Thank — for support — charter schools — starting w/ Rollwagen
Also — C & C report enacted into law.

(1)

Citizen's League

Choice Strategies & Collaboration

- Can you hear me?
- Can't believe you'd actually pay to hear a legislator.
- Legislator story —

(I) — Update on Choice / Open Enrollment

Results
- remember 1992 statewide poll: critical protests; now supported — 75% of mn's
- Results of study by (author) 2 profs at Northern Univ

* 126 school principals surveyed by mail at end of 89-90 sch year, just prior to mandatory participation in open enrollment by all school districts

Results: Open Enrollment —

(1) — created a market system for educational services characterized by — w/ comp & collaboration b/w school districts & specialization of educ programs

(2) stimulated improvements to school curricula & support services:

- high schools now offering — w foreign language, advanced math & w/ college prep courses.
- Elem schools: more all-day kind + extended day programs) kids of w. parents.

- smaller schools finding ways to share teachers, extra-curr activities / classes.
- State high schools responded by doubling the # of Advanced Placement courses offered since [illegible] started.
- PSOptions also helped convince 48 high schools to work w/ U of M to offer jr courses granting both college & high school credit.
- More [illegible] 150 new magnet schools & "schools w/in schools" have been created in past 5 yrs, including rural magnet & alternative schools.

(3). Promoted greater parent & teacher involvement in school planning & decision-making

(4). Fostered more equitable distrib of school resources & student access to educ services; and

(5) increased ethnic & cultural diversity of schools.

(6) Rural schools experienced a greater amt of organizational change [illegible] urban schools & expanded their curriculum to limit of resources.

How Many Students?

Post Sec Options – More ⌐ 50,000 studs since began in 85. At many post sec. inst, 9 as adj m, h.s. studs earned higher grade-pt than freshman class.

Open enrollment:

1991–92 9,885 studs of app 750,000 or 1.3%

will never serve – w ⌐ 2-3% of studs, but all have choice.

Reason for Moving?

Surveys show: parental convenience) elem grade & better academic ln, at secondary level. Yes some athletic... but not primary issue. Provision in bill to restrict athletic participation for open enrollment transfers was not enacted.

Some criticism of convenience:

What is wrong w/ making a public system convenient for its users?

II Update on Charter Schools

– enacted) – w & for teachers, studs; instead – framework for natl debate

– passed: MN + Calif, Col, Ga., New Mex.; 5 ~~other~~ yr

In Conf Committee in Mass.

– Introduced in 18 states in some form or another in 1993 – (NCSL)

(4)

– Clinton/Riley support it – part of Administ Bill
– Durenberger/Lieberman/McCurdy – introduced in Congress

What is Charter School?

A charter school is for those teachers who think they can do it better. With proposal in hand, these teachers and supportive parents apply to a local school board for a charter. The successful applicants may also need to gain approval from the State Board of Education. The teachers will then operate their school with total control of budget, staffing, curriculum and teaching methods.

The charter schools are open to all and funding follows the student, just as in open enrollment. All charter schools are nonsectarian and nondiscriminatory in their admission and employment policies. No tuition may be charged. The school is exempted from nearly all state and local regulations, with certain exceptions, such as desegregation and special education. In return, the teachers must meet outcome-based performance standards agreed to in the charter.

No results, no charter

It's simple. No results, no charter. Teachers trade regulation for results, bureaucracy for accountability. In short, a charter school is a new kind of public school that rewards innovation, empowers teachers and parents and meets special student needs without turning our existing school system upside down.

It has been 21 months since eight charter schools were authorized by the Minnesota Legislature. That number was recently increase by the legislature to 20. The first eight charter schools approved by local school boards and the State Board of Education include a wide range of constituencies:

- City Academy of St. Paul. The Academy started operation last September and serves 30-plus students who have dropped out of traditional and alternative educational programs. The experience is community based, and classes are usually no more than five students.
- Metro Deaf School. This school, scheduled to begin operations next fall, will serve deaf and hearing-impaired children, will offer all subjects in American Sign Language. It will probably operate in Minneapolis.
- Bluffview Montessori School in Winona. An existing private school, Bluffview was created by local parents years ago when the local district would not create a Montessori alternative. The new charter, which began operation March 1, brings these students back to the public school system, and more importantly, ensures that the Montessori alternative will be available to *all* Winona children, *regardless of economic means*.
- Totvola-Meadowlands. This rural K-12 school, scheduled to open next fall, will focus on environmental and agricultural themes with multi-age, multi-activity classrooms.

"We are truly bleeding edg

- Skills for Tomorrow High School. Proposed in part by the Minnesota Teamsters Service Bureau, this vocational school will focus on training students to fill the shortage of technical skills in the workplace. It represents a unique partnership between labor, business and education.
- New Heights School, Inc. Scheduled to begin operation next fall, this school will serve students pre-school through high school who are "at-risk." A strong parent component, including daily and unit home lessons developed by parents and teachers, will be a critical aspect of this school.
- St. Paul Community School. This year-round school, set to begin next fall, will serve students grades 1-12 during 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. school days. In a holistic approach to learning, students will be actively involved in designing their own learning plans and using their community as their classroom.
- West Bank Community School. This K-8 school, expected to open next fall, will utilize the unique qualities and educational opportunities of its diverse neighborhood, including proximity to two large universities and numerous arts and cultural organizations.

Issues at legis this year - Charter schools:
Acknowledge - Kelso, Hunter, Koldene; Watha
- Raise Cap to 20; charter school network hoped for cap lifted as original bill passed in 1991.
- Appeal process (2 school bd members).
- Must be located in district of sponsor — agreement of other (resident) board or appeal to state bd & they sponsor.
- Conversion - permits school bd to convert one or — schools to outcome based if 90% of full-time teachers petition for change.
- Calif petition provision for districts. Revisit in future?
- Sponsorg a charter not intended to be means of keeping open a school that wd otherwise be closed.

III. Accelerated Graduatn Reale Funded at 5.2 mill perp.
The vote in Senate

IV. Collaboratn

(A) Gov's proposal - merging some depts in one big dept - but not AFDC/HSem programs - appeared top-down - also unprepared.
Legislature wanted bottom-up.

(B) Legis Common Children
- staffed by Leg Coord Comm
- must meet w/ Children's Cabinet to facilitate coordinatn b/ exec/legis auths.
- Priorities (*)

(C) Children's Cabinet
- membership change signific - hsg, transp., public safety,

(D) Learning Readiness Programs -
19 mill for biennium.
much collaboratn) 4/4yr olds -

(E) Children's Mental Health Collaboratives -
Some for older students, not necessarily pre-school.

(F) Family Services & Community Based Collaboratives -
10 mill - biennium
- one school dist, one county & one public health entity -
- plans approved by Children's Cabinet

6 Home Visiting Program.

All facilitate Bottom-up coordination. With resources like Sucaby to / UW & of collaboratives, can have addtl leverage.