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Commission Approves Charter Public School Applications to Renew Charters

Impact | Puget Sound Elementary Charter is Approved for 3-year Renewal

Impact | Salish Sea Elementary Charter is 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 the approval of charter renewals for two charter public schools: Impact | Salish Sea Elementary and Impact | Puget Sound Elementary. The two public elementary schools serve students in grades K-5, with a combined enrollment of 826 public school students. 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 commend the local school leaders, teachers and staff of Impact | Salish Sea Elementary and Impact | Puget Sound Elementary for successfully building another public school option in their respective communities and for their ongoing commitment to the students and families they serve,” said Christine Varela, **Commission Chair**. “These two schools both met or exceeded key metrics for renewal. And for Impact | Puget Sound Elementary, our decision to renew its charter demonstrates how the Commission’s oversight – including through corrective actions – can help keep a charter public school in compliance with its charter and operating in the best interests of students.”

Impact | Puget Sound Elementary (Impact | PSE)

In Washington, charter public schools are typically evaluated for renewal on a five-year timeline. As part of the ongoing evaluation by the Commission of every charter public school, corrective action plans (CAPs) can be recommended when an identified issue may cause the school to fall short of the requirements of its contract (its charter). In 2023, the Commission [renewed](#) Impact | PSE’s charter for

two-years, subject to the school meeting certain conditions, including implementation of a corrective action plan, concerning special education services. Today, Impact | PSE's three-year renewal brings the school in alignment with their original charter following successful implementation and resolution of the Commission-mandated correction action plan. The Commission found that the school is meeting requirements related to its previous short-term renewal conditions and that the school is progressing, "beyond minimum compliance to fully embracing the challenge and opportunity to meet the needs of its special populations." Specifically, in evaluating its performance over the previous two-years, the Commission found:

- Academic Performance: Impact | PSE met or exceeded the Commission's standard for reach of the 26 measures rated. The renewal inspection also indicated that the school is on a trajectory of continued academic growth and development.
- Organizational Performance: For the 2021-22 school year, the school met the standard on 17 of 18 performance measures.
- Financial Performance: For the 2021-22 school year (the most recent year for which financial performance analysis has been completed), the school meet the Commission's standard on every financial performance metric. Supplemental financial considerations reinforce the school's sound financial metrics.

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) also determined that the school fulfilled all of the responsibilities of its CAP with remedying OSPI.

Additional information on Impact | PSE and its application for renewal, including demographic information and academic performance, may be found in the [Commission's report](#).

Impact | Salish Sea Elementary (Impact | SSE)

In evaluating the school's performance during the renewal application process, the Commission found:

- Academic Performance: In 2022-23, the school met the Commission's standard for proficiency in both English Language Arts (ELA) and math based on geographic comparisons overall and for geographic comparisons of subgroups. The school has met expectations for its school-specific goal in both years for which it has a rating.
- Organizational Performance: Over the two years for which data are available, the school has met the standard on 34 of 36 rated measures. Recurrent enrollment is the only area for which the school did not meet expectations in 2021-22, the most recent year for which data are available; however, the school was at full enrollment as of spring 2024, and enrollment has not presented any financial viability issues.
- Financial Performance: Impact | Salish Sea has met the Commission's standard for every rated financial performance measure over the two years for which data are available.

In accordance with its charter, Impact | SSE will expand from K-4 to serve K-5 students starting in the 2025-26 school year. Additional information on Impact | SSE and its application for renewal, including demographic information and academic performance, 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, 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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