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December 21, 2010

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Two More Charter School Authorizers Approved by Minnesota Department of Education

New law brings stronger oversight to Minnesota charter schools: Eleven Charter School Authorizers now meet the rigorous state law

Roseville, Minn. – There are now eleven charter school authorizers approved by the Minnesota Department of Education under a new law passed by the legislature in the 2009 session.

The Minnesota Department of Education approved two charter school authorizers on Dec. 20, 2010. The two charter schools authorizers approved today improved their application by responding to deficiencies in their application initially denied by MDE on Dec. 1. The deadline is June 30, 2011 for all charter school authorizers (formerly known as “sponsors”) planning to earn MDE approval to operate. The new criteria for authorizers include stricter financial and academic controls and adherence to national standards for charter school oversight and quality.

In the second round of applications, 16 organizations applied to become charter school authorizers. The two charter schools authorizers approved today are:

- Audubon Center of the North Woods
- Northfield Public Schools

Nine organizations remain eligible from Round 2 to earn Commissioner approval to operate as charter school authorizers. These organizations have through late December to respond to identified deficiencies in their applications. The organizations not approved were sent detailed comments from the reviewers. The next round of authorizer application reviews has a submission deadline of February 16, 2011. Previously denied applicants are all eligible to apply.

“These charter school authorizers meet the highest standards of quality charter school oversight in the nation,” said Commissioner Alice Seagren. “We recognize the commitment and dedication of these organizations seeking to become charter school authorizers in Minnesota.”

The previously approved authorizers are:

- Ordway Center for the Performing Arts
- Pillsbury United Communities
- Innovative Quality Schools
- Anoka Technical College
- Friends of Education
- Minneapolis Public Schools
- Novation Education Opportunities
- Student Achievement Minnesota

- Volunteers of America - Minnesota

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