



Washington State Charter School Commission:

Commission Relocation Policy

Purpose and Scope

The Washington State Charter School Commission (“Commission”) is committed to ensuring that every student in Washington has equitable access to innovative, high-quality public education. As the state’s statewide charter school authorizer, the Commission prioritizes excellence, equity, accountability, and community partnership in the schools it authorizes and oversees.

This Policy establishes the principles, expectations, and processes that guide Commission decision-making regarding charter school relocation requests. The Commission recognizes that safe, stable, and high-quality facilities are fundamental to student success. In certain circumstances—such as facility challenges, displacement, or urgent safety concerns—relocation may be necessary. This Policy ensures that such decisions are made in a manner that is equitable, transparent, and centered on student outcomes.

Policy

The Commission will consider relocation requests from charter schools that demonstrate the ability to maintain or improve student outcomes while ensuring equitable access, operational stability, and community alignment.

Relocation decisions will be guided by the following principles:

1. *Student-Centered Decision-Making*

Relocation must support student safety, continuity, and well-being and must not create new barriers to opportunity.

2. *Academic and Operational Quality*

Schools must demonstrate strong academic performance and operational capacity to successfully implemented the proposed relocation.

3. *Equitable Access*

Relocation must preserve or improve access for students, including reasonable commute times, transportation options, and continuity of services, particularly for historically underserved students.

4. *Community Engagement and Demand*

Schools must demonstrate meaningful, inclusive, and multilingual engagement with families and community stakeholders, and show that community input has informed the proposed relocation.

5. *Financial and Organizational Sustainability*

Schools must demonstrate that relocation supports long-term financial viability and organizational stability.

Process

Charter schools seeking Commission approval for relocation must submit a relocation request in accordance with Commission requirements.

Relocation requests must include, at a minimum:

- Evidence of meaningful community engagement and feedback
- Analysis of student access, including transportation and commute impacts
- Plans to ensure continuity of instruction and student services
- Demonstration of financial feasibility and sustainability
- Description of any changes to operations, staffing, or programming

The Commission may require additional information, documentation, or conditions as part of the review process.

Relocations that extend beyond the school's originally approved geographic boundaries may be subject to enhanced review, additional conditions, or increased oversight. All relocation decisions will be made by the Commission in a public meeting and in accordance with applicable law.

Oversight and Monitoring

Following approval of the relocation, the Commission will monitor the school's performance to ensure successful implementation and continued student success.

Monitoring may include, but is not limited to:

- Student enrollment and retention
- Attendance
- Academic performance
- Organizational and financial performance

The Commission may impose additional reporting requirements, conditions, or oversight measures as necessary.

Commission Responsibilities

In implementing this Policy, the Commission will:

- Apply an equity lens to all relocation decisions
- Ensure transparency in decision-making processes
- Evaluate both short-term impacts and long-term sustainability
- Align relocation practices with statutory requirements and the Commission's Strategic Plan

Support and Technical Assistance

The Commission may provide guidance, technical assistance, and resources to support schools and governing boards in planning and implementing relocations, including support related to community engagement, facilities planning, and financial sustainability.

Review of Policy

The Commission will periodically review and update this Policy to ensure alignment with applicable laws, best practices, and the Commission's Strategic Plan.

Final Provision

Charter schools must demonstrate ongoing, meaningful engagement with families and community partners, and stakeholders to ensure that any relocation reflects community needs and maintains public trust.