



**For Immediate Release:**

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## **New Charter School Commissioner Appointed**

*Vickey Melcher has been appointed to the 11-member Commission, the state's only non-district and statewide charter school authorizer.*

**Olympia, WA** – House Minority Leader J. T. Wilcox recently appointed Vickey Melcher to a 4-year term on the Washington State Charter School Commission (the Commission). The Commission is an independent state agency which was formed with the mission of creating a rigorous and comprehensive proposal process for qualified non-profits who wish to open a charter public school. It is comprised of a seven-person staff, including an Executive Director, which focuses on implementation of each charter public school's authorized contract.

Commissioner Melcher brings a wealth of experience to the Commission, including serving as a Board Director for the Moses Lake School District, and directing the district's special education department, as well as several years in the classroom. A lifelong resident of Eastern Washington, Odessa High School alumnus Melcher has devoted her life to improving the state of education in Washington. With a BA in Special Education and an MA in Counseling Psychology, Vickey has worked in many different capacities to ensure the educational needs of ALL students in Washington State are met. Commissioner Melcher's philosophy is that the best education for our children depends on the good decisions we make for them.

Charter public schools are public schools. Like all public schools, they are open to all students, tuition-free, publicly-funded, staffed by certified teachers and held accountable to state and national standards. Charter public schools have additional requirements beyond those of traditional public schools in that they are held accountable for student outcomes according to the terms of a contract. To best meet the needs of their community and their student population, charter public schools may customize the curriculum.

### **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 charter public schools 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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