

Principal provisions of a possible bill

1. Only a local school board can create a chartered school, and only on application of public school educators and residents apply to school board.
2. The charter is an agreement between local board and local educators/residents.
3. Chartered school can be full or part-time, separate and self-contained or operate within existing school.
4. When local board approves a charter, it submits to state board of education; state board can approve applications of five local districts.
5. Application to local board (which ultimately becomes part of the charter) must contain a host of information, including:
 - * Description of innovative learning opportunities and instructional objectives;
 - * Operating budget and financial plan, including arrangements to ensure school's continuing economic viability;
 - * Contract between the chartered school and local board to distribute state aid, including transportation aid, for resident and non-resident pupils;
 - * Learner outcomes and testing programs
 - * Agreement between the public school board and union on terms and conditions of employment of teachers, which declares the chartered school governing body the employer
 - * How the chartered school will be accountable to local board for its over-all performance;
 - * Courses and units to be taught, assignments of teachers, etc., a plan for using texts, teacher-produced materials, computers, libraries, media centers;
 - * Plan for integrating career development and inservice training with the curriculum and program of the school;
 - * Anything else the local board demands.
6. Local school board appoints a charter advisory committee to oversee the chartered school governing board.
7. Governing board must establish disciplinary procedures, academic standards, teacher evaluation methods, staff development programs, staffing needs, hiring procedures and spending priorities after open hearings.

(over)

8. Charter is for a time certain; in its final year, charter advisory committee recommends to local school board whether to continue, change or not renew.
 9. School board can revoke the charter any time it determines that the chartered school has violated a law or the charter, mismanaged, shown poor over-all pupil performance compared to pupil outcomes established in the charter or in any way indicated an inability to provide an education at least comparable to the district's.
 10. Charter school must be accredited w/in three years.
 11. Charter school must operate under all state board rules unless state board waives after seeing persuasive evidence that this would enhance learning.
 12. Teachers must be licensed by state board of teaching and are initially included within bargaining unit of local district (as per #5 above); subsequently, can negotiate with local board for a site-management arrangement.
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