



PARENTS LAUNCH POST-COVID PUBLIC SCHOOL REFORM TO PUSH SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND SUPPORT

After 15 months of being neglected, kids and parents deserve a seat at the table

(OAKLAND, CA – June 1, 2021) OpenSchoolsCA (OSC) announced today the formation of a non-profit organization to increase student and parent power through policy recommendations, and political candidate recruitment and support in post-COVID California.

“It’s time for a new definition of education reform,” said West Contra Costa School Board member and OSC supporter Mister Phillips. “This pandemic exposed what many students and parents already know: there is unequal access to high quality public education in California.”

Parent leaders, representing tens of thousands of public school children, organized under the OSC banner in the fall of 2020 to press for a swift and safe return to live, in-person, full-time instruction. They were joined by elected officials, medical professionals, superintendents, equity and economic justice advocates, and child wellness experts committed to closing the policy and structural gaps exposed during this pandemic.

Through expert advisory panels, OSC will develop policy recommendations in collaboration with other statewide advocacy groups to ensure the interests of the six million children in California’s public schools are prioritized. OSC will also identify, recruit and support candidates, including parents, who maintain positions that prioritize kids’ academic and emotional needs, to run for key elected positions, such as school boards.

“As one of the tens of thousands of California moms who stepped back from the workforce to care for my school-age children, working moms must never be the default option for closed schools,” said Megan Bacigalupi, the founding parent and executive director of OSC. “Parent voices and student interests should never again be ignored or deprioritized as they have been during this year. Parents and kids must have a seat at the table.”

“Black, Latino, and Asian students were twice as likely to be learning remotely at the start of 2021 than their white peers, a statistic which has only exacerbated existing inequities in public education,” said Ernesto Falcon, a founding parent of OSC. “The sacrifices we have asked children to make will have lasting, life-long consequences and parents must be engaged in the policy and political debate about how to address this.”

OSC aims to build parent and student power to bring balance and develop a post-COVID policy agenda that prioritizes the needs and wellbeing of all California children.

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OpenSchoolsCA

We are a group of parents from across California who are committed to public education and to giving parents and kids a seat at the table when it comes to making policy decisions in TK-12 public education. Learn more at www.OpenSchoolsCA.com

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