



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
STATE SENATOR ALBERTA DARLING
STATE REPRESENTATIVE ROBIN VOS

February 7, 2011

608-266-5830
608-266-9171

Charter School Reform Will Enhance Education

MADISON... Wisconsin's charter schools will see major reforms under a proposal introduced in the State Legislature.

"Wisconsin is a leader in education reform," said State Representative Robin Vos (R-Rochester), a co-author of the bill. "Charter schools empower parents and help provide a quality education to our children."

Wisconsin currently has 206 charter schools educating over 37,000 students. Still, many believe that the state's charter school laws do not provide enough independent authority to the schools.

"State law has thrown unnecessary roadblocks in the path of some charter school proposals," said State Senator Alberta Darling (R-River Hills), a former teacher and co-author of the bill. "This bill will help charter schools educate more children."

The bill will create a statewide charter school board that could authorize charter schools, remove the cap on the number of charter schools allowed in the state and remove the cap on the number of students enrolled in charter schools.

The legislation will also allow charter operators to operate more than one school with a single charter.

"There are a number of really outstanding schools out there," said Vos. "We need to make it easier for top performing schools to replicate their success elsewhere."

The charter reform bill will also require charter school authorizers to meet quality standards developed by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers and establish a charter school teaching license that allows the licensee to teach multiple subjects in a charter school.

"The quality measures in this bill will ensure that students in charter schools are receiving a top notch education," said Darling.

The bill will also repeal the current enrollment cap on virtual schools.

"Virtual schools are the wave of the future," Darling said. "We need to embrace innovations like this to remain competitive in the future."