMITTEES:

EDUCATION, CHAIRMAN  
NATURAL RESOURCES & WILDLIFE  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS  
ENERGY & PUBLIC UTILITIES  
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OFFSHORE OIL & GAS  
DEVELOPMENT, CHAIRMAN  
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

SB 1448 (HART)

### EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE CHARTER SCHOOLS

What kind of schools might be started as charter schools under SB 1448 (Hart)? The possibilities are limited only by teachers' imaginations, but here are some possible examples.

#### School within an existing school

Several high school teachers at an existing high school petition the school board for a charter to establish a vocational "transition to work" program. The petition could be cosponsored by a local business. Students who are currently enrolled in the high school would have the option of attending the new transition to work program which would include academic coursework coupled with job training at a worksite. This school within a school could operate on the same school site under contract with the school board or it could be housed at the local business' facility.

#### Private school converts to a charter school

An existing Montessori school, which emphasizes hands-on, experiential learning petitions the local school board to become a charter school serving children in grades K-6. If the charter is approved, the Montessori school would have to be open to all students and would be prohibited from charging tuition thereby creating a new educational opportunity for parents who might otherwise be unable to afford such a school.

#### Specialized school for at risk pupils

An urban middle school whose pupil population consistently scores below average on standardized tests could form a collaborative with a postsecondary institution and seek a charter from the local school board to provide a specialized "accelerated" program to provide concentrated assistance for its pupils. The program would include a challenging curriculum, instead of repetitive remediation, and intensive instructional strategies that focus on



all students' ability to learn. The new charter school could be operated on the university campus and might serve either all or some portion of the existing school's enrollment.

#### **Ungraded primary programs**

The teachers in grades K-3 at an existing elementary school could request a charter from the local school board to operate a program which eliminates the traditional grade level structure for children aged 4-9 to provide a developmentally appropriate curriculum which allows children to progress at individual rates. The new charter school could be operated on the existing school site or at an alternate location.

#### **Teachers follow the students**

The teachers at a small school district offering instruction in grades K-8 could request a charter to establish a program which allows teachers to teach the same group of students throughout their elementary and middle school years. This allows teachers to develop a deep understanding of the abilities and learning needs of each pupil over a number of years and helps provide a better system of teacher accountability. The new charter school could be operated on the existing school site or at an alternate location.

#### **Essential school which focuses on academics**

The teachers at an existing high school could request a charter to operate an "essential school" based on the model articulated by TheodoreSizer at Brown University. Under such a model the curriculum focuses on traditional academic programs; mathematics, science, social science, language arts, while electives, vocational education, physical education and competitive sports are drastically reduced or eliminated. The money saved by eliminating these activities is used to reduce class sizes and increase funding for enriched instructional materials. The new charter school could be operated on the existing school site or at an alternate location.