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PRESS RELEASE



## **\*\* HCCS Welcomes Visit by Massachusetts State Senator \*\***

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### **For Immediate Release**

On May 29, 2014, the Holyoke Community Charter School (HCCS) in Holyoke, Massachusetts, welcomed a very special visitor – State Senator Don Humason. During his visit, Senator Humason toured the school and met with students, staff, and parents, who shared their support of legislation that would raise the cap on the number of students who can attend charter schools in the state.



HCCS, a member of the global SABIS® School Network, opened in the fall of 2005 and has been enrolled to capacity since its first day of operation.

Currently serving 702 students from Kindergarten through Grade 8, HCCS is now seeking to expand its K-8 academic program to a full K-12 program but cannot do so under the current legislation, which limits the number of charter schools that are allowed to operate and the percentage of eligible public school students who can attend charter schools.

During his visit, Senator Humason heard from HCCS 8<sup>th</sup> graders who expressed love for their school and preference to remain there throughout high school. He also heard HCCS parents speak about the school's college-preparatory mission and its caring and welcoming environment. The school's director, Dr. Sonia Pope, presented Senator Humason with a binder containing hundreds of letters of support for the school and a petition signed by parents and supporters in favor of raising the state's charter school enrollment cap.

Following the visit, Dr. Pope commented: *“The visit was empowering and motivational. Senator Humason had the opportunity to see how our school is performing and how committed our students and parents are. We make a difference in our students' lives right up until they have to leave us in Grade 8 and are eager to be able to make an even greater difference by educating them through Grade 12.”*

For more information about Holyoke Community Charter School or SABIS®, visit [hccs-sabis.net](http://hccs-sabis.net) or [sabis.net](http://sabis.net), respectively.

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