



For Immediate Release:
September 18, 2025

Contact:
Marcus Harden, Executive Director
Marcus.harden@k12.wa.us
Office: 564.233.5202

Washington State Charter School Commission Adopts Policy Ensuring Safe, Stable Learning Environments During Relocation

Charter public schools can request relocation in accordance with Commission oversight that evaluates original geographic boundary, community need, academic and operational performance, equity and access for all students

Olympia, WA – The Washington State Charter School Commission (Commission) has adopted and is in process of implementing a new policy allowing charter public schools to request relocation of their school based on changing conditions that impact their current facility. Circumstances such as unforeseen facility challenges, neighborhood redevelopment and displacement, or urgent safety concerns, can be detrimental to student learning and well-being. The new policy allows the Commission to consider requests to relocate within a regulatory framework that accounts for student safety, school performance, community need, equity and access for all students, and that follows all applicable laws and Commission policies.

“Because charter public schools are still not guaranteed state-provided facilities or facilities funding, they are often forced to operate in repurposed commercial spaces. While these spaces are adapted for learning, they remain vulnerable to rising rents and surrounding activity that is not conducive to a safe, stable school environment. This inequitable reality sometimes risks the stability of our schools, and the students and families they serve. However, through policies like this and continued partnership with legislators, families, students and communities, we are working toward a future where every charter public school has access to secure, appropriate, and sustainable facilities worthy of our students.” **said Marcus Harden, Executive Director of the Commission.** “We have been working with families, school leaders and community partners across the state and heard loud and clear that high-quality classrooms should be among our highest priorities. Adopting this relocation policy acknowledges that school safety and sustainability is not predictable or static but safe, stable schools must be.”

The Commission has centered community need and input in the new policy, which also reflects the rigor of Washington State’s charter public school laws. A relocation cannot be considered viable unless it demonstrates both operational feasibility and long-term stability. The Commission expects schools to

The new policy was adopted by the Commission on September 18 following a deliberative process led by its staff.

Charter public schools are authorized following a rigorous application process led by local community leaders, which means that the classrooms of each school reflect the community being served. According to the 2024 October Enrollment Report on Student Demographics, approximately 67% of charter public school students are Global Majority compared to a statewide public school average of approximately 52%. Charter public school students with disabilities represent approximately 15% of all students in charter public schools, which is generally in alignment with public schools statewide.

About Washington State's Charter School Commission

###