

SF2255 Testimony March 31, 2025

This testimony is being submitted on behalf of **Discovery Charter School** (DCS). Students who have found success and support will be adversely impacted by the Governor's education finance proposal as follows.

Charter schools continue to serve a higher percentage of students who are at-risk, and they do this with less funding (about 30% less per student than their resident districts). This presents as an equity issue already. The budget being proposed does not seem to consider how this could widen that gap and further limit access for students. The Governor's education finance proposal will make it even more difficult to provide the systems of support that these students need to be successful. Please do not balance the budget at the expense of at-risk students most in need of support.

Many of the students who enroll at DCS are seeking a smaller, more personal learning environment with fewer triggers for anxiety. This allows for more Special Education students to be mainstreamed with their peers, spending less time in the resource room. This allows for a least restrictive environment where most of them can participate in grade level instruction. While we have found that this helps to conserve our resources in managing behaviors, we continue to struggle maintaining staff and support for serving direct minutes and due process.

The elimination of the \$132 adjusted pupil LTFM revenue which currently may be spent on any purpose related to the general operations of the school, and the elimination of the 10% unreimbursed special education cost that is covered by the state, beginning in FY2026, will balance the budget at the expense of at-risk students most in need of supports.

Please do not balance the budget at the expense of the students and their families.

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