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Charter School Commission Welcomes New Commissioner

Maya Vengadasalam joins the 11-member Commission, the state's only non-district and statewide charter school authorizer.

Olympia, WA – Following an appointment by Speaker of the House Laurie Jinkins, Maya Vengadasalam has joined the Washington's Charter School Commission (Commission). Washington State's Charter School Commission is an independent state agency. It 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. Ms. Vengadasalam began her 4-year term on April 11, 2022.

"Across the state, schools are benefiting from the dedication and professionalism of educators and school leaders," said Chris Korsmo, Commission Chair. "We're very pleased to welcome Maya Vengadasalam to the charter public school commission for her expertise and fresh outlook on our work and we look forward to the ways her experience will benefit the schools the Commission supports."

Ms. Vengadasalam is a Business Process Analyst representing the finance and administration departments of the Housing Authority of the City of Tacoma. She also serves as a Leadership Consultant for Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA). From 2013 to 2021, Ms. Vengadasalam was an elected school board director for the Kent School District. In this capacity, she led diversity and equity initiatives that were recognized by the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) and United Way of King County, among others.

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.

“As we move through the challenging environment created by the pandemic, we need leaders like Maya to step up and provide stability and vision for the months and years ahead,” continued Korsmo. “For charter public schools specifically, we remain optimistic about the choices that we provide for parents looking for options beyond traditional public schools, and we’re proud to enfold Maya’s experience into our work.”

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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