The Illinois State Charter School Commission was created as part of the Charter School Quality Act, signed into law by Illinois Governor Quinn in July 2011, with the duty to serve as an independent body with “statewide chartering jurisdiction and authority.” (See 105 ILCS 5/27A7-5). The Commission, made up of nine appointed members, was seated as of November 1, 2011, and was served with its first appeal on the same day. Since its inception, the Commission has managed 29 appeals, and is currently the authorizer for four charter schools in Illinois. In the furtherance of the Commission’s legislative mandates, the Commission hereby adopts the following vision and mission to define and guide its work as Illinois’ first statewide charter school authorizer.

VISION

The Commission believes in high quality public education for all children, especially for those who are at risk, and in the right of all families of Illinois to experience access to high performing schools and academic experiences.

MISSION

The Commission will serve as a respected statewide charter school authorizer committed to the use of national best practices in all domains, especially: resolving appeals fairly and timely according to the law; managing its charter schools annually and on renewal on the basis of rigorous and transparent accountability standards to provide high quality public education; serving as an approachable and helpful resource state-wide to districts, applicants, elected leaders and the public regarding excellence in authorizing practices and techniques; and leading civil civic discourse on chartering issues, guided by data and the best interests of students.