

Charter School Equity Pledge

As charter school operators, we believe *all kinds* of students in our communities should be empowered with public school choice, including but not limited to:

- students of any intellect, aptitude, or history of achievement;
- students of limited English proficiency;
- students of any gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation;
- students who are highly-mobile, including students experiencing homelessness or living in foster care; or returning from delinquency or other placement;
- students living in poverty;
- students who have previously dropped out of school
- students with disabilities of any kind; and
- students of any race, ethnicity, or religious affiliation.

To ensure equitable access to school choice, we pledge that our own charter school will adopt the following best practices:

- Eliminate *any* conditions of enrollment other than what is required under state law (i.e. proof of age, residency, immunizations, and completion of an Act 26 statement).
- Ensure application materials are available to families, both in our main office and on the front page of our school's website, and are translated, at minimum, in Spanish.
- Accept new applications at all times of the year, regardless of the size of our wait list.
- Refrain from discouraging the family of any eligible student(s) from completing an application or seeking enrollment.
- Refrain from requiring enrolled students to "reenroll" each new school year.
- Refrain from "front loading" in early grades or "over-enrolling" as methods to prevent access to students seeking to enroll in later grades or during the school year.
- Maintain on our website the total number of attendance seats available in the school.
- Maintain on our website, and update whenever there is a change, the total current enrollment in the school, along with the number of students on any waitlist.
- Whenever space is available, promptly enroll eligible applying students, in any grade, within five business days, either from new applications or from our waitlist, in the order in which applications were received. (i.e. "backfill" all seats).
- Maintain on our website a current student handbook, including a Code of Conduct that provides clear expectations and graduated levels of support and interventions with consequences for behavior that are individualized, consistent, reasonable, fair, age appropriate and proportional to the severity of the student's behavior.
- Reserve the use of suspension, expulsion, and other exclusionary discipline as a last resort, only for the most serious behaviors, and only after non-exclusionary disciplinary alternatives have been carefully considered, tried and documented.
- Refrain from counseling students to withdraw from school in lieu of conducting a disciplinary expulsion hearing, or to avoid academic failure or risk of retention.
- Ensure the enrollment seat of any student who is temporarily expelled or placed in an out-of-school placement for any other reason is reserved upon their return to school.
- Ensure the availability of translation and interpretation services for any family, in any language they require.