

2001 DRAFTING REQUEST

Bill

Received: **02/13/2002**

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Wanted: **As time permits**

Identical to LRB:

For: **John Lehman (608) 266-0634**

By/Representing: **Lynn Ansfield**

This file may be shown to any legislator: **NO**

Drafter: **grantpr**

May Contact:

Addl. Drafters:

Subject: **Education - school boards
Education - charter schools**

Extra Copies: **MJL**

Submit via email: **YES**

Requester's email: **Rep.Lehman.J@legis.state.wi.us**

Carbon copy (CC:) to:

Pre Topic:

No specific pre topic given

Topic:

Assignment of pupils under the open enrollment program

Instructions:

See Attached

Drafting History:

<u>Vers.</u>	<u>Drafted</u>	<u>Reviewed</u>	<u>Typed</u>	<u>Proofed</u>	<u>Submitted</u>	<u>Jacketed</u>	<u>Required</u>
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/1			jfrantze 02/19/2002	_____	lrb_docadmin 02/19/2002	lrb_docadmin 02/19/2002 lrb_docadmin 02/20/2002	

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lrb_docadmin
02/20/2002

FE Sent For: none needed

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per PG for Assembly

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/?	grantpr	<i>lhmb 2/18/02</i>					

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2/12/02

LYNN ANSFIELD

6-0634

(John
LEHMAN)

cyber charter school
using open enrollment

DPI - Tony Everson

don't want open enrollment being used
for cyber schools

Open enrollment is currently being used for charter schools

Lehman's
idea:

res. sd must approve participation in cyb. school?
under open enrollment

skiel
(63137)

DPI
Pamela Grandjean Decker
6-5728

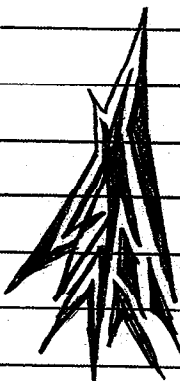
180 day requirement?

licensed instructors?

18.40 (1m) (b) 8. re health + safety?

12. disciplining?

(3) (e) cs can't be "located" outside s.d.



2/13/02

MJ Cleaver - DPI

2 cyber charter schools

1. wis connectivis academy
2. " virtual academy

(Pylvan)
 (K12 group
 William Bennett) group

trying to
 get Appleton sd to charter'em

see who's not
 promoting themselves heavily

looking for ^{kids} 250 this year

if

DPI makes the and transfers

BUT
 can't open enroll to a (2r) charter school

open enrollment
 regulated by public school districts, not DPI

Appleton wants to gain
 needs to increase enrollment

- what is a school?
- are they ^{result being} home-schooled?

parents get free tuition
 access to certified teachers
 curriculum free

both sd's make out on this



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State has another entrant in bid for virtual charter school

By ALAN J. BORSUK of the Journal Sentinel staff

Last Updated: Feb. 12, 2002

Competition for virtual charter schools in Wisconsin heated up Tuesday with the announcement that the company led by William J. Bennett, the former secretary of education, expects to begin operating such a school in Wisconsin by this fall.

K12 Inc., based in McLean, Va., would be the second company aiming to offer home-based, publicly funded education in Wisconsin next fall.

Education

Section: Education

Jason Bertsch, a spokesman for K12, said the company was close to reaching an agreement with a school district in the state under which the K12 operation would be a charter school of that district. He declined to name the district.

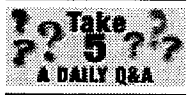
The K12 charter would offer kindergarten through fifth-grade courses beginning in the fall, with the goal of expanding through high school.

Using a combination of the state's charter school and open enrollment laws, children from around the state could become students of the school and have the cost paid by public dollars.

The Appleton Area School District is working on plans to give a charter to a virtual school for kindergarten through eighth-grade students to be operated by Sylvan Ventures, an arm of Sylvan Learning Systems, based in Baltimore and a competitor of K12. The Appleton-based school also is aiming to open in the fall and attract students from around the state.

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Both programs would offer students printed textbooks and other materials as well as courses online and involvement with teachers, usually by e-mail.

Bertsch said the K12 plan also would involve telephone contact with teachers and some face-to-face meetings between teachers, parents and students.

"The teacher is there as sort of a supporter of the parents and as a team member," Bertsch said. He said the company expected to hire teachers from around the state so personal contact would be feasible for families.

The K12 school would be known as the Wisconsin Virtual Academy. Bertsch said teachers would be licensed in Wisconsin and, as is true with other charter schools, students would take Wisconsin standardized tests.

Both K12 and the Sylvan school, which is expected to be called the Wisconsin Connections Academy, are holding orientation meetings around the state. The deadline for making applications under the state open enrollment program to attend public schools in another district is Feb. 22, so both have limited time to recruit students.

K12 provides home schooling curricula to students in 46 states and several foreign countries, and it provides the more elaborate home charter school option - which includes teacher contact, field trips and and more elaborate materials - in Pennsylvania, Colorado, California and Alaska.

In an interview Tuesday, Bennett said, "I've been a critic of educational practice in this country a long time, and I decided to stop cursing the darkness and light a candle."

He called it "a great thing" that a child could learn at home using programs designed by top quality educators. No public school anywhere can say it has a top teacher involved in each student's work, he said, but a virtual school can.

Some home schooling advocates have been concerned that programs such as these would provide too much government intervention, but some parents find such ideas appealing because they offer home schooling combined with more professional structure and outside help.

More information on the K12 proposal and a schedule of presentations around the state can be found at www.wivcs.org.

Appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Feb. 13, 2002.

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Online school would put new twist on choice, charters

By AMY HETZNER of the Journal Sentinel staff

Last Updated: Feb. 3, 2002

A proposed virtual school created out of the Appleton Area School District is testing the limits of laws that guide school choice and charter schools in Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Connections Academy would serve students in kindergarten through eighth grade starting next fall, primarily through Internet-based and parent-guided instruction out of the students' homes.

School officials from the Appleton district and Sylvan Ventures, the investment arm of the Baltimore-based tutoring giant Sylvan Learning Systems, are working on a deal that would give the academy a charter - and consequently public funding - to operate. Nothing has been finalized.

Sylvan Ventures' employees, meanwhile, are courting families that home-school their children through a series of open houses around Wisconsin. Parents are being encouraged to apply to the Appleton district using the state's open enrollment system.

While some parents welcome the idea, the move has alarmed some school officials and legislators, who say they never saw this coming when they drafted the laws that could make it possible.

"I don't think we ever envisioned that this would occur under open enrollment or charter school (laws), nor did we ever believe this was the intent of open enrollment - to create a statewide network for open enrollment," said state Sen. Richard Grobschmidt, chairman of the Senate Education Committee.

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"Although there doesn't seem there is anything in the law that prevents or prohibits this kind of use of charter schools, it certainly raises questions about the statewide implications," the South Milwaukee Democrat said.

How policies work

Charter schools are public schools funded with taxpayer money. They are run by independent boards under charter agreements with sponsoring school districts, which lay out how the charter schools will be funded, what state laws they will follow and what goals they should meet to continue operating. In Milwaukee, local colleges and the city government also can issue charters.

Under open enrollment - the state's public school choice system - parents can apply to have their children attend any public school district in the state as long as they can provide transportation and the district has room.

When students transfer under open enrollment rules, their resident school districts pay more than \$5,000 per student to their new school districts.

Parents who previously might not have applied to the Appleton school district because they live too far away can enroll in the virtual school without transportation restrictions. The academy can enroll them because it's not constrained by space.

Some parents who attended an open house in Waukesha last week thought it was a good idea.

"I'm very intrigued. I'm very impressed," said Janine Curtin, who traveled from Palmyra with her 12-year-old daughter, Emily, to hear the presentation.

Curtin said she has home-schooled her daughter since kindergarten but is looking for alternatives now that the seventh-grader is nearing high school. The cyber charter gives her another option.

"I know that if it doesn't work out for us, I can withdraw and go back to home schooling again," she said.

Likewise, Racine parents Laurel and John Kennedy said the virtual school opens opportunities for their 11-year-old son, whose dyslexia and dysgraphia cause him to transpose letters when he reads and writes and makes him hard to educate on their own.

"For those people who want to home-school, they can home-school. This is kind of the in-between for people who want the help and like the structure," said John Kennedy, whose son was home-schooled for

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years before enrolling recently in a public school.

"There are a lot of home-schoolers who are frustrated and looking for options."

Surrendering freedoms?

However, some home-schoolers say that by joining the charter school, they could be trading in their home-schooling freedoms for the charter school's "freebies," including curriculum materials and a computer for each student.

"I'd like the State of Wisconsin to pay my curriculum costs, but we have to take the government regulation with it," said Brenda Shields, who educates two of her three children in Elm Grove.

The Wisconsin Parents Association, a home-schooling advocacy and support group, opposes the proposal. The group has encouraged home-school families to attend Sylvan's open houses in opposition.

"I think that people oppose it because you never get a free lunch," said Larry Kaseman, the association's executive director. "So, with the free computer comes basically a standardized curriculum and a series of state tests that are going to be required of students, and it will basically present one way of doing education. It will bring in the values and belief structures of that curriculum, and that curriculum will be geared to increasingly national tests."

Many of the details of the charter school still have to be worked out. Sylvan is holding open houses around the state now because the open enrollment application period for next school year runs from today through Feb. 22.

School backers say they already have enlisted a curriculum provider - the Calvert School, an independent school in Maryland that caters to home-schoolers - and that students would have to take Wisconsin's standardized tests.

The school would combine a mix of instructional methods so children can learn out of their homes, said Pat Laystrom, project leader for the Wisconsin Connections Academy and a consultant for Sylvan Ventures.

Students would receive a box filled with curriculum material, including hands-on activities and books. They also would be given passwords to access Calvert's online educational program.

Parents are expected to act as "learning coaches" and work along with a certified Wisconsin teacher, with whom both parent and student can communicate over the Internet. Laystrom estimated the virtual school's

student-to-certified-teacher ratio will be between 25 and 30 to one.

In addition, students would be given contacts to help connect them with community learning experiences and field trips.

While Sylvan has targeted home-schoolers with its initial marketing attempts, Laystrom said the virtual school could be advantageous for others, including those who are disabled or who were expelled from the classroom. Sylvan hopes the Wisconsin Connections Academy can enroll 200 to 500 students in its first year.

"It's unique and it's innovative and it's never been done before in this manner, so we're learning all the time," Laystrom said.

Efforts in other states

Cyber charters have been launched in other states, and Sylvan is working on starting its "connections academies" in Minnesota and North Carolina as well this fall.

They have been controversial at times. Groups in Pennsylvania and Ohio have sued over the schools and their funding.

This school year, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction received its first funding requests from outfits looking to start virtual charter schools.

In addition to the Wisconsin Connections Academy, the Appleton school district filed for a charter grant to help plan for a separate virtual high school.

Three other school districts - South Milwaukee, Stevens Point and Kiel - also asked the DPI for money to help them plan virtual charter schools for middle and high school students, said Steve Dold, assistant superintendent for the DPI's division of finance and management.

Laurel Kennedy, the Racine parent, said it's about time.

"This is being done all over the country, and it's working," she said. "So why can't it work here too? I'm glad. I'm excited."

SCHOOL TERMS

Charter school: A public school, funded by taxpayer dollars, that is operated by an independent board through a charter contract often reached with a public school district. The contract lays out how the charter school will be funded in addition to other operational issues, including what standards the school needs to meet to continue operating.

Open enrollment: Wisconsin's public school choice option that allows students throughout the state to attend any public school district they wish, provided they have transportation and the school district has room.

Appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Feb. 3, 2002.

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v020802a

Grant, Peter

From: Ansfield, Lynn
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2002 4:10 PM
To: Grant, Peter
Subject: Virtual Charter School Definition.doc

Peter,

How about this language? Okay, so I'm not an attorney, but you get the gist, right? I took some of the definition from the Pennsylvania cyber charter school bill: House Bill 1733.

Lynn Ansfield

Definition: "Cyber charter school" is an elementary school, a secondary school or a combination thereof that has a computer system connected to the Internet, or any other distance learning technology, as its primary mode of delivery of its instructional programming, that is established as a charter school under S. 118.40, and in which students ~~do not~~ receive ~~more~~ ^{less} than 50% of their instruction in a physical classroom from an onsite teacher.

Create s. 118.15 (1) (d) 7.

open enrollment provides at least 50%

Enrollment in a cyber charter school located outside the school district in which the child resides. Enrollment of a child under this subdivision must be pursuant to a contractual agreement between the resident school district and the school district that establishes the charter school.

2/13/02 TC of Lynn:
provide that a nonresident sd. under open enrollment can't assign the nonresident pupil to a cyber ch. sch. unless the cyber ch. sch. provides at least 50% of its instruction in a physical classroom from an onsite teacher.

2001

Date (time) needed

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AN ACT... [generate catalog] to repeal...; to renumber...; to consolidate and renumber...; to renumber and amend...; to consolidate, renumber and amend...; to amend...; to repeal and recreate...; and to create... of the statutes; relating to: the assignment of pupils to schools or programs under the open enrollment program.

[NOTE: See section 4.02 (2) (br), Drafting Manual, for specific order of standard phrases.]

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

If titles are needed in the analysis, in the component bar:

For the main heading, execute: create -> anal: -> title: -> head

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(attached)

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION #.

ANALYSIS

Under ^{the} current open enrollment program, under certain conditions, a pupil may attend public school in a school district other than the ^{one} one in which the pupil resides. ~~under certain conditions~~ The school board of the nonresident school district ~~may~~ assigns a pupil who has been accepted under the program to a school or program within the nonresident school district.

This bill prohibits the school board from assigning a pupil to a school or program in which the pupil will receive less than 50% of his or her instruction from a licensed teacher who is present in the same room as the pupil.

X

Section #. 118.51 (10) of the statutes is amended to read:

118.51 (10) PUPIL ASSIGNMENT. A nonresident school board may assign pupils accepted to attend public school in the school district under this section to a school or program within the school district. The school board may give preference in attendance at a school, program, class or grade to residents of the school district who live outside the school's attendance area.

History: 1997 a. 27, 41, 164; 1999 a. 117, 118; 2001 a. 16; s. 13.93 (2) (c).

(End)

except that a nonresident school board may not assign a pupil to a school or program in which the pupil will receive less than such of his or her instruction ~~in a~~ ~~classroom~~ from a licensed teacher who is present in the same room as the pupil