

#ICSV18 PROGRAM GUIDE



INDEPENDENT CHARTER SCHOOL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 20, 2018



Coalition of
Public
Independent
Charter Schools



EMPOWERING AND ADVOCATING FOR PUBLIC INDEPENDENT CHARTER SCHOOLS.

CPICS is a member-run organization of educators, families and supporters who believe in the democratic principles that underlie the movement for public chartered schools. CPICS schools provide a broad and growing range of options in public education, explore new leadership structures and innovate and collaborate in the public interest. We aspire to be the democratic voice of our schools and to promote public school autonomy, transparency and accountability.

To become a member for the 2018–2019 school year, please visit indiecharters.org/membership



Coalition of
Public
Independent
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GET SOME SCREEN TIME

Don't forget to use **#ICSV18** on twitter to get featured during the virtual conference!

- ask questions
- share commentary
- snap pictures
- be seen nationally!



CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



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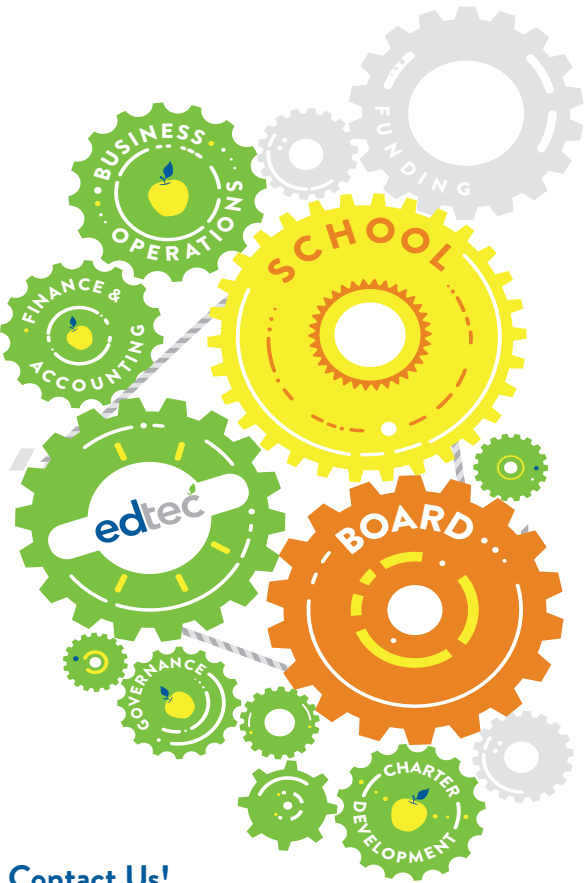
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letter from

CPICS Acting Board Chair



Welcome to our first Independent Charter School Virtual Conference!

I hope this is the first of many. Last fall many of us got together in person and started talking about how we needed an organization that would truly represent the interests of independent charter schools which, by the way, are still the majority of charter schools in the country. And one of the first things we decided was that our next big get-together was going to be virtual. We wanted to make it easier for many schools to take part, and we wanted an ecologically sound way of getting together.

The work we do in our schools requires an enormous commitment and outpouring of energy. We do it because we believe in it and because we never really wanted to do anything other than create extraordinary environments for kids to learn, grow and become creative, compassionate citizens of a better country and a better world. And we decided to do our work in charter schools because that gave us the real flexibility to build out that dream.

But the charter ideals have come under attack from those who don't understand what we're doing, those who intentionally misrepresent what we're doing, and those who are threatened by what we're doing. CPICS was founded to help us—leaders, students and stakeholders in independent charter schools—make the case for why our public charter schools are a living example of democracy in action. We know how important our schools are to the communities we serve, and joining together in CPICS helps us spread the stories of that extraordinary work beyond our neighborhoods. This is the best shot we have to show what we're really about and to counter the myths and misinformation about charter schools. This is the best shot we have to help more students get the same opportunity that our students have.

Tune into our conference and take a look at the amazing things our schools are doing across the country, for all students, especially those who cannot find success in traditional public schools. Then join CPICS. Join today. Share your stories and help us grow.

Ricardo Mireles
Acting Board Chair

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Chadwick School, Verdes Peninsula, CA

letter from

CPICS Acting Director



Welcome to #ICSVC18!

The first thing that strikes me in writing this piece is the irony of welcome people, in print, to a virtual event. What's up with that?

Frankly, I'm not sure, but I'm hoping it will be revealed in this guide, so take a good look at all the things that are happening at our virtual meeting—simultaneously—and you'll see why we need something to hold all these pieces together.

Here are just some of the things that will be happening in the next couple of hours:

- You'll meet our news desk anchors for the event, John Merrow and Chris Norwood and our live audience at LMHQ in downtown Manhattan.
- You'll get to meet the slate of directors for our founding board, some of whom are at their schools, some of whom are with us at the studio
- You'll get a virtual tour of indie charter schools from across the country and get to hear leaders, staff members, students and parents
- You'll meet our distinguished guests. We have educational visionaries and folks who are involved in the hands-on work of founding, running and evaluating our schools
- You'll hear from some people and companies that provide valuable services to our schools and without whose support we could not do this

This is a very gratifying moment for me and for so many of us who understand what charter schools can ideally accomplish in a community but have serious issues with the current direction the of charter movement. We have collectively articulated the principles that we feel are the heart and soul of what we do. And we now have a vehicle to help us bring those principles to a wider audience and hopefully have a positive and enduring affect upon all public education.

Thanks so much for being part of this.

Steve Zimmerman
Acting Director

ABOUT CPICS

& Our Historic Town Hall Meeting



Public education options for students and families expanded dramatically as states began to pass charter school legislation in the 1990s. The success of early charter schools led to a push from the U.S. Department of Education and others for charter school expansion and replication which, in turn, gave birth to charter networks, led by both for-profit and nonprofit management organizations. The charter management organizations (CMO's) attracted, and continue to attract a great degree of institutional and investor capital which have accelerated its growth. Currently there is rough parity in the number of schools operated by management organizations and those that are independently managed but network schools far outpace independent schools in funding and political influence. This has had a pronounced effect on the concept of "chartering" and how charter schools are perceived by the public.

On October 12–13 of 2017, the NYC based advocacy group, The Coalition of Community Charter Schools, held a national Symposium bringing together leaders of independent charter schools from 26 states,

education advocates and social justice activists. The purpose of the Symposium was to celebrate 30 years since the concept of "chartered schools" was first discussed in a public forum at the "Itasca Seminar" and to have deep and candid conversations about pedagogy, race and the bruising political and social battles that have unfortunately arisen between advocates and foes of the movement for charter schools. The highlights of the Symposium can be found here.

On October 13, 2017, the group unanimously ratified a Statement of Principles and passed the following resolution.

"Students, families, educators (and indeed the entire country) need a national, independent, democratically organized group to advocate for independently managed, financially transparent, community oriented public charter schools as articulated in our Statement of Principles."

CPICS was born on that day.



Our Focus Our focus is on independent, self-managed charter schools that exemplify the original intent of the charter school movement. CPICS schools provide options in public education, explore new leadership structures and innovate and collaborate in the public interest. We aspire to be the democratic voice of our schools and to promote public school autonomy, transparency and accountability.

Strengthening our independent charter sector is a powerful way to increase excellent public schools and expand educational opportunities for all students. We do this by employing three main strategies:

Shaping Practices We provide charter school leaders with resources and services they need to make the best decisions for their students, families, staff and stakeholders.

Informing Policy We work with policy makers at the state and federal levels to advocate for policies that support independent charter schools and work to the benefit of all public education.

Increasing Collaboration We aim to increase collaborations between schools and school leaders nationwide. This exchange of ideas not only increases best practices but also creates more efficiency in the charter community.

Our Vision All children will have access to public schools that provide innovative and high quality student learning experiences

Our Mission Empowering and advocating for public independent charter schools

Our Beliefs We aspire to be great community schools of choice for the families we serve.

We are united behind the original ideals of the charter school contract. We embrace our diverse communities, which include immigrants, people of color, children with disabilities, the homeless, English language learners, people of all faiths, and the LGBTQ community. We believe in the power of schools to transform the lives of young people AND in the responsibility of government to ensure that all children have adequate nutrition, shelter, health care, and educational opportunity. And we subscribe to these fundamental principles.

CPICS BOARD SLATE

FOUNDING BOARD OF DIRECTORS



RICARDO MIRELES

Academia Avance | Los Angeles, California

BOARD CHAIR

Ricardo Mireles is the Executive Director and Founder of Academia Avance, the independent college preparatory charter public school in the Northeast Los Angeles neighborhood of Highland Park serving over 400 students in grades 6-12. The Avance college attainment outcomes for its graduates top 80% enrolling in college, the majority at four year institutions, with a 70% persistence rate. A key component of this success is the Avance Life Prep program which includes extensive workplace education experience in a professional setting internship aligned to each student's career goals. Also, almost half of the students participate in at least one of the five interscholastic athletic teams, which have netted over a dozen league titles in the last three years.

Ricardo is a graduate of Columbia College, studied at the MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning, and taught at the UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research and at the Don Bosco Technical Institute.



IRIS MARIA CHÁVEZ

Equity Action Partners | Portland, Oregon

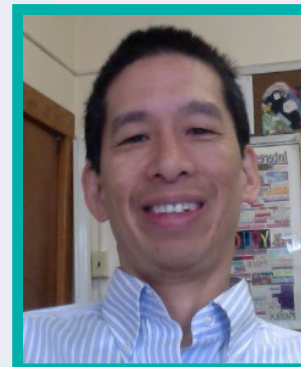
Iris Maria Chávez is an education advocate and public affairs consultant, currently working with national and Oregon-focused organizations to advance equity by supporting the creation of sound, just policies that better communities in Oregon and across the nation. Iris Maria came to the Pacific Northwest from Washington, D.C., where she worked for over a decade in education policy and advocacy for civil rights and advocacy organizations such as the Education Trust and the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). Iris Maria's volunteer work also focuses on community engagement and equity, she currently serves on the Partnership for Safety & Justice Board of Directors and the City Club of Portland Board of Governors.



DIANNE JACOBSON

Skyview School, Inc. | Prescott, Arizona

Dianne has been the Operations Manager at Skyview School in Prescott, Arizona since 2006. Previously she has served on charter governing boards and worked hundreds of hours supporting charter education as a parent and volunteer. Although she always understood the academic and social benefits charters provided children, at Skyview she became aware of a deeper truth—charter schools have the ability to nurture and even heal a child's desire to learn. This "whole child" approach to education can be explored within the autonomy of charter school design, most effectively when curricula and methods are developed by educators and parents, and not politicians and legislators.



RICHARD LEE

Academy of the City Charter School | Woodside, New York

Richard Lee is the Founding Principal of Academy of the City Charter School in Woodside, NY, a school that is as diverse as the Borough of Queens. Previously, Richard was the Division Coordinator for seven years for grades 1-4 at The Bank Street School for Children. Richard has organized, led and presented in various workshop including NYSAIS, DOE and NAIS. Most of these have been about Children of Color affinity groups and Social Studies curriculum. Richard is Asian-American and feels strongly about the presence of administrators who reflect the community that they serve.



DAVID LOCKETT

Bok Academy | Lake Wales, Florida

David Lockett is a STEM teacher at Bok Academy in Lake Wales, FL as well as an NSTA Aerospace Advisory Board Member. At Bok Academy, he is responsible for implementing a project-based curriculum for all students as they rotate through the STEM Lab. David has a distinguished and diverse background in the fields of Astronomy, Biotechnology, and Engineering, and is an advocate and practitioner of S.T.E.M. accessibility for all students. David has participated in a variety of NSF projects throughout North and South America, including the Astronomy in Chile's Ambassadors Educator Program and Innovators Developing Accessible Tools for Astronomy.



CHRIS NORWOOD

Florida Association of Independent Public Schools | Miami, Florida

Christopher Norwood is the Founder of the Florida Association of Independent Public Schools and the Governance Institute for School Accountability (GISA). Christopher is the former Executive Director of Lawyers for Children (Florida), and is certified by the Florida Commissioner for Education to provide Governance Training to Charter Schools. He is sought out by many to represent charter schools with application appeals, terminations and non-renewals before Florida's Administrative Law Judges and School Board Administrative Hearings. Christopher chairs the City of Miami Education Advisory Board and serves on the Audit and Budget Committee of Miami-Dade Public Schools.



HEATHER VUNCANNON

Uwharrie Charter Academy | Asheboro, North Carolina

Heather Vuncannon is the founder of Uwharrie Charter Academy located in rural Asheboro, North Carolina. With STE3AM (Entrepreneurship, Environment, and Engineering) and Project-based learning at its core, the school continues to drive innovation in the region by disrupting the current rhetoric in traditional education with its "out-of-the-box" teaching and learning strategies. Heather earned her master's in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and later her school administration degree from High Point University. She has lead Uwharrie Charter from the first day it opened in 2013.



Guidance that won't leave you lost



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MEET YOUR HOST



JOHN MERROW THE MERROW REPORT

John Merrow began his career as an education reporter with NPR over 40 years ago and in 2012 became the first journalist to receive the prestigious McGraw Prize in Education. John's work has taken him from community colleges to kindergarten classrooms, from the front lines of teacher protests to policy debates on Capitol Hill. John is a contributor to USA Today, the NY Times, the Washington Post, the LA Times and Education Week. John publishes the educational blog, "The Merrow Report" and his latest book is Addicted to Reform: A 12-Step Program to Rescue Public Education.

Q&A WITH JOHN MERROW

Q&A with John Merrow

SZ: What do you see as the charter school movement's greatest success?

JM: Charter schools have challenged traditional public schools to be better and many districts have responded positively by upping their game. The movement in general has unleashed many talented educators who have been able to implement innovative programs.

SZ: What do you see as the charter school movement's greatest failing?

JM: The greatest failure of charter schools is an unwillingness, on the part of their advocacy organizations to ride herd on profiteers who have found loopholes in regulations and have taken advantage of it. That's why it's so important that the movement has an organization like the one you are starting.

SZ: What do you see in the charter movement that the implacable charter detractors do not?

JM: It's a difference in how we see that half filled/half empty glass. The strident critics see the negatives and the failure of the political system to rein in profiteers and hold people accountable. They are also reacting to the harsh discipline and overemphasis on testing that seems to be the norm in many large charter networks. I see your organization as having a chance to set high standards and share good news. Let's not curse the darkness without first lighting a bunch of candles.

OUR GUESTS



SPECIAL GUEST CO-HOST

CHRIS NORWOOD

Founder of the Florida
Association of Public
Independent Schools and CPICS
Board Member



DEBORAH MEIER

Author and MacArthur
"genius" Award recipient for
work in public education



VERONE KENNEDY

Executive Director of the Office
of Charter School Authorization
and Accountability at NYC
Department of Education



RICARDO MIRELES

Executive Director of Academia
Avance and CPICS Board Chair

LET'S TAKE A TOUR!

We're taking a virtual cross country road trip to learn about independent charter schools across the nation. Join us as we visit a broadcast journalism class in Eagle Mountain, Utah, a dual-language ASL program for signers and non-signers in Albuquerque, a state-of-the-art STEM program in Lake Wales, Florida, a social justice program in Queens and the first integrated public school (it took a charter to do it!) in Sumpter County, Alabama. We're all going to learn something to take back to our own schools!



Academia Avance
City: Los Angeles, CA

High School for Recording Arts
City: St. Paul, MN

Academia Cesar Chavez
City: St. Paul, MN

Maine Academy of Natural Sciences
City: Hinckley, ME

Albuquerque Sign Language Academy
City: Albuquerque, NM

Minneola Elementary Charter School
City: Minneola, FL

Arts & College Preparatory Academy
City: Columbus, OH

Rockwell Charter High School
City: Eagle Mountain, UT

Bok Academy
City: Lake Wales, FL

The Renaissance Charter School
City: Jackson Heights, NY

Chain of Lakes Collegiate High
City: Winter Haven, FL

TRIO Wolf Creek Distance Learning Charter School
City: Lindstrom, MN

Community Roots Academy
City: Laguna Niguel, CA

University Charter School
City: Livingston, AL

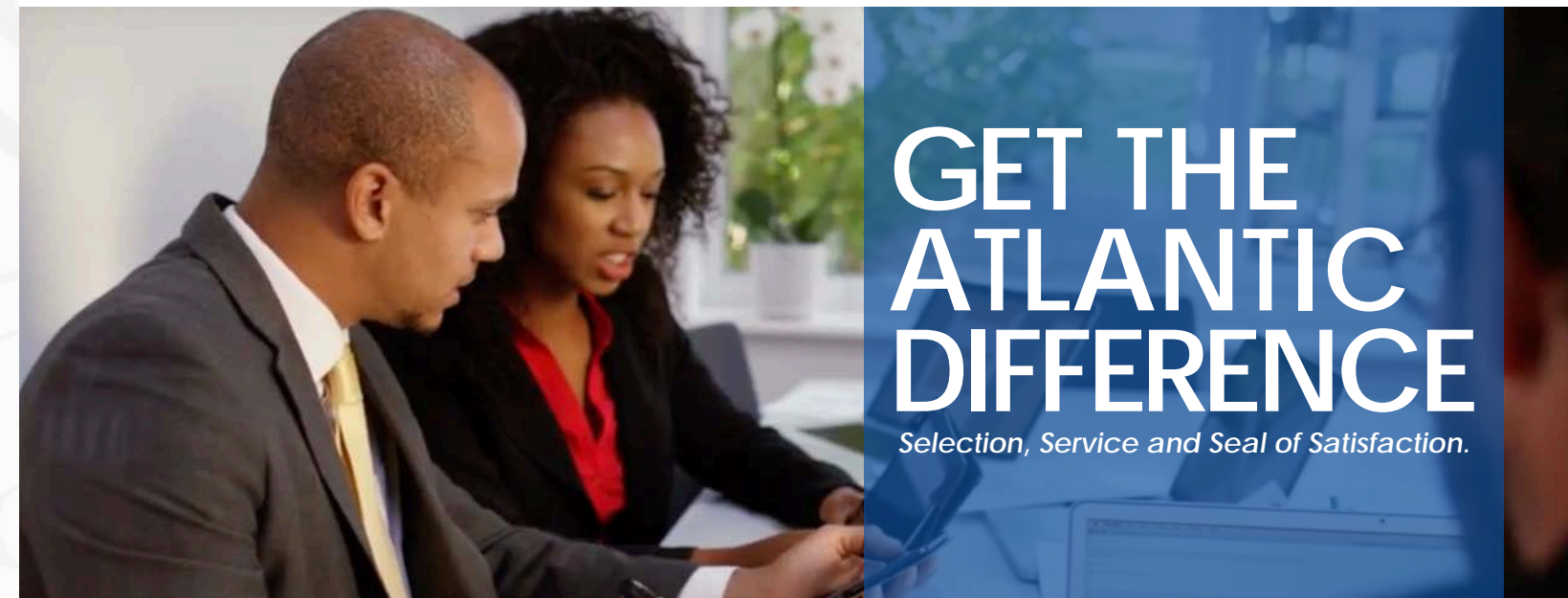
Denver Language School
City: Denver, CO

Venture Academy
City: Minneapolis, MN

Girls Athletic Leadership Schools of Denver
City: Denver, CO

Village Green Virtual
City: Providence, RI

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THE PIONEERS OF THIS MOVEMENT

CPICS FOUNDING MEMBER SCHOOLS

ARIZONA

Academy of Building Industries

City: Fort Mohave, AZ
Students Served: 125
Website: www.aobihs.com

James Madison Preparatory School

City: Tempe, AZ
Students Served: 190
Website: www.madisonprep.org

Sage Academy

City: Phoenix, AZ
Students Served: 150
Website: www.sageacademyaz.com

Skyview School, Inc.

City: Prescott, AZ
Students Served: 230
Website: www.skyviewschool.org

The Rising School

City: Tucson, AZ
Students Served: 80
Website: www.risingschool.org

The STAR School

City: Flagstaff, AZ
Students Served: 145
Website: www.starschool.org

Tucson Preparatory School

City: Tucson, AZ
Students Served: 165
Website: www.tucsonprepschool.org

CALIFORNIA

Academia Avance

City: Los Angeles, CA
Students Served: 400
Website: www.academiaavance.org

Bella Mente Montessori Academy

City: Vista, CA
Students Served: 640
Website: www.bellamentecharter.org

Big Sur Charter School

City: Monterey, CA
Students Served: 125
Website: www.bigsurcharterschool.org

Community Roots Academy

City: Laguna Niguel, CA
Students Served: 680
Website: www.communityrootsacademy.org

El Sol Science and Arts Academy

City: Santa Ana, CA
Students Served: 905
Website: www.elsolacademy.net

Humphreys College Academy of Business, Law and Education

City: Stockton, CA
Students Served: 800
Website: www.ablecharter.net

Leadership High School

City: San Francisco, CA
Students Served: 320
Website: www.leadershiphigh.org

River Springs Charter School

City: Temecula, CA
Students Served: 7,271
Website: www.springscs.org

Santiago Charter Middle School

City: Orange, CA
Students Served: 965
Website: www.santiagocharterms.org

Valley Life Charter School

City: Visalia, CA
Students Served: 700
Website: www.vlcs.me

COLORADO

Denver Language School

City: Denver, CO
Students Served: 820
Website: www.denverlanguageschool.org

Downtown Denver Expeditionary School

City: Denver, CO
Students Served: 400
Website: www.ddeschool.org

Girls Athletic Leadership Schools of Denver

City: Denver, CO
Students Served: 600
Website: www.galsdenver.org

High Point Academy

City: Aurora, CO
Students Served: 750
Website: www.highpointacademy.net

Highline Academy Charter Schools

City: Denver, CO
Students Served: 1000
Website: www.highlineacademy.org

Peak to Peak Charter School

City: Lafayette, CO
Students Served: 1,450
Website: www.peaktopeak.org

SOAR

City: Denver, CO
Students Served: 450
Website: www.soardenver.org

CONNECTICUT

Common Ground High School

City: New Haven, CT
Students Served: 200
Website: www.commongroundct.org/high-school

Integrated Day Charter School

City: Norwich, CT
Students Served: 330
Website: www.idcs.org

DC

Washington Latin Public Charter School

City: Washington, DC
Students Served: 820
Website: www.latinpcs.org

FLORIDA

Bok Academy

City: Lake Wales, FL
Students Served: tbd
Website: www.bokacademy.org

Chain of Lakes Collegiate High

City: Winter Haven, FL
Students Served: 300
Website: polk.edu/chain-of-lakes-collegiate-high-school

Choices in Learning

City: Winter Springs, FL
Students Served: 700
Website: www.choicesinlearning.org

EdVenture Charter School

City: Hypoluxo, FL
Students Served: 80
Website: www.edventurecharter.org

Galileo School for Gifted Learning

City: Sanford, FL
Students Served: 580
Website: www.galileogiftedschool.org

Innovation Montessori Ocoee

City: Ocoee, FL
Students Served: 1200
Website: www.innovationmontessori.com

Minneola Elementary Charter School

City: Minneola, FL
Students Served: 1100
Website: www.lake.k12.fl.us/moe

New Beginnings High School

City: Winter Haven, FL
Students Served: 950
Website: www.newbhs.net

School of Arts and Sciences Foundation

City: Tallahassee, FL
Students Served: 700
Website: www.schoolofartsandsciences.org

IDAHO

Anser Charter School

City: Garden City, ID
Students Served: 375
Website: www.ansercharterschool.org

Idaho Arts Charter School

City: Nampa, ID
Students Served: 1100
Website: www.idahoartscharter.org

iSucceed Virtual High School

City: Boise, ID
Students Served: 500
Website: www.isucceedvhs.net

ILLINOIS

The Montessori School of Englewood

City: Chicago, IL
Students Served: 500
Website: www.tmsoe.org

MASSACHUSETTS

Codman Academy Charter Public School

City: Dorchester, MA
Students Served: 345
Website: www.codmanacademy.org

Conservatory Lab Charter School

City: Dorchester, MA
Students Served: 450
Website: www.conservatorylab.org

MAINE

Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences

City: Gray, ME
Students Served: 140
Website: www.fiddleheadschoo.org

Harpswell Coastal Academy

City: Harpswell, ME
Students Served: 230
Website: www.harpswellcoastalacademy.org

Maine Academy of Natural Sciences

City: Hinckley, ME
Students Served: 175
Website: www.gwh.org/means

MICHIGAN

Charlton Heston Academy

City: St. Helen, MI
Students Served: 650
Website: www.charltonhestonacademy.com

MINNESOTA

Academia Cesar Chavez

City: St. Paul, MN
Students Served: 505
Website: www.cesarchavezschool.com

Avalon School

City: St. Paul, MN
Students Served: 240
Website: www.avalonschool.org

Career Pathways

City: St. Paul, MN
Students Served: 150
Website: www.cpathmn.org

Community of Peace Academy

City: St. Paul, MN
Students Served: 800
Website: www.cpak12.org

DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science

City: Ham Lake, MN
Students Served: 840
Website: www.davincharterschool.org

El Colegio Charter School

City: Minneapolis, MN
Students Served: 100
Website: www.el-colegio.org

High School for Recording Arts

City: St. Paul, MN
Students Served: 325
Website: www.hsra.org

Jennings Community School

City: St. Paul, MN
Students Served: 90
Website: www.jenningsclc.org

Northwest Passage High School

City: Coon Rapids, MN
Students Served: 170
Website: www.nwphs.org

Paladin Career & Technical High School

City: Blaine, MN
Students Served: 210
Website: www.paladincareertech.com

Rochester STEM Academy

City: Rochester, MN
Students Served: 120
Website: www.rochesterstemacademy.org

St Paul City School

City: St. Paul, MN
Students Served: 450
Website: www.stpaulcityschool.org

STEP Academy

City: St. Paul, MN
Students Served: 420
Website: www.stepacademymn.com

Technical Academies of Minnesota

City: Willmar, MN
Students Served: 125
Website: www.technicalacademies.org

TRIO Wolf Creek Distance Learning Charter School

City: Lindstrom, MN
Students Served: 180
Website: www.triowolfcreek.com

Venture Academy

City: Minneapolis, MN
Students Served: 300
Website: www.ventureacademies.org

MISSOURI

3-Trails School

City: Kansas City, MO
Students Served: tbd
Website: www.sites.isdschools.org/threetrails

NORTH CAROLINA

Oxford Preparatory School

City: Oxford, NC
Students Served: 380
Website: www.oxfordprep.org

Raleigh Charter High School

City: Raleigh, NC
Students Served: 560
Website: www.raleighcharterhs.org

Two Rivers Community School

City: Boone, NC
Students Served: 180
Website: www.tworiverscommunityschool.net

Uwharrie Charter Academy

City: Asheboro, NC
Students Served: 1000
Website: www.uwharriecharter.org

NEW JERSEY

Learning Community Charter School

City: Jersey City, NJ
Students Served: 585
Website: www.lccsnj.org

Roseville Community Charter School

City: Newark, NJ
Students Served: 330
Website: www.rosevillecharter.org

University Heights Charter School

City: Newark, NJ
Students Served: 850
Website: www.uhcs-newark.org

NEW MEXICO

Mark Armijo Academy

City: Albuquerque, NM
Students Served: 200
Website: www.nvcharter.com

NEVADA

Sierra Nevada Academy Charter School

City: Reno, NV
Students Served: 375
Website: www.snacs.org

NEW YORK

Academy of the City Charter School

City: Woodside, NY
Students Served: 400
Website: www.academyofthecity.org

Amani Public Charter School

City: Mount Vernon, NY
Students Served: 355
Website: www.amanicharter.org

Bronx Charter School for the Arts

City: Bronx, NY
Students Served: 312
Website: www.bronxarts.net

Brooklyn Charter School

City: Brooklyn, NY
Students Served: 250
Website: www.brooklyncharter.org

Brooklyn Laboratory Charter School

City: Brooklyn Heights, NY
Students Served: 700
Website: www.brooklynlaboratoryschool.org

Brooklyn Urban Garden Charter School (BUGS)

City: Brooklyn, NY
Students Served: 300
Website: www.brooklynlaboratoryschool.org

Cultural Arts Academy Charter School

City: Brooklyn, NY
Students Served: 280
Website: www.caa-ny.org

Dr. Richard Izquierdo Health & Science Charter School

City: Bronx, NY
Students Served: 800
Website: www.healthscienceschool.org

Elmwood Village Charter Schools

City: Buffalo, NY
Students Served: 650
Website: www.evcsbuffalo.org

Harbor Science and Arts Charter School

City: New York, NY
Students Served: 250
Website: www.hsacs.org

Heketi Community Charter School

City: Bronx, NY
Students Served: 285
Website: www.heketi.org

Hellenic Classical Charter School

City: Brooklyn, NY
Students Served: tbd
Website: www.hccs-nys.org

John V Lindsay Wildcat Academy HS

City: New York, NY
Students Served: 500
Website: www.jvlwildcat.org

Merrick Academy

City: Springfield Gardens, NY
Students Served: 536
Website: www.merrickacademy.org

New Dawn Charter High School

City: Brooklyn, NY
Students Served: 350
Website: www.ndchsbrooklyn.org

Northside Charter High School

City: Brooklyn, NY
Students Served: 400
Website: www.northsidechs.org

Opportunity Charter School

City: New York, NY
Students Served: 420
Website: www.ocsny.org

Our World Neighborhood Charter Schools

City: Astoria, NY
Students Served: 750
Website: www.owncs.org

Renaissance Charter HS for Innovation

City: New York, NY
Students Served: 450
Website: www.innovationhighschool.org

School in the Square

City: New York, NY
Students Served: 200
Website: www.schoolinthesquare.org

St HOPE Leadership Academy

City: New York, NY
Students Served: 300
Website: www.sthopeleadershipacademy.org

The New American Academy Charter School

City: Brooklyn, NY
Students Served: 370
Website: www.tnaacs.org

The Renaissance Charter School

City: Jackson Heights, NY
Students Served: 550
Website: www.renaissancecharter.org

VOICE Charter School

City: Long Island City, NY
Students Served: 650
Website: www.voicecharterschool.org

OHIO

Arts & College Preparatory Academy

City: Columbus, OH
Students Served: 400
Website: www.artcollegeprep.org

Townsend Community School

City: Castalia, OH
Students Served: 1450
Website: www.townsendcs.org

OREGON

Metro East Web Academy

City: Gresham, OR
Students Served: 510
Website: www.mewebacademy.org

PENNSYLVANIA

Achievement House Cyber Charter School

City: Exton, PA
Students Served: 600
Website: www.achievementcharter.com

Global Leadership Academy Charter School

City: Philadelphia, PA
Students Served: 705
Website: www.glacharter.org

Lehigh Valley Academy Regional Charter School

City: Bethlehem, PA
Students Served: 1730
Website: www.lvacademy.org

Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts

City: Bethlehem, PA
Students Served: 620
Website: www.charterarts.org

Richard Allen Preparatory Charter School

City: Philadelphia, PA
Students Served: 480
Website: www.rapcs.org

Roberto Clemente Charter School

City: Allentown, PA
Students Served: 620
Website: www.myrccs.com

RHODE ISLAND

Beacon Charter Schools

City: Woonsocket, RI
Students Served: 366
Website: www.beaconart.org

Highlander Charter School

City: Providence, RI
Students Served: 540
Website: www.highlandercharter.org

Paul Cuffee School

City: Providence, RI
Students Served: 813
Website: www.paulcuffee.org

Village Green Virtual

City: Providence, RI
Students Served: 225
Website: www.vgonline.org

SOUTH CAROLINA

Palmetto Scholars Academy

City: N Charleston, SC
Students Served: 500
Website: www.palmettoscholarsacademy.org

TENNESSEE

Grizzlies Prep

City: Memphis, TN
Students Served: 3,330
Website: www.grizzliesprep.org

TEXAS

Chapel Hill Academy

City: Fort Worth, TX
Students Served: 520
Website: www.lenapope.org/chapel-hill-academy

Lumin Education

City: Dallas, TX
Students Served: 300
Website: www.lumineducation.org

Pegasus School of Liberal Arts and Sciences

City: Dallas, TX
Students Served: 650
Website: www.pegasuscharter.org

UTAH

Capstone Classical Academy

City: Pleasant View, UT
Students Served: 700
Website: www.capstoneclassical.org

Rockwell Charter High School

City: Eagle Mountain, UT
Students Served: 500
Website: www.rockwellhigh.net

Utah International Charter School

City: Salt Lake City, UT
Students Served: 250
Website: www.utahinternational.org

Weilenmann School of Discovery

City: Park City, UT
Students Served: 600
Website: www.wsdpc.org

WISCONSIN

TransCenter for Youth

City: Milwaukee, WI
Students Served: 215
Website: www.transcenterforyouth.org

NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Coordinating Committee is a group of 40+ educators and advocates who laid the groundwork for this organization. We want to thank all of them for the time they gave in long meetings and sub-committee work to point CPICS in the right direction.

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STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

We are united behind the original ideals of the charter school contract.

We embrace our diverse communities, which include immigrants, people of color, children with disabilities, the homeless, English language learners, people of all faiths, and the LGBTQ community. We aspire to be great community schools of choice for the families we serve.

Equity

- We reaffirm that charter schools are public schools. All public schools should receive equitable funding.
- We are committed to transparency in our practices and accountability to our students, parents, government authorizers, and the public at-large.
- As public institutions, our charter schools are open, welcoming, and responsive to our many stakeholders.

Autonomy & Accountability

- Autonomy in exchange for accountability is the bedrock principle of charter schools.
- Real accountability must be rooted in the development of the whole child and the needs of society to improve our democracy and cultivate citizens who can solve the intractable problems of our time.
- The work we do at our schools is for the greater good. We guard against any practice that subordinates the work we do to personal or corporate profit.

Collaboration

- Because charter schools were created as laboratories of innovation, we seek out opportunities for collaboration among district, charter, and independent schools.
- We seek out opportunities to learn from and exchange ideas with our colleagues.
- Our workplaces are collaborative, not adversarial. We invest in our teachers so that they can invest in us.

Diversity

- We commit to serving students who reflect our communities and neighborhoods, particularly students with the greatest educational needs.
- We actively recruit, retain and serve the highest-need students, such as students with disabilities, English language learners, and students with challenging life circumstances.
- We are determined to educate all of our students to the best of our ability, every day.

Innovation

- Our independence is a public trust. Autonomy provides the freedom to innovate and differentiate.
- We have an obligation to research, develop and implement new ideas, practices and strategies.
- School innovation is reinforced by use of multiple measures for evaluation. We must learn how to measure what is truly important and germane to the mission of our schools.
- We share these practices, serving as a laboratory for all other public schools.

Respect for Teachers

- We rely on a professional and compassionate teaching staff to model the attitudes we expect in our students. Our schools provide innovative opportunities that encourage young teachers to excel at their craft and become great educators.
- Personnel evaluations and all our employment practices are fair and transparent.

Governance & Community

- Strong independent boards and an engaged community are essential to school governance and student success.
- Boards must be fully and demonstrably independent from service providers and must have robust process for community input.
- Decision-making involves feedback from our students, families and the community at large.

Quality

- All students have the right to a high-quality education.
- Our parents, students, and caregivers choose our schools and trust that we will provide the best possible education.
- We support their right to make that choice and will do everything in our power to fulfill our responsibilities.

WE SUBSCRIBE TO AND SUPPORT THESE PRINCIPLES