



ACADEMY OF URBAN LEARNING

Mission

To provide a comprehensive and quality high school education for students who come from uncertain living conditions.

Guiding Principles

At AUL we strive to:

- *Provide a **comprehensive education** which includes the academic, social and cultural skills to empower our students to be self-sufficient adults.*
- *Offer **supportive services** to address short- and long-term housing instability and contributing risk factors.*
- *Foster a **caring and respectful community** of families, students, staff, board, and community partners to support our students.*

Vision

A society where all youth have equal access to resources, can earn a high school diploma, and feel empowered to make a positive impact in their communities.

Background

The Academy of Urban Learning (AUL) is a 501c3, Denver Public Schools (DPS) charter high school, located in the City and County of Denver. AUL serves students ages 16 to 21 from Denver, Arapahoe, Adams and Jefferson counties. The Academy of Urban Learning (AUL) was founded in 2005 by the Jared Polis Foundation and Urban Peak Denver, in order to address the needs of students experiencing the challenges of homelessness and other unstable living situations. Now in its tenth year of operation, AUL has established itself as an effective champion for at-risk youth struggling with unconventional backgrounds.

Strategy

The Academy of Urban Learning offers an individualized academic experience for students which includes a project-based educational model coupled with range of supportive services. AUL staff and partner agencies work with students to empower personal decision-making which will lead to a high school diploma and pursuits in areas of post-secondary education, vocational training and/or employment.

Board Member Profile

The Board of Directors shares a belief in providing quality academic programs to students from diverse backgrounds and unstable living conditions. The purpose of the Board is to provide a vision and general direction for the organization, not to provide day-to-day management. The Board is responsible for the hiring and supervision of the Principal to carry out the AUL vision and mission.

Qualifications

All Board members should:

- Have the passion and compassion to support AUL's students
- Commit to the mission and vision of the organization
- Undertake to understand school budget and financial reports
- Be familiar with the programs run by the organization
- Be familiar with the educational climate in Colorado and its impact on the programs and policies of the organization
- Commit time to Board work, including attending events identified by the Board Chair (i.e., POLs, Graduation, Family Night, etc.)

Board Roles and Responsibilities

Key responsibilities of AUL Board members include:

- Hire and oversee the Principal
- Set policy for the school in accordance with the mission and vision
- Evaluate the performance of the Principal
- Elect new Board members and select officers
- Establish and appoint committees
- Approve a budget for each school year
- Monitor and assess school performance
- Ensure compliance with Colorado Sunshine laws

Requirements

All Board members must:

- Read and sign the Board Standards of Practice
- Regularly attend Board meetings
- Serve on at least one Board committee
- Attend a yearly board retreat
- Participate in an annual Board evaluation, including self-evaluation
- Make a personally-meaningful financial contribution to the school
- Attend the AUL Graduation ceremony at the end of the school year