



Position: Parent Engagement & Advocacy Coordinator
Location: Seattle, WA (w/ frequent travel to Spokane, Tacoma and Olympia)

BACKGROUND

The Washington State Charter Schools Association (WA Charters) is a non-profit organization established in 2013 to help seed, grow, and support the charter public school sector in Washington State.

WA Charters seeks to promote a vision where empowered students, families, and communities realize the potential of a high-quality K-12 education. WA Charters supports its members at each stage in the development of innovative public charter schools. The organization and its members believe that these schools are catalysts that will improve educational outcomes across a K-12 education ecosystem. Additional information can be found at www.wacharters.org.

OPPORTUNITY

In 2012, Washington voters passed Initiative 1240, making Washington the 42nd state to open their education system to charter public schools. Initiative 1240 and the subsequent charter school law reaffirmed in 2016 with ESSB 6194 strengthened the emphasis to ensure that charter public schools in Washington would be high-quality options for students and families statewide.

In September 2015, the state Supreme Court identified a glitch in the way Washington's charter public schools were funded. The court overturned the voter-approved charter public school law. WA Charters, together with a coalition of advocacy partners and community based organizations, spearheaded a parent and student centered campaign called Act Now for Washington Students. This campaign combined a powerful grassroots and legislative strategy with strong digital and paid media components.

Act Now for Washington Students leveraged a winning approach as a new bill keeping the state's high quality, gap closing charter public schools open and legally funded became law in April 2016. The law has also opened a pathway for continued slow growth of the sector with the addition of a handful of additional schools scheduled to be open in the 2017/18 school year. To learn more about the campaign to save public charter schools, visit: <http://actnowforwastudents.org/>.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Parent Engagement Coordinator will report to the Chief Civic Affairs Officer, and will contribute to the development of a sustainable program intended to mobilize, activate, and involve parents across the charter public school sector. The work involves developing and implementing a communication and advocacy strategy that will organize and mobilize students, parents, education advocates, and other influencers in support of a strong charter public school sector. To be successful, candidates must have grassroots/campaign mobilization expertise and have experience coordinating meetings with legislators, leading grassroots events, and supporting a comprehensive earned media campaign. Additional responsibilities will include:

- Assisting in the development of a comprehensive statewide mobilization and engagement plan designed to lift and amplify the voices of student, parent, teacher, school leader, and education advocate voices
- Actualizing and delivering on parent coordination and communication strategy
- Engaging with and preparing parents and stakeholders for legislator and executive branch outreach, public events, and earned media opportunities
- Preparing these stakeholders for said public events, meetings, and engagement opportunities
- Coordinating logistics and staff events and meetings as needed
- Communicating across a broad audience events, strategies and logistics
- Engaging school site teams to meet community activism and turnout goals
- Providing and coordinating year-round opportunities for parents to connect with elected officials
- Conducting or host advocacy trainings and workshops
- Organizing and facilitating charter school educational information workshops around the state
- Managing a database of a charter school events calendar, stakeholder meeting schedules, parent meeting schedules, parent information, etc.
- Contributing content to advocacy-related media (print, digital and social) content

EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

- At least 2+ years organizing experience with political campaigns in a highly politicized environment or organizing with community-based organizations
- Experience working in or around public education issues is strongly preferred
- Familiarity with Washington's legislative process and statewide elected officials
- A demonstrated ability and willingness to work in a fast-paced, fluid environment. Candidates must be highly motivated self-starters that can work both independently and as part as a team
- Has a high level of comfort working with little direction and is comfortable with ambiguity
- Strong verbal communication skills, including the ability to speak confidently and clearly to a wide variety of audiences, large and small, is required
- Commitment to working collaboratively and a willingness to uphold high levels of accountability for self and others is required
- Experience conceiving of and executing grassroots events is a strong plus

- Spanish proficiency or fluency is strongly preferred
- Views diversity of backgrounds and experiences as a team strength
- Experience working with communities that have been historically underserved is essential

COMPENSATION

- Salary commensurate with experience
- Medical, vision, and dental benefits
- Retirement benefit package

Next Steps

- Please submit resume and cover letter (describing your interest in the position) to stephanie@wacharters.org