



### **ISSUE: New Schools with Insufficient Enrollment**

A significant increase in the number of new schools proposed and approved by authorizers never open, or open with insufficient enrollment to be sustainable beyond a short time. This situation has been a factor over the last several years in some quarters for calls on a moratorium on new charters.

### **POLICY SOLUTION: Market Need and Demand Study**

To address the issue, the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools, in consultation with various individuals and organizations including the MN Department of Education, has drafted legislation to require school developers to conduct a “**Market Need and Demand Study**” as a component of the charter application process.

#### **The Study would require:**

- 1]** Current and projected demographic information of student populations in the geographic area of the proposed school.
- 2]** Current student enrollment patterns in the geographical area of the proposed location of the school.
- 3]** Information on existing schools and types of educational programs currently available in the proposed geographic location of the school.
- 4]** Documentation of a plan to do outreach to diverse and underrepresented populations
- 5]** Information on the availability of properly zoned and classified facilities in the proposed geographic location of the school.
- 6]** Quantification of sufficient existing demand for the operation for the new school, additional sites expansion, or grade expansion beyond the school’s charter.

The Market Demand & Need Study would also be required of existing schools which seek to add grades beyond its current charter, or additional sites or locations.

#### **For more information on this Issue & Solution, contact either:**

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