

Charter School Finance

Joint Legislative Task Force
Education Finance Reform
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Steven Walker
Vice Chair
Charter Schools Advisory Board

Steven Walker

- General Counsel & Policy Director, Office of Lieutenant Governor Dan Forest
- Lieutenant Governor's Designee on the Charter Schools Advisory Board
- Elected by the members of the Charter Schools Advisory Board as Vice Chair
- Appointed as the Chair of the Charter Schools Advisory Board's Policy Committee

Public School Funding Should Follow the Child

- Charter Schools are Public Schools
- Thus, they should be funded in the same manner as traditional public schools
- A student at a charter school is not worth less than a student at a traditional public school
- Schools should be funded based on the students they serve.
- The money should follow the child.

State Funding Issues

- State law currently provides that charter schools are funded as follows:
 - An amount equal to the average per pupil allocation (ADM) as the LEA in which the charter is located less allocations for students with disabilities and ELLs.
 - An additional amount for students with disabilities
 - An additional amount for ELL students.
- It should be a simple calculation.

Parameters of State Funding Reform

- Parity
- Predictability
- Permanence

Local Funding Issues

- In 2013-14, public charter school students were funded on the local level at 73% of a traditional district student.
- The average district student was allotted \$2,179 in local funds
- The average charter student was allotted \$1,584 in local funds
- Serious consideration should be given to restoring the local funding laws to their pre-2009-10 status

Capital Funding Issues

- Under current law, charter schools may not receive capital funding from county commissioners.
- Strong consideration should be given to allowing county commissions to do so if they desire.