

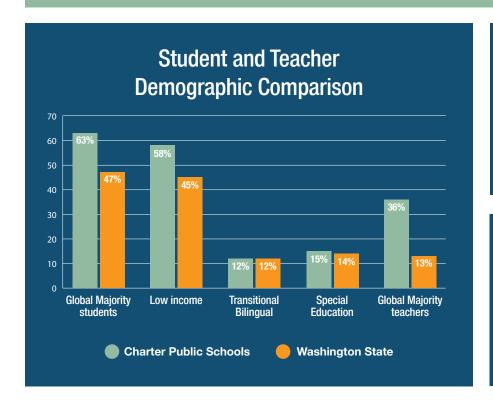
# **USE YOUR POWER FOR CHANGE**

# Be a Family Advocate for Charter Public Schools

As part of the Washington state charter public school community, you have a unique opportunity to partner with us and be an advocate for your school and all students in Washington.

We are the Washington State Charter Schools Association (WA Charters), a statewide nonprofit organization that supports high-quality charter schools—public schools of choice. We help open, grow, support and advocate for innovative, equity-driven charter public schools like yours.

# ABOUT WASHINGTON'S CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS



99%

Percent of WA charter high school graduates accepted to college

3,600

Number of students currently attending WA charter public schools







# **OUR TOP ADVOCACY PRIORITIES**

### **Funding Equity**

We need equitable resources for charter public school students, and we need your voice to help convince legislators that this is fundamentally unfair and demands action immediately.



Legislators must fix an unfair funding gap for charter public schools that denies each of our students between \$1,500 to \$3,000 per year in resources.

Overall, the average student at a Washington charter public school receives approximately 25% less in funding a year than a student at a traditional public school.

### More Time to Open New Schools

State law allows for up to 40 charter public schools to be established over 5 years. This five-year



window is coming to a close in 2021, and we need the legislature to extend it. Extending the five-year authorizing window would provide additional time to fulfill the intent of the legislature and the voters, and would expand opportunities for systemically underserved students.

### **Facilities Funding**

Unlike traditional public schools, WA's charters do not have dedicated funding for facilities. As a result, about 10% of charter budgets, intended to support teaching and learning, go to facilities.

#### **Special Education**

Together with other public education advocates, we are passionate about improving special education services for all students in our state who qualify for them.

### Join Us

- If you have a passion for social justice, including racial & educational equity...
- If you have a desire to improve public education in Washington state for not only your student, but all students....
- If you are ready to activate your power for change...

### How We Will Support You

#### **WE NEED YOU!**

We also know that you are busy balancing kids, work, and life during an especially challenging time. We will do whatever we can to work with your needs and schedule, and make smart use of your time to make the greatest possible impact.

# As an advocate, you will have opportunities to:

- CONNECT WITH PEERS |
  We connect parents with
  other parents across the
  state, so you can build
  community, share your
  experiences, collaborate,
  and advocate together on
  issues that matter most to
  your families and school
  communities.
- LEARN | We lead parent advocacy trainings to help build personal leadership and civic engagement capacity.
- ADVOCATE | We identify platforms and opportunities for you to discuss issues with state legislators, local elected officials, and other key stakeholders. We also are here to learn what matters most to you, and to help you create spaces for advocating for your family and community.

### **GET INVOLVED!**

To learn more, please contact Natalie Hester at natalie@wacharters.org and 206-356-7078.