



Celebrating Chartering @ 30 – MINNESOTA'S STORY

MINNESOTA'S FIRST CHARTERS – FINDINGS OF MN HOUSE RESEARCH

The research conducted by the Minnesota House of Representatives' Research Department about Minnesota's first six charter schools (*Bluffview, Cedar-Riverside, City Academy, Metro Deaf, New Heights and Toivola-Meadowlands*) was conducted in February 1994. The research found the following:

- Enrollment in the six schools ranged from 16 – 196 students
- Total enrollment in the six schools was 617 students
- The student to teacher ratio ranged from 4:1 to 20:1
- Three (3) of the six schools were designed to serve special student populations: at-risk students; deaf and hard of hearing students; and low-income neighborhood students
- The amount of state per pupil aid was the same as traditional districts
- Salary compensation systems varied between schools: flat rate for all staff; traditional steps and lanes
- Each school had different contracted student outcomes for accountability: outcomes specific to the student population the school served (i.e., remain arrest free and maintain attendance in school); and others more general (i.e., demonstrate the knowledge, skill, and attitude required to communicate with words, numbers, etc.)
- The schools had little effect on the sponsoring district

The research report outlined the details of the student outcomes of the six schools as they existed in February 1994.

The researchers also surveyed parents from the schools with a response rate to the surveys of 38%. The questions focused on why the parents chose the school, and the sources of satisfaction and dissatisfaction with the school.

Reasons for Choosing the School

- School curriculum
- School features (i.e., small classes; longer classes; location; good environment; etc.)
- Unhappy with prior school
- Good teachers and parental involvement

In terms of what parents thought of the schools, twice as many parents indicated satisfaction as compared to dissatisfaction.

Sources of Satisfaction

- School curriculum
- Teachers
- School features
- Effect on students
- Parental involvement
- Other – (*See school features above*)

Sources of Dissatisfaction

- Other (i.e., unclear report cards; insufficient meeting notices; student dress code; etc.)
- Resources
- Growing pains
- Effect on students
- Space
- Administration
- Transportation
- Personnel

NEXT WEEK: THE FOUR PROBLEMS CHARTER SCHOOLS WERE EXPERIENCING



Copyright © 2022 Minnesota Association of Charter Schools, All rights reserved.

You were added to this list as a sample email to test out MailChimp.

Our mailing address is:

Minnesota Association of Charter Schools
161 St. Anthony Avenue, Suite 1000
St Paul, MN 55103

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

