HOW A TRUE
CHARTER
SCHOOL SYSTEM
WORKS



#### THE LAW--CREATED IN THE LEGISLATURE

Passes in the House and the Senate and then signed by the Governor

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#### THE COMMISSION--APPOINTED BY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Appointed by Governor, Sup. OPI, Pres. of Senate, Speaker of the House, Senate Minority Leader, and House Minority Leader. The Commission approves authorizers and charters for Community Choice Schools and reports to the BPE and Interim Education Committee annually

#### COMMUNITY CHOICE SCHOOLS

Schools chosen by parents and built from the community up

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#### COMMUNITY CHOICE SCHOOLS--APPROVED BY COMMISSION OR AUTHORIZER

Governing Board of a potential Community Choice School applies to an Authorizer or the Commission by turning in a viable business plan, demonstrating community interest and a unified mission and vision for the school



#### **FUNDING**

Upon approval of Commission, Community Choice Schools receive a prorated Basic Entitlement based on enrollment size and additionally receive the General Fund ANB from resident county treasurer of each student



#### CHARTER RENEWAL, NONRENEWAL AND REVOCATION

Every 5 years, Community Choice Schools reapply for a charter. If CCS violates charter, it can be immediately revoked. If CCS does not meet the goals of their charter, it will not be renewed.

#### 01 A Community Choice School Must Be a Nonprofit and Headquartered in Montana

-Each CCS shall function as a Local Education Agency and is responsible for meeting all requirements of an LEA, including those relating to Special Education

## 02 Subject to All Federal Laws

-Including laws related to civil rights, health, and safety requirements except as otherwise provided in sections 1-17

### 03 Exempt from Title 20

- -Except as provided in sections 1-17
- -In regard to retirement system: CCSs are not public employers, and CCS teachers are not public employees -Teachers exempt from Title 20 certification requirements

# Community Choice Schools Operation and AutonomySection 14 Highlights

#### **05 Location of Community Choice School**

- -Encompasses the property lines of where the school physically exists
- -Is neither "in" nor "of " the traditional district in which it physically exists
- -ls a separate, public education entity authorized by and under control of the State

#### 04 Elected Governing Boards

-By third year of operation, an election shall take place
-Qualified electors are CCS stakeholders, parents of students and employees of school
-Election process outlined in CCS bylaws and approved by Authorizer/Commission
-Board members are often: parents, retirees, former teachers, local

business owners, etc.

Appointed by the Governor, Sup. OPI, Senate Pres., House Speaker, Senate and House Minority Leaders

Collectively
possess
experience in
business
administration,
finance, law,
education and
philanthropy

Working as authorizers, can generate fees, but mainly must raise money to run operations

# The Community Choice School Commission

Civically minded, generous people dedicated to improving educational opportunities in the state

An understood, rigorous volunteer position: not a job!

Focused on the specialized work of authorizing, not acting as a regulatory body

# COMMUNITY CHOICE SCHOOL FUNDING Section 15

Recognition

Basic Entitlement

County Treasurers

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Instruction

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Figure 1

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Instruction

Figure 2

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Instruction

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 3

Figure 3

Figure 3

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 3

Figure 4

#### **PUBLIC STUDENT**

- A CCS's student's enrollment will be included in their resident district counts for ANB purposes only
- Local support will stay with the local students

#### SEPARATE AND PRORATED

- Apply for B.E. through Authorizer
- B.E. included in the general fund of the district where CCS is physically located
- Authorizer will prorate reasonable
   B.E. based on size of enrollment

#### **GENERAL FUND**

- Treasurer of the county where CCS is physically located will establish account for the school
- Treasurers of the counties where students reside will send funds intended for resident students

#### TRANSFER

Sup. of Pub. Inst.
 will reduce a
 resident district's
 BASE aid for the
 number of CCS
 students and
 distribute it to the
 treasurers for
 deposit into the
 Community Choice
 School's general
 fund for ANB

#### **DISTRIBUTE**

Sup. of Pub. Inst.
 will distribute the
 approved amount of
 B.E. for the
 Community Choice
 School's account to
 the county treasurer
 where the CCS is
 located