



SUPPORT THAT ADDS UP



JOIN MCPSA

The Massachusetts Charter Public School Association is a membership organization that serves as the voice of one of the nation's highest-performing charter public school sectors.

Membership benefits include: advocacy and policy support, communications expertise, professional development for school leaders, staff, and board members, and opportunities to network with charter public school leaders across the Commonwealth.

To learn more about all of our programs, services, and benefits, please email:

info@masscharterschools.org.

100%
of members are
satisfied or very
satisfied with MCPSA.

ADVOCACY & POLICY

MCPSA advocates on behalf of charter public schools at state and local levels to advance policies and regulations that ensure greater access to high quality public education, fair and adequate resources, autonomy and accountability, and racial justice and equity.

STATEWIDE ADVOCACY

MCPSA advocates in the legislature and state government in a variety of ways, including via grassroots and grasstops advocacy, issue education, and direct lobbying of lawmakers.

LEGISLATION

Each session, MCPSA carefully reviews all newly filed legislation to assess potential impact on charter public schools and works accordingly to promote or defeat bills. MCPSA also proactively proposes legislation, informed by member needs, interests, and priorities, to advance educational equity and opportunity for all students.

TRAINING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MCPSA provides regular advocacy training, coaching, and support to help charter public school staff more effectively engage with lawmakers and advocate on behalf of their schools and our sector. In addition, MCPSA provides opportunities, resources, and supports that enable families, board members, and other community members to actively participate in advocacy activities.

DESE & BESE SUPPORT

MCPSA advocates for fair and transparent authorizing decisions, regulations that protect charter autonomies, and conditions that promote charter quality. MCPSA staff maintain communication pathways with DESE, observe BESE meetings, centralize feedback to the authorizer, and provide guidance to schools in their high-stakes interactions with DESE and BESE.

98% of member schools agree or strongly agree that MCPSA has been effective at protecting the charter funding formula and in advocating with DESE.

COMMUNICATIONS

MCPSA works to coordinate a unified, factual, inspiring message about the value of the Massachusetts charter public school sector, while also supporting schools in sharing a narrative that highlights their distinctive value.

1:1 SUPPORT & CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS

MCPSA provides school leaders and staff individualized strategic communications support, including during challenging media and public relations moments. MCPSA offers in-the-moment advice, coaching, and written material creation, as well as proactive resource dissemination and media training.

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

MCPSA offers a robust suite of supports for school communications staff through regular in-person and virtual convenings, office hours, and formal trainings, with a focus on thought partnership, collaboration, and best practice sharing.

MEDIA COVERAGE

MCPSA builds strong relationships with local, state, and national media to pitch positive coverage about the sector and member schools. MCPSA also creates and disseminates information to the general public and key stakeholders through paid, earned, owned, and shared media.

RESOURCES

MCPSA provides member schools access to a variety of resources, templates, and data-driven reports to support effective communications planning, content creation, and messaging.

Questions? Visit masscharterschools.org.



Literally every support you provide has been invaluable! Specifically, the templates, ideas from peers, and one-on-one support from the MCPSA team have been critical to helping me share our school's story more effectively. This community of practice alone makes every penny of our MCPSA membership worth it.

Thank you for everything!

- Nancy, Springfield Prep

SCHOOL SUPPORTS

MCPSA provides high-quality professional development and resources to charter public schools across the state. Content is based on the needs of member schools and is designed with their input.

STATEWIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE (CoP)

MCPSA manages an annual series of in-person and virtual workshops, which offer peer networking, professional learning, and resource sharing around topics such as school culture, English Learner education, special education, and school finance and operations, each facilitated by content experts with a lens towards diversity, equity, and inclusion.

NEW CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LEADER PROGRAM

MCPSA provides support to new leaders via in-person and virtual cohort meetings, individual coaching support, and webinars.

EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

MCPSA provides webinars to support the growth and development of charter school board members. MCPSA plans to add a new board leader academy for new chairs and vice-chairs in 2023.

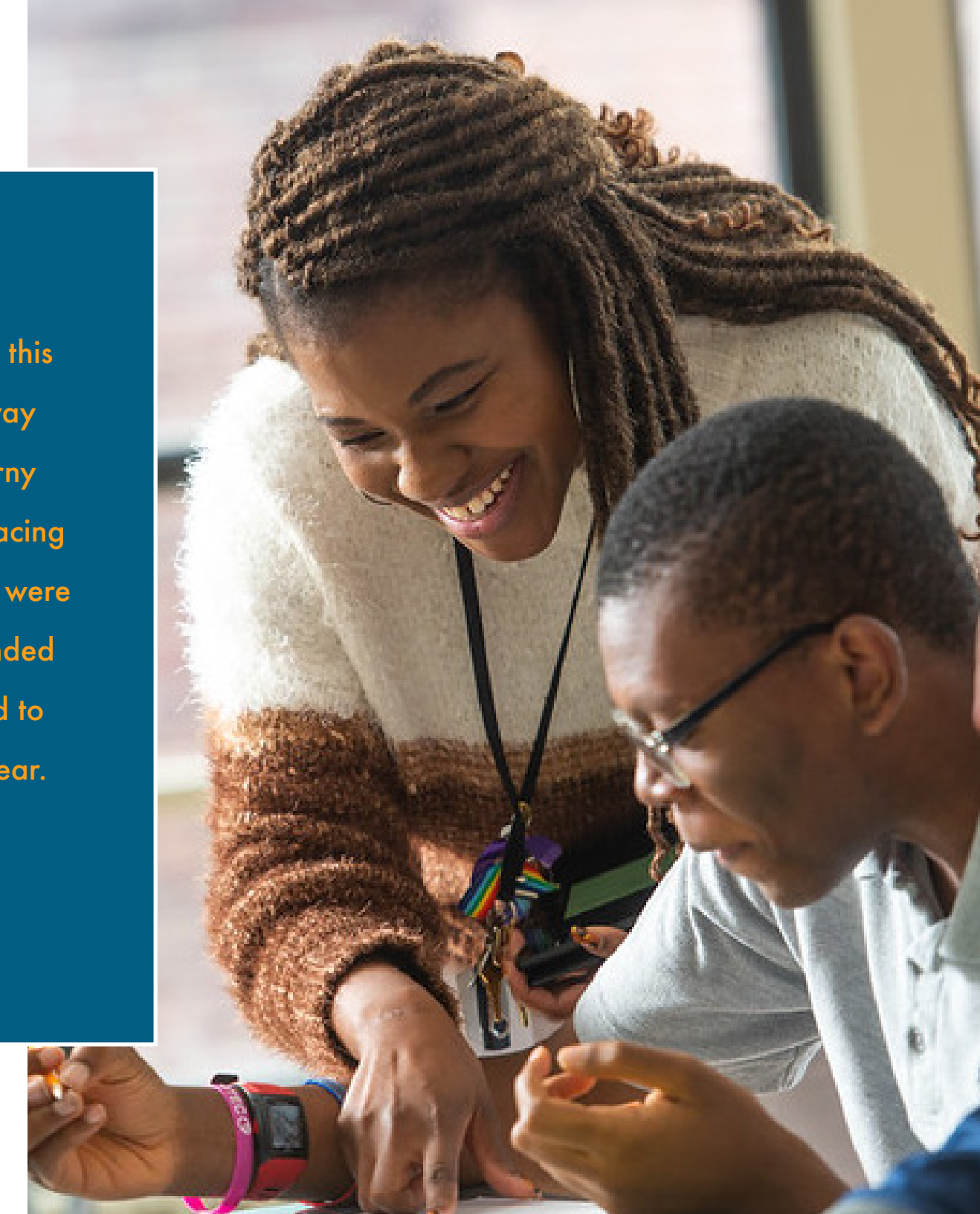
NEW CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL APPLICANT SUPPORT

MCPSA serves as a connector between prospective founding groups and a wide range of resources that advance a viable application. MCPSA also helps founding groups navigate the unfamiliar DESE landscape.

100% of member schools agree that MCPSA has provided their staff with relevant and effective professional development opportunities.

The ED seat is very lonely, and this group gave me a clear pathway to discuss challenges and thorny questions with others who are facing the same struggles. The sessions were well thought out and corresponded with the timing of what needed to happen at each stage of the year.

- New Leader Program Participant



DATA

MCPSA regularly analyzes complex datasets to identify key insights, trends, and takeaways.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND FINANCE

MCPSA analyzes publicly available accountability and financial data to help schools understand their own data in the context of larger sector and district trends.

COMPENSATION SURVEY

MCPSA administers and disseminates the results of an annual, sector-wide compensation survey to support charter public school leaders in their annual budgeting and contracting process.

Mining for answers?

Learn more at

masscharterschools.org.



PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES

MCPSA keeps you up-to-date with the latest news, events, and resources!

SCHOOL LEADER WEEKLY

MCPSA sends school leaders and/or their designees a weekly roundup of timely updates, resources, funding opportunities, and upcoming events.

KNOWLEDGE CENTER

MCPSA maintains and promotes an online resource of shared information and materials for school leaders and staff, including “crowd-sourced” responses to questions, resources shared by Massachusetts charter public schools, and external state and national resources.

MODEL POLICIES

MCPSA keeps an updated, attorney-vetted, DESE-compliant library of model policies.

EXTERNAL MONTHLY BULLETIN

MCPSA sends a monthly email blast to over 30,000 individuals highlighting the unique value charter schools add to the public education system in Massachusetts.

PRINT AND DIGITAL COLLATERAL

MCPSA creates and disseminates annual reports, fact sheets, and other documents on behalf of the sector, including maintaining and updating the MCPSA website.

JOB BOARD AND ONLINE VENDOR DIRECTORY

MCPSA provides members the opportunity to post and promote employment opportunities on its website. It also maintains an updated vendor directory to help members locate high-quality, charter-supportive businesses.



CONVENINGS

MCPSA makes it easier for members to connect!

DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

MCPSA hosts a biannual gathering of school leaders in order to assess challenges and opportunities, set strategic vision, take critical votes, network, and learn from and with one another.

REGIONAL ALLIANCE SUPPORT

MCPSA supports three standing committees of the MCPSA Board of Directors - Boston Charter Alliance, Gateway City Charter Alliance, and Suburban & Rural Charter Alliance - which exist to ensure that the unique geographical and regional needs of schools are addressed, articulated, and incorporated into the Association's programs, services, and actions.

VIRTUAL NETWORKING

MCPSA facilitates a community of virtual networking, through which school leaders and staff can pose questions and receive responses, resources, and best practices from both peers and Association staff.

Email ocook@masscharterschools.org
to become a member!



I have always, always thought that the Association served a crucial role in so many ways, from advocating for funding to, more recently, deeply impactful work around the advancement of racial equity in our schools. Over the past two years, that has become even clearer. It has been incredibly difficult to lead in schools. I don't know what I would have done without the Association staff. You provided opportunities for leaders to come together. You quickly got information. You gave feedback. You individually supported us with whatever we needed. We could call at any time and know that you'd be there, at the other end of the line. The Association played an instrumental role in helping me as a leader get through. I am so deeply grateful.

- Beth Anderson, Phoenix Charter Academy



Mission Statement: MCPSA's mission is to create and protect the conditions that will enable the charter public school sector to thrive, and advance the larger goal of ensuring all Massachusetts children and families have equitable access to high-quality schools.

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