

Wyoming Draft Legislation 2009
Received by CER, 1/19/09

Representative Amy Edmonds sent CER copies of draft legislation she is working on to introduce this legislative session. With her colleagues in the state house, they plan to introduce several bills as a strategy to ensure some positive legislation will be passed to improve the existing charter school law.

Representative Edmonds has also asked if we can **schedule a call between Jeanne and Dr. Jim Rose, president of the Wyoming Community College Commission** regarding quality authorizing as he would like for Community Colleges to be authorizer, but wants to make sure they go about it on the right track from the beginning of their legislative push.

His contact information is:

Dr. James Rose
Office: 307-777-7763
Cell: 307-631-8935

The following is a summary of the four bills I received and I've attached copies of the legislation for review:

Draft Legislation # 1 (09LSO-0492.X) relating to charter schools

- Revising charter application and contract provisions – including waivers from certain district rules.
- requiring application approval prior to contract negotiations
- specifying basis for charter approval – based on community support being enough to open the school or allow conversion.
- eliminating charter prohibition if avoiding school closure or consolidation is sole purpose;
- modifying length of operation under initial charter and eliminating required charter renewal - Removes length of contract, but inserts a three-strikes your out policy for revocation of a charter.
- eliminating required district annual reporting to state board
- specifying required minimum levels of charter funding at 100%, weighted formulas for vocational education and at-risk students and provided district services like transportation and special education services.

Draft Legislation # 2 (09LSO-0493.X) – relating to charter school funding and provided district services

- specifying required minimum levels of charter funding at 100%, weighted formulas for vocational education and at-risk students and provided district services like transportation and special education services.

- Specifies districts provide required educational services as funded federally and 100% for health insurance.

Draft Legislation # 3 (09LSO-0494.X) – relating to charter authorizing

- Allows for the Wyoming community college commission in addition to the district board to authorize charter schools.
- Provides for the same funding under WCCC as districts, uses revised language in previous two bills. Minimum 100%.

Draft Legislation # 4 (09LSO-0490.X) – relating to charter authorizing

- Allows for the creation of an independent State Board for Charter Schools.
- Provides for the same funding under State Board for Charters as districts, uses revised language in previous two bills. Minimum 100%.