



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 is open to Commonwealth charter public schools. Benefits include:

- Advocacy and policy support.
- Proactive and rapid response communications expertise.
- Professional development for school leaders, staff, and board members.
- Tuition guidance, staff salary benchmarking, and budgetary planning support.
- Weekly newsletter sharing resources, timely announcements, and opportunities.
- Opportunities to network with charter public school leaders across the Commonwealth.
- Legally-vetted model school and board policies.



Photo: Atlantis

ADVOCACY & POLICY

MCPSA advocates on behalf of charter public schools 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 ongoing relationship-building and education efforts with key decision makers, delivering oral and written testimony, development of issue-based fact sheets, 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. The Public Affairs team also proactively proposes legislation, informed by member needs, interests, and priorities, to advance educational equity and opportunity for all students.

BUDGET MONITORING & ADVOCACY

MCPSA carefully reviews each release of the state budget and school tuition files, sharing a summary of key information and relevant guidance with schools. Additionally, the team advocates to address funding inequities and ensure equitable resources for all public school students.

TRAINING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Public Affairs team provides ongoing advocacy training, coaching, and support to help charter public school staff, families, and board members more effectively engage with lawmakers and advocate on behalf of their schools and our sector.

DESE & BESE SUPPORT

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

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.

POSITIVE STORYTELLING

MCPSA builds strong relationships with local, state, and national media to pitch positive coverage about the sector and member schools. When an outlet picks up a story, the communications team is there to provide media training and to facilitate engagement with journalists. Association publications also create opportunities for sharing members' stories through social media, our website, our monthly newsletter, and other channels.

CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS

School leaders, staff, and board members receive individualized strategic communications support during challenging media and public relations moments, supporting effective communication with staff, families, students, and the media. MCPSA offers in-the-moment advice, coaching, and development of messaging points and written materials, as well as direct media coordination.

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Charters SPEAK is a community of practice that offers a robust suite of supports for school communications staff through regular professional development sessions, with a focus on thought partnership, collaboration, and the sharing of best practices.

RESOURCES

Member schools have access to a variety of resources and templates to support effective communications planning, content creation, and messaging.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORTING

The communications team offers monthly custom-designed social media reports to member schools, providing valuable insights into user engagement that can allow schools to refine their messaging and tactics and efficiently build followership and support.



Photo: KIPP MA

Communications and advocacy work used to feel so isolating. As the MCPSA Charters SPEAK group has evolved and grown, I have felt more and more supported and understood. I know that no matter the question or situation, I can always turn to your team for help.

- Becca Kurie, Alma del Mar -

SCHOOL SUPPORTS

STATEWIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

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 toward diversity, equity, and inclusion.

SENIOR LEADERS' CRITICAL FRIENDS GROUP (CFG)

Emerging senior leaders build content knowledge, actively reflect on practices, and engage in networking opportunities as they grow as leaders within their school communities.

NEW CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL LEADER PROGRAM

New leaders benefit from in-person and virtual cohort meetings, individual coaching support, and webinars, all designed to support their learning and success in their new roles.

BOARD LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Through a virtual cohort model, targeted support for new board chairs and vice-chairs provides regular professional development, networking, and a variety of valuable resources.

EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

MCPSA provides professional development sessions, specialized workshops, resources, and board technical assistance to support the growth and development of all charter public school board members.

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 new charter or expansion application, helping applicants navigate the unfamiliar Department of Elementary and Secondary Education landscape.

The Board Leadership Academy was hugely helpful and inspiring to me. The team at MCPSA and their network of experts are amazingly experienced and also very practical in their guidance. The fellow new board chairs were a diverse group of talented people who were open and honest. I have learned so much from everyone involved; it has been a really good use of time.

- Kim Borchert, Board Chair, Boston Prep -



DATA

MCPSA regularly analyzes complex, priority 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

Our annual, sector-wide compensation survey supports charter public school leaders in their annual budgeting and contracting process.

STUDENT OUTCOMES

As outcome data is released, such as MCAS scores and college enrollment figures, MCPSA conducts analyses in order to help shape the public narrative about the charter sector's performance as well as inform the attuned supports provided to member schools.

PUBLIC OPINION POLLING

MCPSA conducts regular public opinion polling and message testing to monitor public sentiment about issues pertaining to public education, including support for charter public schools.



Photo: Prospect Hill Academy

PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES

SCHOOL LEADER WEEKLY

School leaders receive a weekly roundup of timely updates, resources, funding opportunities, and upcoming events.

KNOWLEDGE CENTER

This online resource provides school leaders and staff access to a variety of information and materials, including crowd-sourced responses to questions, resources shared by Massachusetts charter public schools, and external state and national resources.

MODEL POLICIES

MCPSA provides schools access to an updated library of DESE-compliant model policies vetted by legal counsel.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MCPSA sends a monthly electronic newsletter to over 23,000 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, ensuring accurate, up-to-date information about charter public schools is available to the public.

JOB BOARD AND ONLINE VENDOR DIRECTORY

Member schools benefit from the opportunity to post and promote employment opportunities on our website. MCPSA 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

Each fall and spring, MCPSA hosts a regular 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.

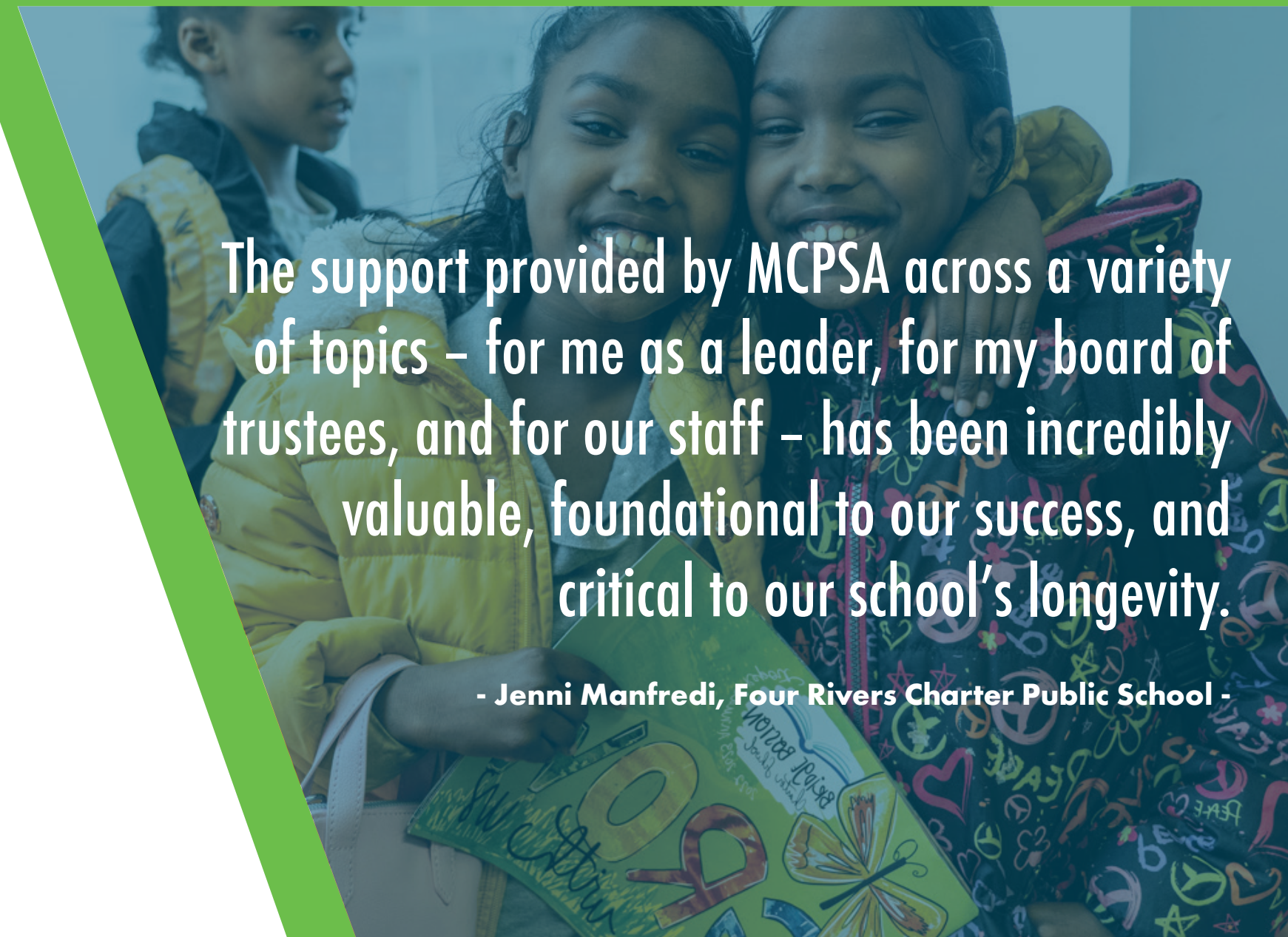
REGIONAL ALLIANCE SUPPORT

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.

Additionally, regional alliance meetings are held bimonthly, enabling school leaders representing schools in the same region of the state to share best practices with one another, maintain a local network of peers, and discuss relevant and timely local and statewide issues with each other and the MCPSA team.

VIRTUAL PEER SHARING

Our virtual information sharing network allows school leaders and staff to pose questions and receive responses, resources, and best practices from both peers and Association staff.



The support provided by MCPSA across a variety of topics – for me as a leader, for my board of trustees, and for our staff – has been incredibly valuable, foundational to our success, and critical to our school's longevity.

- Jenni Manfredi, Four Rivers Charter Public School -



THE MISSION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL ASSOCIATION 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.

 /MACHARTERSCHOOLS

 /MASS4CHARTERS

 /MASS4CHARTERS

MASSCHARTERSCHOOLS.ORG

INFO@MASSCHARTERSCHOOLS.ORG