

May 13, 2004

STATE BOARD ACCEPTS VICTORY LOTTERY, WITH CHANGES

BOISE - The office of the State Board of Education has accepted Victory Charter School's lottery with some changes.

In March, the State Board of Education received a complaint that the Victory Charter School had set aside seats for founders' children in the lottery. While this was common practice by other charter schools, the previous law did not specifically address founders' seats.

SBOE Executive Director Gary Stivers received notification from Victory Charter School that in order to comply with the charter school law at the time of the original lottery conducted on March 12, 13 founders' children would be withdrawn from the student pool. The next available students on the waiting list would replace these students. The founders' children would then be added to the classes in accordance with the new state law that allows for a set aside for founders' children. Even with the addition of founders' children back into the school, no class will increase by more than three students.

"This is a practical solution to this issue," said Stivers. "After a thorough review of Victory's lottery process, the only irregularity was the inclusion of founders' seats. Victory Charter School has offered a solution to the issue that benefits all students at the school. Those who were originally drawn will keep their spot in the school, 13 additional students will have the opportunity to attend and children of the parents who have worked so diligently to start the school, will not be excluded."