



For Immediate Release:
August 24, 2023

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Washington State Charter School Commission Announces 2023-2024 Executive Committee

Olympia, WA – The Washington State Charter School Commission (Commission) is pleased to announce its 2023-2024 Executive Committee. Commissioners are appointed to up to two, 4-year terms by state lawmakers. Its Executive Committee, consisting of the Chair, Vice Chair, and Member at Large, provides additional support to their peers on the Commission specific to leading and organizing the work of the Commission and agency staff. During its public meeting on August 17, 2023, the Commission voted to make the following updates:

- Christine Varela, Chair, Commission Term 1 (2020-2024), Senate Majority Leader Appointment
- Harium Martin-Morris, Vice Chair, State Board of Education Designee
- Kyle Burleigh, Commissioner At Large, Commission Term 2 (2023-2027), Governor Appointment

“It is an honor to continue serving public school students in our state,” said incoming Commission Chair, Christine Varela. “I applaud Chris Korsmo for her leadership during her term, including the opening of two new schools and the hiring of the Commission’s second-ever Executive Director. I look forward to our ongoing work to oversee such an important part of our public school community in Washington.”

The Washington State Charter School Commission is the main authorizer of charter public schools in Washington and 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. 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 non-sectarian, open to all students, tuition-free, publicly-funded, 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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