

For Immediate Release
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Contact:
Joshua Halsey
Joshua.halsey@charterschool.wa.gov
Office: (360) 725-5511

NOTICES OF INTENT TO APPLY RECEIVED FROM TWELVE CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICANTS

*Commission announces both new and returning applicants
complete first step in application process*

The Washington State Charter School Commission (the Commission) released its second annual Request for Proposals (RFP) for new charter schools on April 15, 2014. The Commission received twelve Notices of Intent (NOI) to apply from eleven non-profit organizations by the June 13, 2014 deadline. These NOIs were submitted electronically; NOIs sent by U.S. mail must be postmarked by the June 13, 2014 deadline, but may be received shortly thereafter. The NOI is the first step in an application process for non-profit organizations interested in opening public charter schools in Washington State.

The Commission welcomes new and returning applicants in their efforts to demonstrate how they intend to improve educational outcomes for at-risk students. Applicants who have submitted a NOI can look forward to completing comprehensive application that is due July 15, 2014. Similar to last year, applicants that submit complete applications by the July 15th deadline will be expected to engage in in-person interviews in late August, and attend a public forum in the first half of September. The Commission will vote on which applications to approve during its October 9, 2014 meeting at the Yakima Valley Community College in Yakima, WA.

“The Commission is pleased with the variety of NOIs,” said Commission Executive Director Joshua Halsey. “We have potential applicants across the state. It is great to see these non-profit organizations demonstrate their interest in responding to student needs across many of Washington’s communities.”

The Commission seeks to authorize only the highest quality public charter schools to achieve its vision of fostering innovation and ensuring excellence so that every student has access to and thrives in a high quality public school. Through the annual release of its RFP, the Commission solicits experienced charter school operators, new grassroots startups, and traditional public schools wishing to convert to charter schools to submit applications. The Commission values new approaches to addressing the educational needs of Washington’s K-12 students, and intends to document these approaches so that they may be replicated in other Washington schools.

About Washington State’s Charter School Commission

Washington State’s Charter School Commission was formed with the mission of creating a rigorous and comprehensive proposal process and to hold charters accountable to high standards of quality. The Commission is an independent state agency that exists to authorize and oversee high quality public charter schools throughout Washington with an emphasis on schools designed to expand opportunities for at-risk students, providing leadership and oversight that is consistent with national principles and standards of charter school authorizers and the provisions of Washington’s charter school law. For more information, visit: <http://www.governor.wa.gov/issues/education/commission/>.