

For Immediate Release:

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CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION TO HOST TWO PUBLIC FORUMS THIS YEAR

Commission Eager to Learn More About Community Needs, and Hear Directly from Applicants

The Washington State Charter School Commission (Commission) will host two (2) public forums in May. The purpose of these forums is to provide an opportunity for the new school applicants to engage directly with the Commission and for the public to learn more about and to provide input on each application. (WAC 108-20-050).

These public forums are a chance for parents, community members, local residents, potential students, school district board members, and the public to learn about and share feedback, insights and concerns on the proposed charter schools. Commissioners and Commission staff will also attend.

“These forums are great opportunities for communities to have rich dialogue about a new school, and its potential impact in a community,” said Joshua Halsey, Executive Director of the Charter School Commission. “I’ve seen the best proposals and plans for charter schools made even better because they benefitted from diverse engagement, opinions and perspectives shared at these meetings.”

Below are the dates, times and locations for each public forum:

Whatcom Intergenerational High School
7:00 – 8:30 pm, Monday, May 14, 2018
Whatcom Community College (Syre Auditorium)
237 W. Kellogg Road
Bellingham, WA 98226

Ashe Preparatory Academy
6:00 – 7:30 pm, Tuesday, May 29, 2018
Albert Talley High School
7800 S. 132nd Street
Seattle, WA 98178

Public Forum Procedures: New charter school applicants will provide a 15 minute presentation. After the presentation, 45 minutes of public comment will occur. Individuals interested in giving verbal public comment during the public forum can enter a random drawing before the public forum begins. Individuals will have no more than 2 minutes to provide verbal comment; however, individuals requesting language interpretation support will be given 4 minutes to provide their verbal comment. Individuals/groups wishing to provide written comment may send their statements by May 11, 2018 to:

Washington State Charter School Commission
P.O. Box 40996
Olympia, WA 98504-0996

—OR—

Comments may be hand delivered to the public forums. Written comments are limited to one page. To view applications submitted during the 2018 Application solicitation cycle, click the links below:

[Ashé Preparatory Academy](#)

[Whatcom Intergenerational High School](#)

Language Interpretation Services

The Commission actively engages in culturally and community responsive practices. To this end, the Commission will have on-site interpreters at each public forum.

The Commission will automatically provide language interpreters for direct translation via headset, as well as for individuals wishing to give public comment in their home language.

Individuals giving public comment through a translator will be given an extended period of time to provide public comment.

To request a language interpreter please make your request by **May 7, 2018 or May 22, 2018** (prior to each forum) to: Amanda Martinez at Amanda.Martinez@k12.wa.us or call (360) 725-5511.

About Charter Schools

Charter schools are independent public schools operated by non-profit organizations that are allowed more flexibility to be innovative with their educational program and are held accountable for improved student achievement. Broadly, charters must adhere to the same state learning standards, accountability goals, health, safety, and non-discrimination laws, hire certificated teachers, follow generally accepted accounting principles and are subject to state financial audits. They are free and open to all students.

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.

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