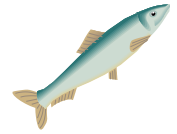


## Public Charter School Legislation:

# The Money Argument is a *Red Herring!*



The MEA, MSMA, MSA, MPA, MSBA have said...

*Not Now! Times are tough!*

*We can't afford the schools we have!*

*We are closing small schools!*

*Why should we divert scarce funds to start new schools?*

On behalf of Maine students and families, MACS is fighting back with the facts:

### Public Charter Schools...

1. **Do not require new state or local money**
  - a. Money already allocated for educating each child is targeted to that child's education.
  - b. The money follows each child to the public school that best meets his or her educational needs.
2. **Only divert funds from an existing school if that school is not meeting an individual child's needs.**
  - a. The existence of a charter school will help ensure that each school meet each child's needs.
  - b. No school, traditional or charter, can expect to meet the diverse needs of all children.
3. **Will bring more money into the public school system.**
  - a. Each new charter school, whether started independently or through the local school district, is eligible for a planning and startup grant of up to \$500,000.
  - b. Charter schools take advantage of private and community resources not traditionally utilized by existing public schools.
4. **Can operate more efficiently than traditional schools, thanks to their local control and their flexibility in acquiring and using resources.**
5. **The best scenario is for a charter school and traditional school to collaborate as partners in a public school system striving to meet the needs of all children.**

### It is about results!

**The Bottom Line** - We can't afford not to change the way we educate our youth, if we want them to be successful and our state to prosper in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.

**The Data Is Clear** - The high school and college dropout rates are very high, and the resulting social and economic costs are unsustainable.

**Our Current Public Education System is Not Meeting Every Child's Needs** - Public charter schools are a proven, comprehensive, accountable approach to affordable, efficient, and effective restructuring of our public school system.

***The Cost of Doing Nothing is much too high!***