

November 21, 2009

To: Charter School Friends

ACTION ALERT - All Hands on Deck!

Governor Baldacci Needs to Change Course!

As you may have seen or heard in the news, Education Commissioner Gendron announced Tuesday that Governor Baldacci will not introduce a charter school bill during the upcoming legislative session.

We must reach out and persuade him to REVERSE THAT DECISION!

- The Governor is **giving up** much too easily and much too early in the Race to the Top competition.
- By leaving charter schools out of Maine's R2T application, the administration is taking a serious, unnecessary risk that Maine will not receive any R2T grant, even in Round Two.
- By his early action, Maine will also be prevented from participating in the federal charter school grant program if a bill were passed.

[Click here](#) to send a strong message to Governor Baldacci. We'll send copies to other Maine lawmakers who need to know the risk and sacrifice Maine faces by losing out on these huge federal grants.

You can personalize your message and also add information in the MACS statement on the [MACS website](#).

If you'd like to email the governor directly you can do so at governor@maine.gov. Here are some tips for you to use as you craft your message

- Suggest that the governor get more clarification from the US Dept of Education about the complex guidance for the R2T competition.
- Remind the governor that the R2T funds can be used to support innovations in helping children, such as school dropouts;
- Cite examples of programs you support and tell the Governor why you support them.

Emails will make a difference but phone calls will really have an impact. Using the talking points above you can:

- Call the Governor and leave a message: 287-3531
- * Fax a message to: 287-1034

Please take at least one of these actions yourself, and share this information widely with others. There is a very good chance that we can show the governor that it is in the interest of Maine's children to expand public school options NOW.

Thanks so much for your commitment to bringing innovations and options to Maine's public education system!

Roger & Judith