



WASHINGTON STATE  
*Charter School Commission*  
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## Washington State Charter School Commission Provides Update on Search Process for Executive Director

*Commission to solicit proposals from firms for national search, targets 2022 for selection of permanent executive director*

*Initial search process did not successfully lead to a permanent executive director, search process going forward to build on community engagement and transparency*

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**Olympia, WA** – Today the Washington State Charter School Commission announced that the initial search process led by Commissioners for an executive director did not result in the selection of a permanent director for the position. The Commission directed staff to begin the work to solicit bids for retaining a firm to lead the search process for a permanent director going forward. It is expected that a firm will be selected in 2022, with a permanent director selected in the same year. Krystal Starwich, who has served as [interim director](#) since the departure of Joshua Halsey in August, will continue in the role. Halsey had served as director for seven years, heading the Commission since the inception of the charter public school system in Washington State.

“While we were hopeful that our initial search process would have successfully identified a permanent director for this critical position, the Commission is committed to finding the right person for this leadership role,” said Chris Korsmo, the Commission’s Interim Chair.

The Commission-led search process [identified four finalists](#) in September, who were subsequently interviewed for the position. In October, the Commission voted 5-4 to extend an offer to one of the finalists, who declined the position.

### **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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