

Promoting the Promise of Intentionally Diverse Charter Schools

Diverse Charter Schools Coalition (DCSC) Advocacy Overview



OVERVIEW

DCSC advocates for policies that nurture the growth and sustainability of excellent, intentionally diverse charter schools. More specifically, DCSC is advocating that no matter where they live, the most disadvantaged students have the access and means to attend intentionally diverse schools.

POLICY AGENDA

DCSC analyzed national and local policy issues, engaged experts, and gathered feedback from member schools. DCSC identified three critical policy levers for intentionally diverse charter schools:

■ **Weighted Lotteries:**


Allow schools to weight Lotteries and set enrollment preferences for disadvantaged/marginalized students to ensure schools can develop the diverse student populations their mission requires

■ **Open Enrollment:**

Allow families and students to select schools that best fit them regardless of where they live or where the school is located

■ **Transportation Funding:**

Allow federal and state transportation funding to go directly to schools where needed



Increased access to high quality, intentionally diverse schools for the most disadvantaged students should not be dependent on zip codes or transportation.

ADVOCACY APPROACH

DCSC will operationalize the agenda to realize three state-based policy changes over the next five years. DCSC intends to do that using targeted, asset-focused advocacy at the state and federal levels.

Federal

- Advocate with and through allies at the federal level
 - Provide stories, data, research, and testimonials about the impact of intentionally diverse charter schools
 - Identify and bring school-based advocates to testify or meet with policy leaders
 - Cultivate national proof points targeted to different audiences and lead site visits

State

- Identify advocacy-ready states where DCSC can work with schools to advance policies, in year one those states are Missouri, Nevada, and Tennessee
 - Build relationships with state and local advocates and intermediaries
 - Connect coalition schools with identified partners
 - Bring awareness and educate leaders on intentionally diverse charter schools
- Support member schools in building and executing advocacy efforts aligned with the DCSC Policy Agenda
 - Open up the Advocacy CoP to member schools in advocacy-ready states
 - Support the development and implementation of a local advocacy strategy
 - Support coalition development and stewardship
- Support member schools in identifying and deploying relevant and aligned stories related to the policy agenda and advocacy work in a targeted state or states
 - Source impactful stories from schools that lend themselves to advocacy work
 - Support bringing those stories to targeted local and national media outlets

To learn more about DCSC's advocacy work, email Executive Director, [Sonia Park](#).