



Celebrating Chartering @ 30 – MINNESOTA'S STORY

In last week's installment of *Celebrating Chartering @ 30 – Minnesota's Story*, we shared that one of the criteria that the 1988 Citizens League Report: ***Chartered Schools = Choices for Educators + Quality for All Students*** proposed for charter schools was that they would need to meet desegregation guidelines, but that the League recommended that those guidelines be expanded beyond race and focus on socio-economic status.

While charter schools were to be schools of choice, ironically, the idea of charter schools was presented by the League as one of two choices for the Legislature to address desegregation.

"The 1989 Legislature should take one of two actions to address the desegregation problem. Either:

- 1. Authorize approving chartered public schools to improve the quality of education for all students and encourage student movement among districts as described above, or*
- 2. Require the Commissioner of Education to prepare a plan for the 1991 Legislature's review to reduce concentrations of minority students through means such as reconfiguring school district boundaries.*

The committee recommends that the Legislature act on the first of these two choices. In doing so, however, the committee acknowledges that the second course of action would be better than no action at all."

The Report goes on to state: *"Chartered school provide the best opportunity for a change in the schooling of students – the way students are treated, the expectations placed on them, and the interactions between teachers and students."*

COMMENT: The Citizens League placed a great deal of hope, faith, and trust in the concept of chartered schools – It is this hope, faith, and trust that the charter school community must continually earn through demonstrating how charter schools change schooling of students for the better.

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