



April 1, 2025

Senator Kunesh, Chair
Senate Education Finance Committee Members
95 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Kunesh, and Members:

The **Minnesota Association of Charter Schools (MACS)** is a membership organization of chartered public schools from across the state. MACS advocates for students in charter schools, supports charter school innovation, quality and accountability, and facilitates cooperation in Minnesota's charter school community to promote equitable opportunities and excellence in education for students.

As you consider SF2255, the Governor's proposed budget, MACS respectfully requests that you reject the deeply problematic proposed cuts to chartered public school students.

Governor Walz's budget updates unveiled last week included significant cuts to chartered public schools, over \$41 million per biennium. **These proposed cuts include a significant divestment from the state in chartered public school students and chartered public school students with disabilities.** This is an unacceptable way to address future budget deficits, as this will impact 70,000 students and their families.

Chartered public schools already receive less than their traditional district counterparts. Charters cannot receive any funds from the various levies (including \$724 per pupil in Local Optional Revenue). As a result, chartered public schools across the state are already operating with extremely tight budgets and **these specific and significant cuts (outlined below) could shutter some schools, causing instability for the families and students who choose these public schools.** The specific cuts outlined in Governor Walz's updated budget include:

- State Divestment in Special Education Tuition Reimbursement for Charter Schools - \$21 million (26-27 biennium)
- Eliminating Charter School Long Term Facilities Maintenance Funding - \$20 million (26-27 biennium)

MACS can go into the details on how these would negatively impact the sector and different types of chartered public schools if requested. The topline is that the proposed cuts to these critical funding streams, which would abruptly occur, will impact teaching and learning, disrupt services for students with disabilities, and potentially result in a number of school closures.

Again, we respectfully call on you to protect this critical state funding for charter school students during this challenging time. Our students need your support now more than ever.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joey Cienian", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,". The signature is stylized with a large, loopy initial and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joey Cienian
Executive Director
Minnesota Association of Charter Schools (MACS)