

# Charter Schools Week Toolkit: State Proclamation Worksheet

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## What is a proclamation?

A proclamation is an official document issued by your governor commemorate Charter Schools Week in your state for the purpose of raising awareness of the impact charter schools have in your state and celebrate the accomplishments of charter schools, students, and teachers.

## How to request a proclamation

Visit your governor's website – usually requests are accepted via email, snail mail, or an online form.

## When should I submit a proclamation?

Submit your request three to four weeks before it is needed to allow adequate time for your request to be considered.

## What should my request include?

- Information about your organization (most states require or preference requests from in-state organizations so it's important to identify yourself)
- Draft proclamation language using 3–8 whereas statements (you can choose from the samples below or draft your own)
- Information about charter schools in your state. Proclamations should convey significance to a broad group of residents in your state.
- If this is a significant year for charter schools in your state, such as an anniversary year of your state law's passage, include that information

## Sample WHEREAS statements

*Select a few to make up your proclamation proposal.*

WHEREAS, In the 2016–17 academic year, **XX** new charter schools opened their doors across the state, helping to create new jobs and opportunities for educators and other professionals in **STATE**; and

WHEREAS, Charter schools are public schools that increase learning opportunities for all pupils and provide parents and pupils with expanded choices within the public school system; and

WHEREAS, There are **XX** charter schools operating in **STATE**

WHEREAS, Charter schools have a combined enrollment of over **XX** pupils, representing **X** percent of the public school pupil population in the state; and

WHEREAS, In **XXXX**, **STATE** was the **XX** state in the nation to establish charter schools; and

WHEREAS, Charter schools serve as beacons of innovation and produce effective models of education, of significance to all public schools; and

WHEREAS, Many charter schools are designed specifically to serve children from traditionally underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, Charter schools have made dramatic gains in accelerating the closing of the achievement gap for those underserved populations, increasing the graduation rate and improving college readiness; and

WHEREAS, Charter schools offer a variety of learning environments and emphases, including college-preparedness, career technical education, arts, and sciences; and

WHEREAS, Charter schools play an integral role in **STATE's** public education system, the communities in which they operate, the families they serve, and the pupils' lives they impact; and

WHEREAS, by providing high-quality education to students, charter schools contribute to the statewide effort to improve education in **XX** and

WHEREAS, charter schools encourage community and parental involvement in the education of our youth; and

WHEREAS, the State of **XXX** joins the **STATE ASSOCIATION** in celebrating the accomplishments and contributions of charter schools to public education;

