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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## WASHINGTON STATE CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION ISSUES ANNUAL NEW CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION

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### Commission eagerly awaits proposals for school opening in Fall 2018

**Olympia, WA** – The Washington State Charter School Commission begins its new round of charter school authorization with the release of the New Charter School Application on Tuesday, December 6, 2016. This year, successful applicants will have the opportunity to access U.S. Department of Education Charter School Program (CSP) grant, a grant administered through the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). CSP grant funds are designed to support the development and growth of new, high-quality charter public schools across the state.

This current application release seeks proposals for schools opening in Fall of 2018. As with previous application cycles, the Commission seeks applicants who wish to embody the Commission’s mission, namely to create ‘...high-quality schools that will significantly improve student outcomes, particularly for at-risk students.’ The Commission expects a wide variety of applicants to rise to the challenge, from experienced national operators to local startups.

The New Charter School Application release initiates a six-month process, concluding June 29, 2017 with the Commission’s decision to authorize charter school applicants. Along the way, applicants will submit a Notice of Intent to Apply by February 17, followed by a full proposal due March 31. From there, applicants will engage in in-person interviews in early May, 2017. The final step are public forums held in the last week of May, allowing applicants to address the community their school is designed to serve.

The Commission will host a one-hour webinar on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 10-11am and a full-day application orientation on Thursday December 15<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30am-4:30pm at the Commission’s

office in Olympia. For more information about these and future learning opportunities, please visit:  
[www.charterschool.wa.gov/applying/](http://www.charterschool.wa.gov/applying/)

## 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://charterschool.wa.gov/>

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