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Commission Approves Catalyst: Bremerton Charter Public School Renewal

Application approved for 5-year renewal

Applications to earn authorizations for renewal are subject to a [rigorous accountability process](#) led by the Washington State Charter School Commission, the main authorizer of tuition-free, non-sectarian, not-for-profit and accessible-to-all charter public schools in Washington State

Olympia, WA – The Washington State Charter School Commission (Commission) is pleased to announce approval for the charter renewal of Catalyst: Bremerton, a charter public school authorized by the Commission. In October 2023, the Commission [approved the expansion](#) of Catalyst: Bremerton to serve students K-12 and the charter public school began serving its first 9th Grade class at the start of the 2024-25 school year. Under Washington law, charter public schools submit applications to the Commission on at least a five-year basis, for renewal of their charter and for any proposed changes, such as expansion. Each application is subject to a [rigorous accountability process](#) to uphold the interests of the public school students served in the school. Criteria for approval includes organizational strength, academic performance and financial compliance.

“We applaud the teachers, leadership, students and families of Catalyst: Bremerton for earning a five-year renewal of a charter public school serving their community,” said Christine Varela, **Commission Chair**. “Our evaluation during the renewal application process found that the school continues to uphold academic, organizational and financial performance as it embarks this school year on its expansion into serving the high school grades.”

“The sense of belonging, academic results and conviction of purpose displayed by the students and families during our Commission meeting was inspiring and indicative of the wholistic learning happening at Catalyst,” said Marcus Harden, Executive Director of the Commission.

Catalyst: Bremerton

In Washington, charter public schools are typically [evaluated for renewal](#) on a five-year timeline. In

evaluating Catalyst: Bremerton, a charter public school currently serving approximately 486 students, the Commission applied its performance metrics, finding that:

- Academic Performance: In 2022-23, the school met or exceeded the standard of 15 of 16 performance measures and is wrestling productively for how to support certain student subgroups' academic outcomes.
- Organizational Performance: In the two-years for which data are available, the school met the Commission's standards on 31 of 33 measures and is taking meaningful steps toward grappling with the enrollment challenges confronting all public schools.
- Financial Performance: For the two-years for which data are available, the school met every performance measure.

Additional information on Catalyst: Bremerton, including demographic information and performance evaluation, may be found in the [Commission's report](#).

The Washington State Charter School Commission is an independent state agency and the [main authorizer](#) of charter public schools. 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. The agency also monitors and provides oversight holding schools and charter public school boards accountable to high standards of quality. The Commission was formed following the passage of Initiative 1240 by state voters in 2012, which created the charter public school system in our state. In Washington, all charter public schools are tuition-free, non-sectarian, open to all students, staffed by certified teachers, and held accountable to the same state and national standards as traditional public schools.

To learn more about the Commission, its responsibilities and charter public schools in Washington, please visit our website: <https://charterschool.wa.gov>

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 charters 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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