



Public Charter School Legislation: School District Benefits

Proposed legislation includes the following provisions to make the chartering process especially beneficial for superintendents and district school boards.

School districts could choose whether to be an authorizing agent for charter schools, and only those issuing an RFP need accept applications from charter school organizing groups.

1. School districts would count charter school students from their district in their enrollment for state funding formulas.
2. School districts could cumulate monthly payments from the state before transferring the funds at the end of each quarter to the charter school(s) their students attend.
3. School districts would be allowed to keep 1% of each charter school student's annual per pupil allocation to cover administrative expenses.
4. School districts authorizing a charter school could charge that school up to 2% of its per pupil allocations to cover monitoring expenses.
5. School districts could contract with charter schools for back office functions, special education, transportation, and other services.
6. School districts could lease under-utilized space to a charter school.
7. Each charter school would be eligible for federal planning and start-up grants of about \$500,000 over 3 years, and could use those funds for professional development and services purchased from the local district.
8. School districts could meet the needs of more children by:
 - converting an existing alternative education program to a charter school;
 - starting a new school-within-a-school charter school program;
 - starting a new charter school with a unique, perhaps theme-based program;
 - starting a new charter school in collaboration with other districts, a college/university, or another non-profit organization.