



For Immediate Release
August 29, 2024

Kevin S. Mason
kevin.mason@sccharterschools.org

SC Student Selected by The National Alliance as a Rising Leader

Ten students will receive training from experts in civic participation, education advocacy, leadership development, and public speaking.



Hannah Massey, a 12th-grade student at Legion Collegiate Academy in Rock Hill, South Carolina, is one of the ten students in the third cohort of Rising Leaders, a program led by The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools to develop students' leadership and advocacy skills with training from policy professionals.

The Rising Leaders Initiative is a one-year training program that deepens students' knowledge of civic engagement, advocacy, and coalition building while developing leadership and public speaking skills. More than one hundred students applied to this program, and the ten selected have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to service, scholarship, and leadership to improve their school community.

The Rising Leaders Initiative gives students real-world opportunities to practice advocacy. As part of the program, students will create and lead an advocacy club at their school to educate and raise awareness about public charter schools in their local community, and have the opportunity to advocate to local and state legislators about the importance of high-quality, public education.

"Hannah exemplifies the spirit of leadership and advocacy that defines the future of our public charter schools," says Kevin Mason, Executive Director of the Public Charter Schools Alliance of SC. "As a participant in the Rising Leaders program, Hannah has demonstrated remarkable dedication and insight, embodying the values we cherish in our students. Her commitment to education and community engagement inspires us all."

"Through the Rising Leaders Initiative, I hope to inspire students to advocate for themselves by sharing my journey as a charter school student. Since I wrote a letter to the South Carolina Superintendent of Education in the eighth grade, I have realized that students and their families deserve the freedom to make their own educational choices. By debunking the myths surrounding charter schools and engaging with today's students and leaders, I hope to help students access the high-quality public education they deserve, like what I have received through Legion Collegiate Academy," says 2024-2025 Rising Leader Hannah Massey.

###