Are Charter Schools Constitutional?

The Washington State Supreme Court has ruled that they are not, since they are not governed by elected boards and therefore are not accountable to voters.

In the ruling, Chief Justice Barbara Madsen wrote that charter schools aren’t “common schools” because they’re governed by appointed rather than elected boards.

Therefore, “money that is dedicated to common schools is unconstitutionally diverted to charter schools,” Madsen wrote. (Seattle Times)

<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/education/state-supreme-court-charter-schools-are-unconstitutional/>

At this time, Governor Hogan is packing the Maryland State Board of Education with pro-Charter members. Read the attached articles and make your decision. If you wish to make your feelings known to Governor Hogan contact him (<http://governor.maryland.gov/mail/default.asp>). Let him know how you feel about the topic, pro or con. Do you feel it is  diverting money from public schools , or do you see it as a choice for parents?

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/what-makes-a-public-school-public-washington-state-court-finds-charter-schools-unconstitutional/2015/09/08/706975c8-5632-11e5-8bb1-b488d231bba2_story.html>

In a second topic, the new Elementary and Secondary Education Act was passed by Congress last week. This will end many of the difficulties that educators encountered with “No Child Left Behind”, but “Every Student Succeeds Act” has it own set of newly discovered problems. In a holdover from the previously passed House bill it includes provisions that would allow states to set up new degree-granting academies for teachers outside of traditional higher education systems and would also encourage the creation of residency programs, in which teacher recruits are paired with veterans for a year of in-classroom training in addition to their coursework. This is of great concern to many, including professors in teacher education programs around the country. Many see it as the McTeacher Academy method.

Read the article in the Hechinger Report (<http://hechingerreport.org/the-every-student-succeeds-act-includes-some-new-ideas-on-how-train-better-teachers/> ) and if you agree that this is a problem I urge you to contact our Senators from Maryland, your Congressman, and your representatives to the Maryland State Legislature to let them know that you feel candidates for teaching require  rigorous, high quality preparation program and that you do not support this provision in ESSA.

Advocacy never rests, but Happy Holidays to all.

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