

MAPSA's 2015 Legislative Priorities

Equitable Funding. Narrow the equity gap to fund each child in the State equitably. This can be done by:

- Focusing future funding and policy decisions on the individual student by prioritizing the foundation grant and eliminating discretionary categoricals.
- When necessary, differentiating funding in a justifiable fashion based on individual student needs—such as poverty, special needs, or accelerated learning—without regard to existing or legacy cost structures of schools or districts, grade levels, or medium of education delivery.

A Real Accountability System. Create a 21st century accountability system that includes both growth and proficiency. This system should:

- Be transparent and easy for schools to understand the factors involved and the goals they are striving to achieve.
- Include easy-to-understand information that parents can use to make education decisions.
- To stop “authorizer shopping” that avoids accountability, prohibit the lowest performing schools from being chartered or moving to a new authorizer unless there is substantial change in the school board and school leadership within the school.
- Hold schools accountable for their results by closing poor performing schools, so that taxpayers does not continue to fund schools that don't help children succeed.

A Culture of Innovation. Allow charters and all public schools the access to regulatory flexibility needed to achieve results for students. This includes:

- Removing unnecessary mandates and barriers that hinder schools from operating a program that meets the goals established in their charter contracts to do what is best for students (i.e. seat time, common calendar, and post Labor Day start).
- Allowing for the use of recognized experts as part-time, non-certified, non-tenured instructors in content areas where they demonstrate a high level of competency.

Facilities Access. Provide applicants with an approved charter the ability to access existing, unused public school buildings through:

- Requiring access to existing public school buildings by any entity approved to be a public school.
- Opposing the arbitrary demolition of existing public school buildings when another educational entity indicates their intent to use that facility.

A 21st Century Approach to Sharing Services. Promote economies of scale and efficiencies by promoting shared services and resources anywhere in the State or Country, not just within a geographical boundary or through a mandate while protecting building and school autonomy.