Missouri Charter Schools’ Commitment to Quality

The current education system in Missouri 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, 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, members of the Missouri Charter Public School Association, have a unique opportunity to contribute to the policy direction of the charter school sector in Missouri. To be effective stewards of the sector, our top priority must be to ensure that 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 high-performing schools, and to the closure or reconstitution of schools persistently unable to meet student needs.

Collectively, we agree that:

- Missouri’s charter school sector’s principle goal is to create high-performing, autonomous, innovative, publicly accountable charter schools for students;
- The sustainable growth and strength of the State’s charter school sector rests on the quality of the individual schools within the sector;
- Many communities lack enough high-performing public schools to serve all students;
- The continued operation of persistently underperforming charter schools is a failure for children; and
- All stakeholders with advocacy and stewardship responsibilities for the sector should deliberately work to increase the number of high-performing charter schools and reduce the number of underperforming 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 allow charter schools the opportunity to self-assess their performance;
- To make others aware of the success, innovations, and best practices of those charter schools consistently performing among the best of Missouri’s public schools;
- To work for the renewal, expansion, and replication of those charter schools that are meeting their performance expectations;
- To provide persistently low-performing charter schools with targeted assistance aimed toward significant improvement;
- To support the closure, non-renewal, or reconstitution of those charter schools that are persistently failing to meet the needs of students;
- To provide families with the information needed to make the best educational choices for their children and to offer transition assistance to the students, families, and charter school employees when applicable;
- To support efforts to seed the next generation of high-performing, autonomous, innovative, publicly accountable charter schools; and
- To commit advocacy and lobbying resources toward these efforts.
Missouri Charter Schools’ Commitment to Quality

Charnissa Holliday-Scott, James W. Tippin & Associates
MCPSA Board Member

Danny Tipton, Hogan Preparatory Academy
MCPSA Board Member

Kate Casas, Dentons
MCPSA Board Member

Engin Blackstone, Gateway Science Academy
MCPSA Board Member

Dean Johnson, Crossroads Academy
MCPSA Board Member

David Desai-Ramirez, IFF
MCPSA Board Member

Paul Fedchak, KIPP: St. Louis
MCPSA Board Member

Shanika Harris, University of Missouri-Columbia
MCPSA Board Member

Scott Dieckhaus, Palm Strategic Group
MCPSA Board Member

Doug Thaman, MCPSA Executive Director