



1101 15th Street, NW
Suite 1010
Washington, DC 20005
T. 202.289.2700
F. 202.289.4009
www.publiccharters.org

February 23, 2016

James Butler
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 3W246
Washington, DC 20202

Docket ID: ED-2015-OESE-0130

Via email: OESE.ESSA.nominations@ed.gov

Dear James:

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, together with the State Leaders Council of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, KIPP, the California Charter Schools Association, and the National Association for Charter School Authorizers, nominate the following individuals to the *Every Student Succeeds Act* negotiated rulemaking committee:

Nominees to represent charter school leaders:

1. Richard Pohlman, Executive Director, Thurgood Marshall Academy, Washington, DC

- **Parent of two children in D.C. public charter schools**
- **Parent of one child with a disability under IDEA**

Summary:

- Richard is the Executive Director of the Thurgood Marshall Academy, a high performing (Tier 1) public charter school in Washington, D.C. Thurgood Marshall Academy is a high school.
- He is an attorney who has extensive experience administering federal programs, including Title I, and overseeing Title I assessments (PARCC), including competency based assessments and accountability and fiscal requirements.
- He has experience at the SEA level and the U.S Department of Education.
- Richard began his career in education as a teacher.
- *see attached resume for detailed experience*

Overview of Experience:

Richard's extensive education background will enable him to represent the interests of charter schools across the country, not just Washington, DC. As the Executive Director of Thurgood Marshall Academy, Richard successfully obtained a 15-year renewal with the Public Charter School Board, which noted that the school met all nine of its goals and placed TMA among DC's top high schools. In addition to his work at Thurgood Marshall, he served as Chief of Operations and Policy and Acting Head of the E.L. Haynes Public Charter School in Washington D.C. where he led all aspects of applying for and implementing ESEA funds and programs.

His expertise has been recognized by several organizations: In 2015 served as a panelist at the National Education Initiative Conference on the topic of competency based education. He also

addressed the issue of Title I fiscal compliance requirements for the Association for Education Finance and Policy Conference in 2015 and has significant experience with issues related to demonstrating supplement not supplant compliance.

He also served as the interim Race to the Top director for the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) in Washington, D.C. At the U.S. Department of Education he was a Presidential Management Fellow and was a program officer for the Rural Education Achievement Program. Lastly, but most importantly, Richard started his career in education as a teacher in 1999.

Evidence of Support: Richard is supported by the signers of this letter.

Commitment to attend all negotiation sessions:

Richard is committed to serve on all dates. Given his background, he is well versed in what it takes to work together to develop regulations consistent with statutory requirements.

Contact Information:

Richard Pohlman

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2. Additional nominee/ alternate negotiator: David Dunn, Executive Director, Texas Charter Schools Association

Summary

- David is the Founding Executive Director of the leading statewide charter school membership association in Texas. TCSA represents nearly 90% of the Texas charter campus and student population, which is composed of more than 230,000 students.
- He has significant experience in strengthening accountability for Texas charter schools through state assessment measures.
- He has significant experience with federal programs, including Title I, for Texas charter schools as well as in his role as Chief of Staff to the U.S. Secretary of Education and Special Assistant to the President for Education at the Domestic Policy Council.
- *See attached resume for detailed experience.*

Overview of Experience:

David Dunn's background has provided him with significant experience in the area of assessments as required under Title I and the needs of charter schools. His federal experience gives him the necessary context to represent charter schools across the country, and not just those in Texas.

David Dunn led advocacy efforts in Texas that resulted in a significant strengthening of charter school law, raising the cap on the number of schools, streamlining the process for effective charter schools to grow and tightening the parameters for closing low-performing schools. During his time at the Domestic Policy Council and U.S. Department of Education, he was closely involved with the development of all No Child Left Behind regulations, including those that permitted the assessment of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities based on alternate achievement standards (the 1% regulation), as well as overseeing the approval of state growth model pilot programs.

David has also worked on behalf of school boards in Texas as the Associate Executive Director for Government Relations, which provides him with additional expertise and local context on the issue of

assessments and fiscal requirements. Prior to his work there, he served in roles that give him background in fiscal compliance, such as his work with the Legislative Budget Board, where he managed a 10-person team responsible for developing cost projections for financing public schools, developing simulation models for public education and analyzing pupil projections, district tax rates and property values.

Evidence of Support: David is supported by the signers of this letter.

Commitment to attend all negotiation sessions:

David is committed to serve all dates. Given his background, he is well versed in what it takes to work together to develop regulations consistent with statutory requirements.

Contact Information:

David Dunn

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

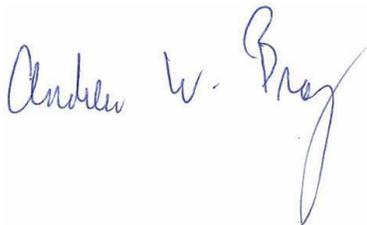
Sincerely,



Nina Rees
President and CEO
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools



Greg Richmond
President and CEO
National Association of Charter School Authorizers



Andrew W. Broy
President
Illinois Network of Charter Schools
Chair, State Leaders Council,
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools



Mike Feinberg
Co-Founder
KIPP



Jed Wallace
President and CEO
California Charter Schools Association
Chair, Policy Advisory Council,
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools