

CONVERSATION WITH JON SCHROEDER – PROJECT DIRECTOR

CHARTER FRIENDS NATIONAL NETWORK and JOSEPHINE BAKER

August 12, 2002

The purpose of the call was to seek information on where the Dept. of Ed. is in its thinking on the implementation of HR1 to charter schools.

Jon alluded to the list of questions sent out by Dean Kerns, Director of Public Charter Schools Program for ED. It is evident that the PCSP is still trying to figure out how to force a fit between HR1 and charter schools. The law says that state law for charter schools will determine how NCLB is met. With this said, it is extremely important that a strategy for compliance with the law be developed for DC charter schools. The District of Columbia Public Charter School Board has a rigorous policy for the development of accountability plans with the schools that it charters. These plans are established, generally, in year two of the schools existence. This enables the school to develop a realistic plan which is based on the student population that is has enrolled. The first year of operation establishes the bench mark for SAT 9 test scores as well as other measures the school may have as a part of its design.

Authorizers should be required to show to their “State Agency” an accountability process that holds schools accountable for AYP on a timetable that is in cync with the duration of their charter or (as in DC) the five year review. This process should be viewed as holding schools accountable for meeting the “state standards” and should not have to change.

It is important to make our role legal under HR1. The SEO can be the vehicle by which implementation of HR1 is established through charter school accountability.

At this time, there seem to be no definitive answers from the ED and this may very well be a time that we can influence the process and make our role legal under the law. We are in a position to help provide the answers; to set the standard.

A first step might be to match what we are doing to the HR1 requirements in a matrix. We might find that we are even more rigorous!

AEH function
SEO conversion growth side
standards
SEO ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} office of the manager