

A photograph of four diverse children in a school hallway, smiling and posing for the camera. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange and red gradient. The children are wearing school uniforms, including polo shirts with logos. The background shows a hallway with lockers and doors.

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

RALLYING THE MOVEMENT



NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR
**PUBLIC
CHARTER
SCHOOLS**

MISSION

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools is the leading national nonprofit organization committed to advancing the charter school movement. Our mission is to lead public education to unprecedented levels of academic achievement by fostering a strong charter school movement.

VISION

Our vision is that every family can choose a well-funded, high-performing public school that delivers an excellent education for their children.





OUR VALUES

COLLABORATION

We work in partnership with charter school leaders, other stakeholders, and each other to achieve our collective goals.

DIVERSITY

We model what we ask of the movement. Our team includes talented people from a variety of backgrounds, reflecting the diversity of charter schooling and our coalitions and partners.

MOVEMENT LEADERSHIP

We seek to lead and serve the charter school movement by deeply understanding opportunities and challenges and anticipating and responding to the movement's needs.

QUALITY

We expect the best work from each other and ourselves and won't settle for anything less.

RESULTS

We make decisions based on evidence and judge our own work by whether it ultimately advances our mission.

SENSE OF URGENCY

We are urgent in pursuit of growing the number of high-quality charter schools, recognizing that for any given family, there is no time to wait.



A LETTER FROM NINA REES

DEAR FRIENDS,

Nina Rees visits with students at Digital Pioneers Academy in Washington, D.C.

There's no getting around it: 2019 was a challenging year for the charter school movement. Long accustomed to strong bipartisan support, we saw some progressives question the value, importance, and even legitimacy of charter schools within public education. California and Illinois ushered in new laws that will restrict charter school growth, despite both states boasting some of the best outcomes for charter school students. As the presidential race heated up, several candidates sought to distance themselves from charter schools. And in Congress, the new majority in the House voted to cut funding for the Charter Schools Program, despite two decades of consistent bipartisan support for the CSP.

In some ways, we are a victim of our own success. As more parents choose charter schools, supporters of the status quo feel threatened. Rather than learn from what charter schools are doing right, they accuse charter schools of undermining public education. At the National Alliance, we've upped our game to respond, and we've been heartened by victories.

While California and Illinois try to limit the power of parents to direct their children's education, states including Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Ohio, and Tennessee provided fairer funding to charter schools and took steps to make more high-quality schools available to students. While the U.S. House proposed cutting CSP funding, the Senate proposed increasing it—and by the end of the year, we were able to protect the CSP from cuts. While charter school opponents continued to challenge the rights and funding of charter schools, courts in Florida, Mississippi, and elsewhere ruled in favor of our schools and students.

Throughout the 2020 elections, we expect to hear continued attacks on charter schools, both in the presidential race and in races at the federal, state, and local levels across the country. But we are encouraged by polls that consistently show parents want more public school choices. Both EducationNext and the Benenson Strategy Group produced important surveys this year showing that support for charter schools remains strong among Republicans and among black and Hispanic Democrats, whose children are among the biggest beneficiaries of charter schools.

Our support will continue to grow as more people understand what charter schools are and who they serve. There are still many Americans who are confused about the charter school basics: Are they public, private, or somewhere in between? Are they funded by billionaires? Can they exclude students based on factors like religion or disability? If you're reading this, you know the answers to these questions.

But charter schools still only represent seven percent of schools nationwide and countless communities have no charter schools. We have work to do to make sure more Americans learn about what our schools are and how they succeed.

We have to expand into more regions so that more parents and students have access to charter school opportunities. We also need to support diverse, innovative educators by making sure that barriers to starting a charter school aren't so high that they discourage would-be school founders and by helping prospective founders navigate the path from vision to launch.

Our most important mission throughout 2020 will be to make sure charter school supporters are active and vocal. Parents who love their schools cannot take them for granted. Educators who value the freedom and empowerment that charter schools offer cannot sit quietly while special interests try to take it away. We have invested in efforts like our Discover Charters and Charters Work campaigns to help tell the story of our movement and fight back against the false narratives that our opponents are peddling. We are also helping our partners at state Charter Support Organizations with myriad toolkits, workshops, and meetings aimed at preparing them for the new advocacy landscape. We have a challenging task ahead of us, but we have great people throughout this movement who know how important charter schools are to students. A few setbacks here and there won't derail us. We're marshalling our resources, engaging our allies, and marching forward to give more students access to a high-quality charter school.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nina". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning of the word.

Nina Rees / PRESIDENT AND CEO

WHAT WE DO

CHARTER SCHOOLS ARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 3.2 MILLION STUDENTS IN 43 STATES.

Parents choose charter schools for their children. There are no entrance requirements to attend a charter school. The only factors limiting enrollment in charter schools are lack of available space and resources.

Charter school operations are funded by state and local tax dollars, just as with other public schools. However, in most states, charter schools receive significantly less funding per pupil than district-run schools. Moreover, charter schools typically have limited access to funding for school facilities and therefore must use operational funding to pay for the acquisition and upkeep of school buildings.

Charter schools are located in all types of communities, though they are most often found in urban settings, where other schools have frequently failed to deliver a high-quality education. Charter

schools serve a larger share of students of color and economically disadvantaged students than district schools do and a similar share of students with disabilities.

Numerous studies have shown that charter schools deliver outsized educational gains for students, particularly students of color from low-income backgrounds. In return for meeting high standards, charter schools have the freedom to use whatever school model, curricula, and school calendar works best for their students. This helps more families find the right school for their child. Many charter schools offer students more time in class and put an emphasis on preparing students for college and successful careers.

Public support for charter schools remains strong and crosses partisan political lines. Parents are especially supportive of charter schools, with

surveys indicating that millions of additional students would attend charter schools if the schools could grow to meet this demand.

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools aims to strengthen public education by supporting a robust, growing, and high-quality charter school movement. The National Alliance is the leading national voice and advocate for the charter school movement, bringing together state-based charter support organizations that work directly with schools to help them thrive and grow. Together, we help charter schools meet the needs of today's students and advocate for policies that will help many more students gain access to a high-quality public education.

CHARTER SCHOOL FACTS

3.2 MILLION

Charter School Students
(6% of all public school students)



5 MILLION

additional students would attend a
Charter School if one were available



7,038

Charter Schools (2018 - 2019)

1ST

Charter School
opened in
Minnesota
in 1992

45 STATES

with Charter
School Laws



56% URBAN



26% SUBURBAN



18% RURAL

FEDERAL POLICY & ADVOCACY

From our home base in Washington, D.C., the National Alliance ensures that the interests of charter schools are well represented in Congress, the White House, and at the U.S. Department of Education. Much of our work focuses on the federal Charter Schools Program (CSP), which provides vital funding to start new schools and to replicate and expand schools that have proven their value to students. The National Alliance maintains close relationships with members of both parties, ensuring that they understand the importance of the CSP to communities around the country. We also serve as a connector between charter school leaders and members of Congress, bringing lawmakers the perspectives of people who are on the ground turning policy and funding into opportunities for students.

In 2019, the National Alliance worked with key leaders in the House and Senate to circulate letters of support for the CSP from members of Congress to their colleagues on the Appropriations Committees, which decide how much funding will be allocated to every federal program. We're pleased that 61 members across both parties signed appropriations letters in 2019, including 18 new members. We also circulated letters from Charter Support Organizations (CSOs), Charter Management Organizations (CMOs), independent schools, and local non-profits, as well as from national partners committed to expanding educational opportunity.

Our hard work paid off when the House and Senate agreed to fund the CSP at \$440 million in fiscal year 2020, equaling the previous year's record-high funding. In addition, many of the programs that charter schools rely on, including Title I and IDEA, received funding increases.

2019 also saw the continuation of our efforts to bring more school leaders of color to Capitol Hill to tell lawmakers how charter schools are making a difference in their communities.



BELOW: John Taylor, Executive Director of the Booker T. Washington Academy, Kristine Rivera, Director of Family & Community Engagement at Excellence Community Schools, Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro, and Connecticut State Representative Quentin Phipps, Director of Advocacy at Excellence Community Schools meet on Capitol Hill as part of the Charter School Leaders of Color Capitol Hill Advocacy Initiative.



LEFT: National Alliance Board Member Mary Landrieu, Elsie Urueta, Founder and Executive Director of the Tulsa Honor Academy, Amanda Johnson, Executive Director of Clarksdale Collegiate, and John Esa, Board President at the Redmond Proficiency Academy, join Ranking Member Virginia Foxx (center) at the National Alliance's School Leaders of Color Reception.

FEDERAL POLICY HIGHLIGHT

45 School Leaders of Color Convene on Capitol Hill to Meet Congressional Leadership

The National Alliance makes sure charter school leaders are heard loud and clear in the halls of Congress. Our fourth annual Charter School Leaders of Color Capitol Hill Advocacy Initiative drew more than 45 school leaders from 18 states and the District of Columbia to participate in a two-day lobbying event.

Charter educators who reflect the communities they serve came to speak directly to members of Congress, congressional leadership, and members of the Appropriations Committees of both chambers. The Black, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American charter school leaders who joined us demonstrated the reality of our movement: that there are a large number of people of color—many of whom previously taught in or led traditional district schools—who now lead high-quality, high-performing, culturally-affirming public schools that are closing the achievement gap with support from the communities they serve.

In addition to educating lawmakers, the Charter School Leaders of Color Capitol Hill Advocacy Initiative also provided peer support and networking for the participants. We helped participants establish relationships with a number of national funders, with members of the National Alliance Board of Directors, and with two consultancies created by the participants themselves for peer review and assistance. We sponsored a reception on Capitol Hill that was attended by several members of Congress and numerous congressional office and committee staff and co-sponsored by organizations that share our commitment to educational equity, such as the National Congress of Black Women.

Each year, our Advocacy Initiative gets high marks from the school leaders who participate and from the members of Congress who appreciate hearing directly from their constituents. We look forward to hitting the Hill again in 2020!

STATE POLICY & ADVOCACY

The health and growth of the charter school movement depends to a large extent on state policies. To help states get charter school policy right, the National Alliance works with partners around the country to educate and inform lawmakers about how to create and sustain successful charter school movements.

Each year, our state charter school law rankings report—Measuring Up to the Model—shows which states are creating policy environments that are most conducive to charter school growth and quality. In 2019, Indiana and Colorado topped the rankings. These states, and the report as a whole, serve as benchmarks against which other states can measure and improve their own charter school policies.

The National Alliance also works with states and territories that have new charter schools to help them lay a strong foundation for bringing charter school options to more families. In Alabama, Mississippi, and Puerto Rico this year, we brought together policymakers, authorizers, school founders, and other stakeholders to provide guidance on recruiting and supporting high-quality charter school operators.

2019 posed challenges in certain states. Changing political dynamics allowed charter school opponents to weaken charter school laws. They were able to further concentrate authorizing in the hands of districts in California, eliminate the State Charter School Commission (the state's appellate body) and the ability for new charter school applicants to appeal district denials in Illinois, make the cap on charter schools permanent and expand it to include district-authorized charter schools in Maine, and eliminate an important stream of funding for small charter schools in New Mexico.

The multitude of state policy environments in America means that there are always opportunities for creative policymakers and educators to bring new, high-quality public school options to students. The National Alliance is proud to work with state partners to support these innovators as they change the lives of the students in their states.

WHILE CALIFORNIA TRENDED IN THE WRONG DIRECTION, MANY OTHER STATES TOOK STEPS FORWARD:

- ▶ **ARKANSAS** appropriated significant funding to aid charter schools in acquiring facilities.
- ▶ **FLORIDA** required school districts to share tax revenues generated from voter-approved increases in local school taxes and made a substantial investment in the state's charter school capital outlay fund.
- ▶ **IDAHO** created a credit enhancement program for charter schools that will help lower interest rates on bonds for charter school facilities.
- ▶ **MASSACHUSETTS** increased facilities funding for charter schools.
- ▶ **OHIO** allocated additional state aid for high-performing charter schools, with an emphasis on supporting economically disadvantaged students.
- ▶ **TENNESSEE** doubled its previous contribution to the state's Charter School Facilities Fund and also established an independent commission to hear charter school appeals.



STATE POLICY HIGHLIGHT: NEVADA

The National Alliance Supports Historic Reforms to Virtual Online Charter Education in Nevada.

Nevada’s public charter school movement has enjoyed bipartisan support since its inception in 1997. Today, public charter schools serve more than 10 percent of our K-12 students. As in many states, Nevada’s brick-and-mortar charter schools have generally outperformed their district counterparts, while full-time online virtual charter schools have not fared as well. It became increasingly clear that reforming the virtual charter sector was necessary to avoid casting a shadow on the otherwise strong and improving results of the rest of our charter schools. In 2019, our movement came together to support historic reforms to virtual online charter education. The National Alliance was with us every step of the way.

From the outset, CSAN treated virtual charter school reform as a way to save the online educational option in Nevada, not to get rid of it. We brought together multiple stakeholders, including authorizers, think tanks, and the schools themselves, to build consensus and support for S.B. 441, legislation sponsored by Senate Education Committee Chair Mo Denis. The National Alliance provided policy recommendations and national issue experts as speakers at our annual charter school conference. In addition, the National Alliance’s Russ Simnick testified at numerous legislative committee meetings, had private meetings with key legislators, and contributed to a study by Nevada’s respected Guinn Center examining the online sector. The Alliance helped us develop policy recommendations based on national best practices that eventually found their way into the bill.

Thanks to our partnership with the National Alliance, we were able to craft a reform bill that passed with widespread support. Our successful efforts will have lasting benefits for Nevada’s charter school movement and our students.

Pat Hickey

Executive Director

Advocates for Charter School Options

The State Leaders Council convenes at the National Charter Schools Conference in Las Vegas.

“The National Alliance was with us every step of the way.”



National Alliance Director of State Policy and Advocacy Emily Schultz testifies in front of the West Virginia Legislature.

LEGAL ADVOCACY

As more policy disagreements play out in the courts, the National Alliance ensures that charter schools have the resources to defend their rights and advance new arguments to protect and enhance the valuable role of charter schools in public education.

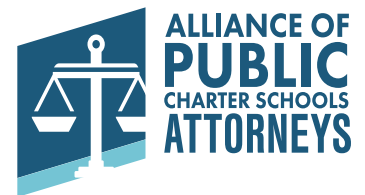
Our Charter School Legal Action Fund is at the forefront of cases that have potentially far-reaching impacts for charter schools. In 2019, the Legal Action Fund saw significant victories in Florida, where the court upheld the

constitutionality of a law ensuring that school boards share local tax revenue with charter schools; in Mississippi, where the court upheld the constitutionality of the state's charter school funding structure; and in Missouri, where a federal judge dismissed a lawsuit claiming that sales tax revenue should not be shared with public charter schools. We also invested in cases in Minnesota and New Jersey that seek to erroneously blame charter schools for racial imbalances in public schools.



The Alliance of Public Charter School Attorneys (APCSA) is a network of more than 400 lawyers across the country who work with charter schools to protect their rights, ensure compliance with all laws and regulations, and monitor legal issues with implications for schools, students, and the entire charter school movement. APCSA attorneys share expertise and stay up-to-date on the legal trends shaping charter schools and public education more broadly.

While our legal work has achieved a lot of success to date—with no losses to speak of—there are still many threats on the horizon and more that we can't even see yet. The National Alliance will remain vigilant and active in rallying legal talent around the country to vigorously represent charter school interests in the courts.



400+
LAWYERS

across the country work with charter schools.

40+
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

each year.

LEGAL ACTION FUND IMPACT: MISSISSIPPI

Rachel Canter, Executive Director,
Mississippi First

Passing the Mississippi charter school law in 2013 was a hard-fought battle. One of our proudest victories at the time was the funding structure, which ensured charter schools would receive on an equal basis every state and local operational dollar available to traditional district schools. We expected some or all of the law to be challenged in court, but as time passed, and schools opened, we thought maybe tempers had cooled. Then, in July 2016, a rumored lawsuit finally dropped. The plaintiffs alleged that charter schools were not “free schools” under the state’s constitution and therefore could not receive public education dollars. They further argued that since charter schools were not under the control of local traditional school districts, those school districts could not be compelled to share local tax dollars with charter schools for enrolled local children.

The long-term threat the suit posed was potentially devastating. As one of the nation’s poorest states, we have long struggled to put together the financial resources to get our sector off the ground. Interested operators were essentially on their own to finance their start-up costs at that point, as we had no state, federal, or philanthropic start-up dollars.

One of my first calls was to the National Alliance. The Charter School Legal Action Fund agreed to match whatever money we could raise locally for the defense. This made it possible for the Mississippi Charter School Association, on whose board I sit, to hire attorneys to intervene on behalf of the sector. In addition to the Legal Action Fund’s dollars, the National Alliance allowed our legal team to benefit from national experience on these issues.

After three long years, we finally received a ruling from the Mississippi State Supreme Court in September 2019 vindicating our long-held position that charter schools are public schools entitled to the same state and local dollars as other Mississippi public schools. It was a victory for both the children our sector serves and the charter movement nationally. We hope that other plaintiffs will think twice before filing a similar lawsuit, as our ruling adds to the well of precedent in favor of charter schools.

Parents rally for charter schools in front of the Mississippi State Supreme Court.



LEGAL ACTION FUND IMPACT: FLORIDA

Shawn Arnold, Esq., B.C.S., Partner,
The Arnold Law Firm

In August, Florida’s First District Court of Appeal issued a ruling in favor of public charter schools in a case that has been working its way through the court system for nearly two years. The lawsuit was initiated by school boards, contesting the constitutionality of a sweeping education bill passed in 2017, and largely focused on specific provisions of the bill that were favorable to charter schools.

The National Alliance’s Legal Action Fund proved instrumental in ensuring a positive outcome for Florida’s charter schools. With aid from the Legal Action Fund, charter schools and parents were able to intervene in the case, giving the courts the perspective of those who would be directly affected by the outcome of the case. The National Alliance invested its knowledge and legal expertise, staying in constant contact with us as we strategized the best possible plan to protect Florida’s public charter schools. The National Alliance also played a pivotal role in communicating with the public about the importance of this case.

The impact of the First District Court of Appeal’s decision is far reaching. The court ruled that it is within the bounds of the Florida constitution for the legislature to require school boards to share revenues raised from local capital millage levies with charter schools. Already, we have seen the fruits of this victory, as many charter schools across the state have received capital outlay dollars that they otherwise would not have. While it does not completely close the inequitable gap in funding between charter schools and traditional district schools, it has gotten us one step closer.

COMMUNICATIONS

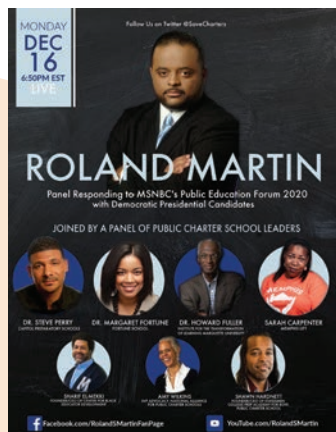


“When you look at our highest-performing charter schools ... all of these schools have a number of things in common, which is that not only are they innovating and serving their students well, but they’re now also doing something that we never thought was possible, which was to get these students to college and through college.”

- **Nina Rees**, Reagan Institute Summit on Education, April 11, 2019



ABOVE: Amy Wilkins, senior vice president of advocacy at the National Alliance, joins Roland Martin Unfiltered to discuss the 2020 presidential elections.



In just four weeks, 7,700 advocates signed onto a letter to the presidential candidates led by five charter school supporters including a school leader, teacher, alum, parent, and grandparent Sarah Carpenter (pictured below)

Go and talk to people. Don't just talk to the people who can fill your campaign funds. Talk to the people who can't donate to your campaign. Talk to people who need things to change. We need things to change.

And guess what, I have a right to vote.

SARAH CARPENTER
CHARTER SCHOOL GRANDPARENT
THE WASHINGTON CITY REPORTER, DC

CHARTERS WORK ✓

Charter Schools Work.

The Status Quo Doesn't.

CHARTERS WORK ✓



3,173
MEDIA HITS



23,600
TWITTER FOLLOWERS



20,031
FACEBOOK LIKES



500,000
VIDEO VIEWS



800,000
SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS



137
BLOG POSTS



28
OP-EDS

MEDIA MENTIONS

- THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC
- BLOOMBERG
- CNN
- THE DAILY CALLER
- THE DETROIT NEWS
- EDUCATION DIVE
- EDUCATION NEXT
- EDUCATION POST
- EDUCATION WEEK
- FOX NEWS
- THE HILL
- HUFFPOST
- LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL
- NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
- THE NEW YORK TIMES
- THE PLAIN DEALER
- POLITICO
- RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL
- U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT
- THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
- WASHINGTON EXAMINER
- THE WASHINGTON POST
- THE 74

2019 NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Sal Khan

SPEAKERS

Teresa Benitez-Thompson

Majority Floor Leader,
Nevada Assembly

Israel Bennet

Student, Thurman
White Academy

Christopher de la Cruz

Founding Youth Development
Specialist, South Bronx
Community Charter
High School

Romy Drucker

Deputy Director, K-12
Education, Walton Family
Foundation

Dr. Howard Fuller

Distinguished Professor of
Education and Founder/
Director for the Transforma-
tion of Learning at
Marquette University

Sal Khan

Founder, Khan Academy

Kendall Massett

Executive Director,
Delaware Charter School
Network

Hadi Partovi

CEO, Code.org

Paul Pastorek

Board Chair, National
Alliance for Public Charter
Schools/Former LA State
Superintendent of
Education

Armando "Pitbull" Perez,

co-founder, SLAM Academy

Nina Rees

President & CEO, National
Alliance for Public Charter
Schools

Keri Rodrigues

Founder and Mom-in-Chief,
Massachusetts Parents
United

Stephanie Stanford

Chief, Global Policy &
External Relations, College
Board

Clifton Taulbert

President, The Freemount
Corporation

Jill Tolles

Assemblywoman,
Nevada Assembly

Armando "Pitbull" Perez



TOP SPONSORS

Chan Zuckerberg Initiative

Charter Asset Management

College Board

CompuGroup Medical

Great Minds

HJ Sims

Kern Family Foundation

Learn4Life

MindShift

Strada Education Network

Walton Family Foundation

Clifton Taulbert





Keri Rodrigues



Nevada Assembly
Majority Leader Teresa
Benitez-Thompson



5,122

ATTENDEES

134

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

290

EXIBITORS

JOIN US IN ORLANDO!

2020 National Charter Schools Conference

JUNE 21-24 | ORLANDO, FL

[NCSC.PUBLICCHARTERS.ORG](https://ncsc.publiccharters.org)



2019 CHAMPIONS FOR CHARTERS

U.S. Senator Mazie K. Hirono, *Hawaii (D)*

U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson, *Georgia (R)*

U.S. Congressman Salud Carbajal, *California (D)*

🏆 RISING STAR AWARD

U.S. Congresswoman Virginia Foxx, *North Carolina (R)*

🏆 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

U.S. Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, *California (D)*

U.S. Congressman Joseph Morelle, *New York (D)*

🏆 RISING STAR AWARD

U.S. Congressman Joe Wilson, *South Carolina (R)*

Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran, *Florida (R)*

State Assemblyman Marcos Crespo, *New York (D)*

State Senator Manny Diaz Jr., *Florida (R)*

State Representative Harold Dutton Jr., *Texas (D)*

Former Speaker Greg Hughes, *Utah (R)*

State Representative Earl Jaques Jr., *Delaware (D)*

Governor Bill Lee, *Tennessee (R)*

LAUSD Board Member Nick Melvoin, *Los Angeles (D)*

State Senator Douglas McCrory, *Connecticut (D)*

Former State Senator Phil Pavlov, *Michigan (D)*

State Senator David Sokola, *Delaware (D)*

State Representative Rebecca Roeber, *Missouri (D)*

Former State Senator Howard Stephenson, *Utah (D)*



TOP: Ron Rice, Sen. Mazie Hirono, and Nina Rees

MIDDLE: Buzz Thomas, Chairman of Michigan's Charter School Association, and Sen. Phil Pavlov

BOTTOM: Sen. Johnny Isakson and Nina Rees



2019 CHARTER SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Michael A. Carter Sr,

Co-founder of the Jalen Rose Leadership Academy

Dominique Lee

Founder and CEO of Building Resilient Intelligent Creative Kids (BRICK) Education Network

Tysie McDowell-Ray

Co-founder and Chief Academic Officer of Crossroads Academy of Kansas City

Lagra Newman

Founder and Head of School at Purpose Preparatory Academy

Congressman Wm Lacy Clay Jr, Missouri (D)

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Texas (D)

Congressman Donald M. Payne Jr, New Jersey (D)

Tysie McDowell-Ray, Dominique Lee, Jalen Rose, and Lagra Newman accept their awards at the 2019 Charter School Leadership Awards reception.

TRAILBLAZER AWARD

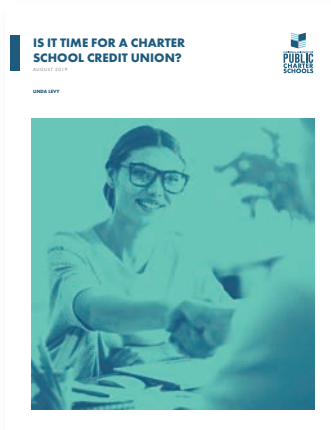
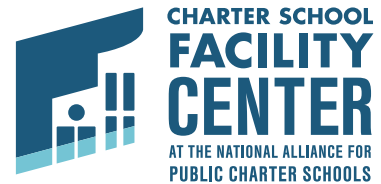
Jalen Rose

Former NBA star and co-founder of the Jalen Rose Leadership Academy



The National Alliance's Ron Rice and Democrats for Education Reform's Mike Bland present Rep. Donald Payne with a Charter School Leadership Award.

CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITY CENTER



The Charter Schools Program-supported Charter School Facility Center launched in 2019 to help charter schools address a major roadblock on the path to growth. The center is promoting facility-related policies such as per pupil facility funding, which saw an increase in Massachusetts; access to district bond funds, which raised \$300 million in California; and state moral obligation bond legislation, which was recently passed in Idaho. In addition to state policies, the center is working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to promote more funding to rural charter schools—work that resulted in a Michigan charter school saving \$1 million. The center also hosts trainings around the country for school leaders undertaking real estate projects. One participant has already saved \$1 million by learning about cheaper financing options. The center will continue to discuss new initiatives in impact investing and land trusts to help schools spend more money in the classroom, rather than on the classroom.

“Charter schools are an untapped opportunity for impact investors. Investors in charter schools have the satisfaction of knowing that their investments would finance expenses that donors can’t cover with gifts, and can rest comfortably in the knowledge that their investments are very likely to pay off. What’s more, they can help meet a goal that should be beyond the divisiveness of politics: better education for America’s children.”

- **Mark Medema**, Wall Street Journal, October 27, 2019

CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITY CENTER PUBLICATIONS:
(1) *Community Land Trusts and Charter Schools* (2) *State Policy Snapshot: Facilities Funding for Public Charter Schools* (3) *Is it Time for a Charter School Credit Union?*

2019 PUBLICATIONS

MEASURING UP TO THE MODEL
A RANKING OF STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL LAWS
FOURTH ANNUAL EDITION, JANUARY 2019



TODD ZIEBARTH
NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS



MEASURING UP TO THE MODEL: A RANKING OF STATE CHARTER SCHOOL LAWS, 2019

A GROWING MOVEMENT
AMERICA'S LARGEST CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMUNITIES
THIRTEENTH ANNUAL EDITION, JANUARY 2019



KEVIN MEDA
NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

JAMISON WHITE
NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

ADAM CRISTENFELD
NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS



NEW ORLEANS, LA
AMERICA'S LARGEST CHARTER SCHOOL COMMUNITY

A GROWING MOVEMENT: AMERICA'S LARGEST CHARTER SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

DECEMBER 2019

2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

POLICY

BY: TODD ZIEBARTH, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, STATE ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT

The impacts of the 2018 elections were felt in the 2019 state legislative sessions across the country. While charter school supporters continued to seek legislative victories on increasing funding and facilities support, strengthening accountability, and protecting autonomy, they also faced political climates in several states that were far less hospitable as a result of the 2018 elections.

Charter school supporters are used to having to fight against anti-charter school legislation. What was different this year was the political climate created by the elections. For example, instead of having supportive Democratic Governor Jerry Brown in California, charter school advocates had to deal with Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom, nearly the opposite of that Brown was. This same dynamic was at play in Illinois, Maine, and New Mexico, among other places.

As a result, teachers' unions and other opponents started to make headway on their anti-public charter school policy agenda in state legislative sessions in 2019. In **Illinois**, they were able to eliminate the State Charter School Commission (the state's appellate body) and the ability for new charter school applicants to appeal district denials. In **Maine**, they made the cap on charter schools permanent and expanded it to include district-authorized charter schools. (The cap was set to expire in 2022 and only included state-authorized charter schools.) And they eliminated an important stream of funding for small charter schools in **New Mexico**.

Most ominously, several anti-charter school provisions were enacted in **California**. For example, the state further concentrated authorizing in the hands of districts and expanded the reasons that districts can use to deny charter school petitions to include the fiscal impact of the charter school on the district. The state also eliminated important staffing flexibilities from charter schools. If not for the work of charter school advocates in California, the results would have been worse.


At the same time that advocates fought such significant threats in hostile climates, we continued to see notable gains in many states. On the funding and facilities front, many states made improvements, including the following:

- **ALABAMA** appropriated \$400,000 to be used for grants to support the development of new public charter schools in the state.
- **ARKANSAS** appropriated \$2075,000 to its open enrollment public charter school facilities funding aid program.
- **COLORADO** increased equalization funding for state-authorized charter schools from \$5.5 million this year to \$7 million next year.


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2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

IDENTITY AND CHARTER SCHOOL LEADERSHIP
PROFILES OF LEADERS OF COLOR: BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE STAFF
SEPTEMBER 2019



BY: NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC IMPACT




IDENTITY AND CHARTER SCHOOL LEADERSHIP: BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE STAFF

IDENTITY AND CHARTER SCHOOL LEADERSHIP
PROFILES OF LEADERS OF COLOR: ENGAGING FAMILIES
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IDENTITY AND CHARTER SCHOOL LEADERSHIP: ENGAGING FAMILIES

IDENTITY AND CHARTER SCHOOL LEADERSHIP
PROFILES OF LEADERS OF COLOR: BUILDING A STRONG SCHOOL CULTURE
DECEMBER 2019



BY: NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC IMPACT



IDENTITY AND CHARTER SCHOOL LEADERSHIP: BUILDING A STRONG SCHOOL CULTURE

2019 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



MARGARET FORTUNE

Margaret Fortune is president and CEO of Fortune School. In 2010, under Fortune's leadership, the organization launched a network of K-12 public charter schools in Sacramento and San Bernardino counties with the mission to close the African American achievement gap. The network currently includes seven public charter schools with a combined enrollment of more than 1,500 students.



JOE NATHAN

Joe Nathan, an unapologetic advocate of the public charter school movement is a former public school aide, teacher, and administrator who helped to write several major education laws, including the nation's first charter school law in Michigan. Throughout his career, he has testified before more than 20 state legislatures and Congressional committee, advocated for students on more than 400 television and radio programs including The "Today" Show and Good Morning America, and published articles in the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, Atlanta Journal Constitution, and the Detroit News.



FERNANDO ZULUETA

In 1997, Fernando Zulueta joined parents and community members to establish one of Florida's first charter schools—Somerset Neighborhood School. He went on to found Academica in 1999—a network that has grown to more than 180 charter schools serving approximately 90,000 students across the country. Academica's schools have been recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools, ranked among U.S. News & World Report's Best High Schools, and College Success Award winners by Great Schools.

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FINANCIALS

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools is a 501(c)(3) public charity funded through four principal revenue streams: foundations, individuals, partner organizations, and the National Charter Schools Conference. In 2019, we invested \$14 million to execute to advocate, educate, and promote strong policy environments for charters schools.

REVENUE

Contributions	\$11,457,419
National Charter Schools Conference	\$3,723,452
Government Subgrants	\$850,453
Other Income	\$ 255,027
TOTAL REVENUE	\$16,283,851

EXPENSES

Federal Advocacy	\$2,929,512
National Charter Schools Conference	\$2,815,371
Communications	\$2,495,114
State Advocacy	\$2,092,554
Operations	\$1,783,814
Legal Affairs	\$886,461
Research	\$534,739
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$13,537,565

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STAFF

(back row L-R)

*Kim McCabe, Jessica Morffi,
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Patricia Guidetti, Nina Rees,
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National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

1425 K Street, NW Suite 900
Washington, DC, 20005
202.289.2700

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