



National Public Charter Schools Commitment to Quality

The current education system in America is not preparing all students for the future demands of college, career, and the global economy. This is a challenge facing all communities as student needs become more complex and achievement gaps persist. The system is particularly broken for low-income students, providing them fewer opportunities and producing weaker results. Standing in strong contrast to these systemic failures, public charter schools are beacons of hope for millions of families across our nation. Despite hundreds of proof points across the country—many coming to scale—too few high-performing educational choices are available to families.

We, the undersigned organizations, have a unique opportunity to contribute to the policy direction of the public charter school movement. To be effective stewards of the movement, our top priority must be to ensure that public charter schools are high-performing, fiscally responsible options accessible to all families. That means we must be committed to the continued growth of our best examples, to seeding the next generation of innovative schools, and to the closure or reconstitution of schools unable to meet student needs.

Collectively, we agree that:

- The public charter school movement's principal goal is to create autonomous, publicly accountable, high-performing public schools for students;
- The long-term ability of the public charter school movement to offer high-performing public schools to those who need them most rests, to a large degree, on the quality of the schools created within the movement;
- Many communities lack enough high-performing public school options to serve all students;
- The continued operation of persistently underperforming public schools is a failure for children; and
- All parties with advocacy and stewardship responsibilities for the movement should deliberately work to increase the number of high-performing public charter schools and reduce the number of underperforming public charter schools.

Accordingly, we the undersigned organization, commit to the following:

- To develop an evaluation system or make use of a pre-existing system to identify those public charter schools that are persistently performing among the best of all public schools within our jurisdiction and those public charter schools that are failing to meet the needs of students;
- To annually work for the renewal, expansion, and replication of those schools that are meeting their performance expectations;
- To support efforts to seed the next generation of autonomous, innovative charter public schools;
- To advocate for the closure, non-renewal, or reconstitution of those public charter schools that are persistently failing to meet the needs of students;
- To commit advocacy and lobbying resources toward these efforts; and
- To provide families with the information needed to make the best educational choices for their children and to offer whatever transition assistance we can to the students, families, and public charter school employees whose lives are disrupted whenever a persistently underperforming public charter school is closed.

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State Commitments

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