

# ALLIANCE FOR HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE/SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

January 8, 2020  
10:30 A.M.  
MEETING SUMMARY

***In attendance on phone conference:*** Adam Fineske, Andy Culp, Andy Hill, Beth Weber, Brian Wilson, Christine Poetter, Fred Bolden, Greg Gurka, James Fritz, Jennifer Felker, Jodi Hauseman, Joe Spiccia, Jonathan Cooper, Ken Matsudo, Kim Miller, Mark Gleichauf, Phillip Herman, Renee Willis, Susan Haffey, Tim Pickana, Todd Puster, Tom Burton, Tom Hosler, Walter Davis, Jessica Voltolini, and Tony Podojil

Tony Podojil convened the meeting by phone conference at 10:30 a.m. The primary focus of the meeting was to update the committee on the EdChoice Scholarship Program legislative fix.

## **I. Legislative Strategies.**

### **A. Ed Choice - Update**

Tony and Jessica provided the committee with an update on the status of legislative conversation regarding the EdChoice Program. Jessica discussed the January timeline in which the General Assembly is operating under prior to the February 1st EdChoice Scholarship application window opening. She indicated that there have been conversations in both the House and the Senate regarding what changes could be made or what legislative vehicle to use. In terms of the actual timeline, the Senate is due to return the week of January 13th for committee hearings and the House returning the week of January 20th. That would give both entities approximately two weeks, the last two weeks of January, to get a legislative fix passed and to the Governor for signature.

Legislators are engaged and considering changes related to the criteria used to identify buildings as EdChoice eligible eligibility criteria by which high school students become eligible for scholarships. Senator Huffman remains a key figure in terms of what will be included in any amendment. Once amendment language is public, Jessica and Tony will share with the committee and AHQE membership.

Finally, in terms of specific changes, there has been discussions of changing the criteria for building eligibility to include only buildings graded “D” or “F” with some “C” buildings qualifying based on achieved criteria (lowest 10% of PI statewide). There appears to be general agreement that the high school student eligibility criteria needs to be returned to the original rules which required students to be enrolled in their district high school for at least one year before qualifying for a scholarship.

In the short term (next week), members can use the information provided in our email sent out January 8th that included several talking points. Those are listed again below:

### **Talking Points and Legislative Recommendations**

- Eliminate the K-3 Literacy Component grade as one of the criteria used for identifying school buildings on the EdChoice list. (This is consistent with OSBA/OASBO/BASA recommendation).
- For purposes of identifying school buildings on the EdChoice list for the 2020-21 school year, only use overall building letter grades for the last two report card years. Specifically, only building that received an overall building letter grade of “D” or “F” on the 2017-18 and 2018-19 of Report Card would be on the EdChoice list for the 2020-21 school year.
- For purposes of identifying school buildings on the EdChoice list for the 2021-22 school year and beyond, only use overall building letter grades of “D” or “F” and go back to using two if the last three years of report card data.

- Reverse the HB 166 state budget language that extended scholarship eligibility to residents/non-public students of High School students. Specifically, require high school students to attend a public school in the year prior to applying for an EdChoice scholarship. (This is consistent with OSBA/OASBO/BASA recommendation).

## **II. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be **February 5, 2020 at 10:30 AM by phone conference.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.