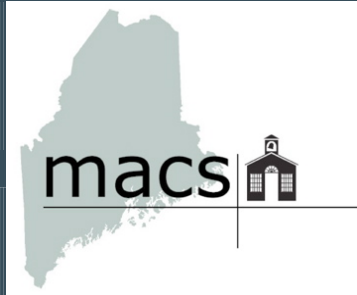


# Maine Association *for* Charter Schools



## MACS NEWS - January 2010

Dear Friend,

MACS is working hard this winter to build on the momentum we gained in 2009. With extensive media coverage and the Legislature's near passage of LD 1438, many people have begun to realize charter schools not only need to come to Maine - they will come to Maine soon.

We will craft new enabling legislation to be introduced in the next session beginning January 2011, when Maine will have a new Governor and new legislators in the House and Senate.

This year MACS will continue to help potential organizers and authorizers prepare for action in anticipation that the charter school bill will finally come to pass next year.

We look forward to working with all of you in our community outreach efforts, fundraising, educating Maine citizens about charter schools, and building our steadily growing organization with an increasing number of supporters across Maine and beyond.

Hope you are all enjoying the winter!  
Best Wishes,

Roger & Judith

Roger W. Brainerd, Exec. Director  
Judith D. Jones, Board Chair

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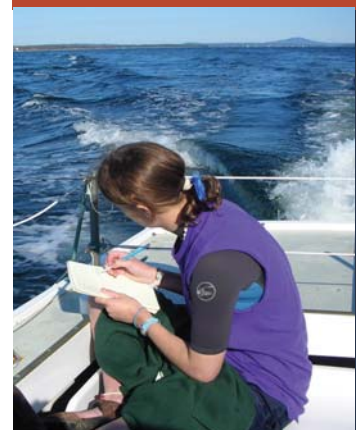
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## New Innovative Schools?

Though Governor Baldacci announced that he won't introduce enabling legislation for charter schools during the current session, he did say that he will submit a bill expanding public school options by encouraging innovative,

open-enrollment programs as part of the state's application for a Race to the Top grant.

We are awaiting the details being worked out in the Dept. of Education and hope this effort might lead to meaningful public school options.

## The Race-2-Augusta

Most candidates for governor support charter schools! MACS will offer all candidates for office information on charter schools, and will work with those who will carry our torch in the upcoming political dialog. For Gubernatorial statements on charter schools, follow this link: <http://augustainsider.us/gubernatorialcharterschools/>.

## Forum at *The NEW SCHOOL*

The New School in Kennebunk hosted a January 4th forum on charter schools in Maine. Forty people attended, along with Rep. Alan Casavant, member of the Education Committee and a sponsor of our last bill, Dr. Judith Jones from MACS, and Senator Nancy Sullivan who is new supporter of charter schools.

## LD 1658 targets Drop Out Problem

The Education Committee recently held a 2 1/2 hour public hearing on LD 1658, a bill sponsored by Committee Co-Chair Senator Justin Alford focused on improving graduation rates and drop-out prevention.

We will keep a close eye on this and a companion bill, LD 1703, concerning the recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Task force, as they are finally tackling issues MACS has been raising for years.

## Congressional Action

Congress has approved a \$40 million increase in the federal Charter School Grant Program, for a total of \$256 million for this year.

Congressman Jared Polis of Colorado has introduced the All-STAR Act, H.R. 4330, that would support increased funding for successful charter schools and expand flexibility in using federal funds.

The role of charter school authorizers has been enhanced

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forwarded to you by  
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## **The Lottery**

*The Center for  
Educational Reform  
reported this month  
that, though there are  
over 5,000 charter  
schools in the U.S.,  
there are enough  
students on waiting  
lists at these schools  
to fill an additional  
5,000 schools - if  
states would lift caps  
and pass laws to  
permit them.*

**"The Lottery"** is a new documentary that highlights the crisis in public education and follows four families hoping to flee their assigned public school and send their child to a Harlem Success Academy Charter School in New York City. Imagine the suspense and emotion of 5,000 parents and children waiting

through Congressional legislation that adds three new eligibility criteria to the Charter School Grant Program.

## **FUNDING for AUTHORIZORS!**

The National Association of Charter School Authorizers has established the Fund for Authorizing Excellence to award grants to improve the work of authorizers. FMI, see [www.publiccharters.org](http://www.publiccharters.org) and [www.qualitycharters.org](http://www.qualitycharters.org)

### *Looking Ahead...*

## **National Charter School Conference 2010**

**Chicago**

**June 28 to July 1**

**Key Note Speaker - Bill Gates**

*"Innovators in Education Leading the Race to  
theTop"*

[www.nationalcharterconference.org](http://www.nationalcharterconference.org)

anxiously in the Harlem Armory to hear if they would be one of the lucky (one-in-seven) who would win a life-changing spot in a charter school!

Producer James Lawler, has offered MACS an advance copy of the "The Lottery", and we will be arranging showings in Maine to coincide with its release on May 7. FMI, see the trailer at [www.thelotteryfilm.com](http://www.thelotteryfilm.com) and stay tuned to the [MACS website](http://www.macs.org)

US News & World Report ranks 16 public charter schools in its Top 100 list of US high schools, although only 5.5% of public high schools are charters.

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