



Northwest Center for Educational Options
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Supporting high quality public school options...

Introductory Information for the Oregon State Legislature – 2011 Session
Respectfully Submitted by: Kaaren Heikes—Executive Director, Northwest Center for Educational Options (NWCEO).

Who We Are:

NWCEO is an Oregon non-profit resource center *that fosters the development, operation, sponsorship, support, and accountability of quality public charter schools.* The majority of Oregon’s public charter schools are members of NWCEO.

NWCEO Core Services:

- Membership
- Technical Assistance
- Communication
- Advocacy

NWCEO Board of Directors

- Bob Dunton, Corbett School District
- Andrea Hungerford, Hungerford Law Firm
- Robin Lake, Center for Reinventing Public Education
- Lynn Lundquist, Former Speaker of the Oregon House
- Karen Phillips, Former “Oregon Small Schools Initiative” Director
- Kaaren Heikes, NWCEO (Executive Director)

Policy Priorities: NWCEO will continue our proactive commitment to work toward bi-partisan support for high-quality public charter schools as viable options within Oregon’s public school system. NWCEO’s policy priorities are the top priorities of Oregon’s charter schools, namely:

1. Ensuring funding equity for charter school students.
2. Providing facilities and facility funding for charter schools.
3. Creating additional charter sponsors/authorizers.
4. Clarifying regulations, policies and practices for virtual schools.

Approach: NWCEO approaches charter school policy and implementation collaboratively—to the fullest extent possible—with both charter schools and charter sponsors, as well as other key partners and stakeholders. Our experience has illustrated that such collaboration significantly contributes to charter school quality and longevity.

Availability: We are willing and available to serve as a resource for you as policy-makers. Please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your time and your interest in Oregon’s public charter schools as options for children within our public school system.

MEASURE: HB 3397
EXHIBIT: 6
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE
DATE: 3/16/2011 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: KAAREN HEIKES