



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The 2012 Omnibus E-12 Education Act, Laws 2012 Chapter 239, was signed into law April 27, 2012. The Act made several changes to Minnesota statutes governing education, including but not limited to the following.

TEACHER EMPLOYMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Minn. Stat. § 122A.40, subd. 5 was amended to allow a school board to give written notice that it is not going to renew a probationary teacher's contract to the teacher by July 1, instead of June 1. Effective 2012-2013 school year and later.

Minn. Stat. § 122A.40, subd. 13 was amended to allow a school board to suspend without pay a teacher whom the school board is proposing to immediately discharge for conduct that is also the subject of a felony charge, pending the conclusion of the immediate discharge hearing and a determination of the issues raised in the hearing. The amendment requires the school board to reimburse the teacher for the salary and other compensation, including pension contributions, it withheld if the final decision does not result in suspending, terminating, or discharging the teacher. Effective immediately.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Minn. Stat. § 124D.10, subd. 4, was amended to require a charter school to publish and maintain the following on the school's Web site:

1. Minutes from board of director's meetings and meetings of members and committees having board-delegated authority, for at least one calendar year;
2. Directory information for members of the board of directors and of committees having board-delegated authority; and
3. Identifying and contact information for the school's authorizer.

Minn. Stat. § 124D.10, subd. 6, was amended such that the requirement that the ongoing training charter school board members receive no longer need be department-approved, and directs the school to include in its annual report the training attended by each board member during the previous year.

Minn. Stat. § 124D.10, subd. 6, was amended to allow an initial charter school contract of five years, instead of three years.

Minn. Stat. § 124D.10, subd. 13 was amended to conform the length of the school year for charter schools to the length of the school year for traditional public schools by basing it on hours, not days.

Despite a 2012 law change requiring teacher candidates to pass a basic skills test before being issued an initial teaching license, allows a person who holds a temporary one-year

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Minn. Stat. § 169.4503 was amended by adding a subdivision that now allows for installation of surveillance camera systems on school buses. (Amended by Laws 2012 Chapter 137)

MSBA Revises Model Policy 205

The MSBA revised its policy regarding open meetings and closed meetings to reflect the Minnesota Rule 5510.2810 regarding meetings closed by the Bureau of Mediation Services. The change in Policy 205 is reflected in paragraph (IV)(e)(2). The Association added the language, “[t]he use of recording devices, stenographic records, or other recording methods are prohibited in mediation meetings closed by the BMS.” The following was removed from the paragraph thereby aligning the policy with the requirements of Minnesota Rule 5510.2810: “A closed meeting must be electronically recorded at the expense of the school district, and the recording must be preserved for at least three years after the date of the meeting. The recording is not available to the public.” In sum, closed meetings mediated by the BMS can no longer be recorded, providing no opportunity for public review. Each district is advised by the MSBA to revise their correlating policy to reflect these changes.

