

Christian Rhodes

(b)(6)

Professional Experience

Prince George's County Public Schools, Upper Marlboro, MD

Chief of Staff July 2018-Present

Salary: (b)(6)

Chief of Strategic and External Affairs October 2014-July 2018

Salary: (b)(6)

Serve as a Deputy Chief Executive Officer for 25th largest school district in United States with over 206 schools, 132,000 students, 20,000 employees and a \$2.2 Billion Operating Budget. Prince George's County Public Schools serves over 91% students of color with 62% qualifying for free and reduced meals. Direct supervisory responsibility for 8 offices, 70 staff, and \$16 million discretionary budget. Additional responsibilities include: serving as chief advisor to Chief Executive Officer, liaison to federal, state, and local officials, strategic planning and execution, and special projects as requested. Served as executive sponsor for a \$1.2 Billion school construction public-private partnership, the first of its kind in the United States.

- Serve as a key member of the Chief Executive Officer's executive cabinet as a trusted and confidential advisor.
- Responsible for the Office of General Counsel, Communications, Strategic Partnerships, Compliance, Pupil Accounting, School Boundaries, and the Office of Appeals
- Provide communication, counsel, and support to the Chief Executive Officer to ensure the district's strategy, objectives, and performance is effectively communicated to external and internal audiences.
- Advance the intergovernmental affairs agenda of the Chief Executive Officer and the school system with the County Council and its staff, the County Executive and his staff, and County Agencies.
- Represent the Chief Executive Officer's interest and the Administration's positions to the Board of Education and its staff.
- Provide leadership and strategic direction for internal and external communications, presentations, speeches and correspondence.
- Consult on all matters related to policy development, legislation, and intergovernmental relations and lobbying.
- Facilitate external relationships with community groups, policymakers, funders, and other stakeholders.

Office of the Prince George's County Executive, Upper Marlboro, MD

Education Policy Advisor January 2012-October 2014

Lead advisor on education related matters for jurisdiction with nearly 1 million residents and 130,000 public school students. Led cross function collaborative meetings with county, state and federal officials.

Represented County Executive on education related events, provided written or verbal testimony during legislative hearings, council sessions, and board of education meetings.

- Appointed by the Prince George's County's highest elected official to advise lead staff within the Office of the County Executive on all education related matters and policy decisions.
- Led the successful legislative effort to change the governance structure for Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) giving the Prince George's County Executive unparalleled authority in selecting and appointing the Superintendent/CEO and members of the local board of education.

- Spearheaded the creation and development of innovative, data driven education initiatives such as a community schools network named Transforming Neighborhood Initiative at Schools.
- Facilitated the improvement of relationships between the various levels of government, including federal, state, and local elected officials, resulting in more efficient and effective communication and collaboration.
- Advised on numerous policy decisions including, but not limited to, teacher evaluation systems, budget development and allocation, creation of new community-based programs and services, charter school expansion, youth workforce development, career academies, school governance, and public school construction.
- Oversaw successful grant proposal for the \$7 million Department of Labor Youth CareerConnect that connected local, state, higher education and private industry together to provide workforce development pathways for underserved youth.

Maryland State Education Association, Annapolis, MD

Government Relations Specialist June 2011-January 2012

Responsible for the coordination and facilitation of fundraising activities for the state's association political action fund. Served as technical assistance for local fundraising efforts and advisor on advocacy campaigns at the local, state and federal level.

- Managed Fund for Children and Public and Education (PAC) including fundraising and distribution.
- Coordinated the Association's political efforts at the federal, state and local level.
- Developed political training for 23 local affiliates along with statewide political programming.
- Advised governance and executive staff on political/legislative agenda and initiatives.
- Coordinated state wide endorsement process for Presidential and Gubernatorial election cycles.

Prince George's County Educators' Association (PGCEA), Forestville, MD

UniServ Director/Political Director June 2007-June 2011

Responsible for the administrative representation of over 4,000 members across 42 schools on contractual and procedural matters. Served as union's representative for administrative hearings, board of education meetings, arbitrations and legal proceedings. Additionally, staffed union's legislative and public relations committees. Led advocacy campaigns and endorsement committees for local, state, and federal issues/candidates.

- Coordinated all legislative and political activities for local affiliate of 10,000 members (PGCEA).
- Lobbied legislators, county officials, school board members, and Superintendent on education funding, working conditions and various other educational policies and topics.
- Represented Association members on all contractual/administrative issues between PGCPs and PGCEA.
- Worked closely with other labor organizations, community, and civic organizations around topics of education funding, academic performance, and education reform initiatives.
- Attended and participated in regularly scheduled School Board meetings and joint collaborative meetings between management and labor.
- Developed professional relationships with PGCPs leadership at the school, region and administration level.
- Advised Association leadership on education reform efforts including Race to the Top, pay for performance, new teacher evaluation systems, and school board policies and procedures.

Maryland State Teachers Association, Annapolis, MD

Political Organizer July 2006-June 2007

Led political efforts of local labor union with 10,000 members. Facilitated candidate endorsement process, served as political advisor for endorsed candidates, and organized 1,000 volunteers to support election day activities.

- Consulted for endorsed political candidates during the primary and general elections including Board of Education, State Senate and Delegate, and Gubernatorial candidates.
- Created and implemented strategic plans for Association and political campaigns.
- Implemented customized member volunteer recruitment plan for primary and general elections.
- Assisted in planning and consulting on local and statewide campaigns events and volunteer efforts.
- Designed campaign literature for distribution to Association members and general public.

Education

American University

Public Administration

Master of Public Administration

Washington, D.C.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Political Science

Bachelor of Arts

Chapel Hill, N.C.

Professional and Community Affiliations

Leadership Greater Washington-*Member*

Prince George's County 40 under 40 - *Member*

Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection Advisory Board- *Member*

Prince George's County Executive Transition Team-*Member*

Prince George's County Social Innovation Fund Advisory Board- *Member*

North Carolina Teaching Fellow, *Former President*