Introduction

from our CEO, Dr. Maya Bugg

2022 was not without its challenges, but as I reflect on the hard work our team has done, and the exceptional work we’ve seen at public charter schools across the state, I am thrilled at how much we have to celebrate. The work of each part of our team stayed focused as ever on helping public charter schools thrive as a part of the public school landscape in Tennessee. You’ll find stories and details of the fruits of this labor throughout this report.

I’m so proud of the work the TCSC team has done this year to help ensure public charter schools across the state are equipped to meet their goals and help students achieve success. Our policy team worked tirelessly with policy makers and partners to ensure public charter school students would be equally considered as our state launched a new school funding formula focused on the needs of students, a huge step forward for Tennessee. The policy team also continued our streak of defeating 100% of anti-charter school legislation, while ensuring an unprecedented investment in facilities funding for public charter schools. Our programs team built a strategy to welcome schools as members of our organization, creating an even stronger foundation for partnership and advocacy.

In 2022, our External Relations team sought to find new ways to honor the success of students and educators in overcoming obstacles of the pandemic, and created a new program for recognition of academic proficiency in the form of the Changemaker Charter School List, which you can read more about in this report. In addition to this list, our team once again presented the Charter Champion Awards, which recognize the people and schools making a difference across our state, and we are excited to have so many opportunities to celebrate public charter schools, their students, and staff. Our advocacy teams convened school leaders and worked collaboratively with schools and community advocates to champion growth and push back against limitations on charter schools at the local level, pushing back against restrictions on athletic participation for public charter school students, and the national level, joining partners from across the country to rally in support of the Charter Schools Program and advocate with members of Congress in Washington D.C.

Whether our team members are helping policy makers understand the role public charter schools can play in a thriving public education environment, supporting school leaders as they navigate the complexities of finding the right facility and financing to meet student needs, or consistently keeping public charter schools up-to-date on policy changes, training, and good news, they’re dedicated to ensuring all students have access to a high quality public education.

I hope you’ll enjoy learning more about the work of Tennessee’s public charter schools and our team here at the Tennessee Charter School Center through this report.

Dr. Maya M. Bugg
President & Chief Executive Officer, Tennessee Charter School Center
Diversity

Diversity at all levels (professional background, race, gender, etc.) is paramount to our ability to demonstrate empathy for others, build diversity of experience and think critically about our personal beliefs and biases.

Equity

Academic and opportunity gaps are real in our public education system. With this in mind, it is essential that public education advocates work to create an equitable environment for families; our actions must be rooted in social justice. From equitable funding across schools, fair distribution of quality teachers and legitimate access to a variety of meaningful experiences that foster growth and opportunity, an equitable public education system will be key.

Integrity

Honesty, care and candor are critical to build trusting relationships with our communities. We will have the courage to have difficult conversations, admit mistakes and stand up for the right thing to do on behalf of children, even if it’s not the most popular.

Quality & Excellence

All families deserve access to a high-quality public education that will provide the foundation for future success and growth. Schools, districts, authorizers, elected officials and other committed partners in this work must be held accountable for high standards of quality and excellence.

Collaboration

To achieve the vision of all students accessing and realizing a high-quality education, it will be crucial that we work with, for and alongside myriad partners, stakeholders and communities.

Who We Are

MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

Our vision is that every student in the state of Tennessee will receive and have access to a high-quality public education that equitably allocates opportunity, is aligned with their best needs and prepares them to thrive and experience post-secondary success.

Our work to lead the charge for effective policy, excellent schools, quality operators and informed communities is driven by:

Tennessee Charter Schools by the Numbers

114 TOTAL CHARTER SCHOOLS

44,000+ STUDENTS ENROLLED

55% VS. 47%

48% VS. 42%

89%+

$\text{of Tennessee charter students are students of color ~ working all students and providing public school options to communities of color.}$

Sources:

- Tennessee Department of Education, Active Charter School List for 2022-2023, provided by special request.

Tennessee charter schools exist in the four major metro areas across the state. These schools are authorized by four traditional districts as well as the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission and the Achievement School District:

- Nashville: 26 Schools
- Shelby County: 54 Schools
- Knox County: 1 School
- Hamilton County: 8 Schools
- Tennessee Public Charter School Commission: 9 Schools
- Achievement School District: 16 Schools

Our vision is that every student in the state of Tennessee will receive and have access to a high-quality public education that equitably allocates opportunity, is aligned with their best needs and prepares them to thrive and experience post-secondary success.

Our work to lead the charge for effective policy, excellent schools, quality operators and informed communities is driven by:

Tennessee Charter Locations in 2022-2023

- Metro Nashville Public Schools: 26 Schools
- Shelby County Schools: 54 Schools
- Knox County Schools: 1 School
- Hamilton County Schools: 8 Schools
- Tennessee Public Charter School Commission: 9 Schools
- Achievement School District: 16 Schools

1 Sources: 
Tennessee Department of Education, Active Charter School List for 2022-2023, provided by special request. 
*Includes charter high schools not run by ASD given their unique mission/focus
The Tennessee Charter School Center Board members are committed to high-quality education for all of Tennessee’s children. Along with the Center’s chief executive officer, they lead the organization advising on policy, advocacy, programming, funding and communication.

CHAIR
Dr. Elaine Swafford
Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy
Executive Director
elaineswafford@cglasolnline.com

VICE CHAIR
Chris Barbic
The City Fund
Partner
chris@city-fund.org

SECRETARY
Lydia Hoffman
Charter School Growth Fund
Partner
lhoffman@chartergrowthfund.org

TREASURER
Townes Duncan
Solidus
Founder and Managing Partner
townes.duncan@gmail.com

BOARD

CHAIR
Dr. Elaine Swafford
Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy
Executive Director
elaineswafford@cglasolnline.com

Holly Coleman
Hyde Family Foundation
Program Director
hcoleman@hydefoundation.org

Yetta Lewis
Gestalt Community Schools
Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer
ylew@gestaltcs.org

Lagra Newman
Purpose Preparatory Academy
Founder and Head of School
lnewman@purposereap.org

Terence Patterson
Memphis Education Fund
Chief Executive Officer
tpatterson@memphiseducationfund.org

NeShante Brown
Soulsville Charter School
Executive Director
nrbrown@tscsmemphis.org

Dr. Maya Bugg
Chief Executive Officer
mayab@tnchartercenter.org

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Dr. Maya Bugg
Mays creates the center’s vision and strategy. She leads fundraising, local, state and national partnership development; and state-level policy efforts.
mayab@tnchartercenter.org

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF ADVOCACY
Laura Brown
Laurie leads local policy and advocacy efforts on behalf of charter schools and families in Nashville. She serves as the key liaison between charter schools, Metro Nashville Public Schools and other elected bodies and community partners.
laurie@tnchartercenter.org

OFFICE COORDINATOR AND SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE CEO
Kim Drake
Kim is the Special Assistant to CEO Maya Bugg and helps coordinate meetings, office logistics and board meetings.
kim@tnchartercenter.org

POLICY CHIEF
Elizabeth Fiveash
Elizabeth is responsible for creating the organization’s policy and advocacy agendas, as well as building a roadmap for future regulatory and advocacy work on behalf of the public charter school sector in Tennessee.
elizabeth@tnchartercenter.org

PROGRAMS MANAGER
Jaques Hamilton
Jaques supports educators seeking to start schools and aids them with governing board compliance requirements, developing community partnerships and professional training.
jaques@tnchartercenter.org

COMMUNICATION MANAGER
Tommiea Jackson
Tommiea uses media to inform educators, families, community members and elected officials about the Center’s efforts to ensure high-quality education for Tennessee’s children through programming and advocacy.
tommiea@tnchartercenter.org

VICE PRESIDENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
Emily Lilley
Emily oversees TCSC’s external and internal communication work, advises the TCSC policy team, manages external organization relationships, and represents TCSC in East Tennessee. She also supports both the work of the TCSC board and organizational development efforts.
emilly@tnchartercenter.org

DIRECTOR OF QUALITY SCHOOLS
Joshua Perkins
Joshua oversees the implementation of professional development and training for charter school teachers, leaders and board members.
joshua@tnchartercenter.org

MEMPHIS DIRECTOR OF POLICY & ADVOCACY
Carra Powell
Carra leads the organization’s Memphis-based advocacy, connects stakeholders, sets TCSC’s policy agenda and identifies the roadmap for future policy.
carra@tnchartercenter.org

CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER
Cameron Quick
Cameron is an expert in facilities financing and real estate development. He helps bring real estate resources and support to the charter sector and assists schools in seeking and securing financing.
cameron@tnchartercenter.org

STAFF

EMERITUS

Who We Are

COMMENTS

Tennessee Charter School Center
Through the Years

Here's a look at where we've been:

1998

The Tennessee Charter Schools Association (TCSA) was established to unite efforts and resources towards creating a local and statewide policy environment that enables the creation and growth of high-quality public charter schools.

2002

Tennessee Charter School Act passed. This act introduced charter schools as an “alternative means” within the public school system for ensuring the accomplishment of the necessary outcomes of education.

2003

First Tennessee charter schools opened in Nashville (1) and Memphis (3).

2005

Law amended to allow students zoned to “high priority” schools to attend charter schools.

2009

Inspired by the success of high-quality public charter schools in other parts of the country, the Tennessee Charter School Incubator (TCSI) was started. TCSI focused on systematically identifying and training new charter leaders and managing school launch and early support activities. TCSI has launched nine charter schools in Tennessee, recruited and placed two high-impact Fellows into school leadership positions in the Achievement School District, and initially incubated five new public charter schools that opened in 2015.

2011

Open Enrollment amendment passed to allow all students the option to attend a charter school, removing the “cap” on the number of charter schools.

2013

Tennessee Charter School Incubator and the Tennessee Charter Schools Association merged to form the Tennessee Charter School Center. This new organization combines the resources and functions of both groups (charter school incubation and support and policy and advocacy) to better respond to the strong demand for high-quality public charter schools across the state. The new Center aims to provide ongoing, comprehensive support to the growing charter sector in Tennessee while also creating a unified voice among charter organizations.

Today, 116 charter schools are serving more than 44,000 Tennessee students – the state’s student enrollment is growing year by year. Not only are charter schools promoting choice and opportunity in our K-12 education system, but they are also playing a pivotal role in helping the state address several critical education issues, including literacy and workforce development.
Policy & Advocacy Leadership

The Tennessee Charter School Center Policy & Advocacy team advocates for state policies that ensure innovation, collaboration and quality continue to be top priorities in education. We believe fair policies offer transparency, equity, quality, autonomy and accountability.

Tennessee Charter School Center works closely with educators, legislators, parents and other community advocates to identify key policy challenges and opportunities facing the state’s charter school sector. TCSC is committed to making sure all voices are clearly heard and students always come first.

2022 Legislative Session

The 2022 Legislative Session saw a great deal of significant work from policy makers and education advocates, with historic progress made for students. Key policies from the 2022 legislative session include:

- Historic levels of funding to support public charter school facility needs in the FY 2022-23 budget including $32 million in new dollars, for a total of $38 million, for charter school facilities.
- The Tennessee Investment in Education Act (TISA), the state’s new K-12 funding formula was established, and included a $1 billion investment. TISA is a student-based formula that will ensure funding is more targeted to students and their needs and provide greater transparency and accountability around how education dollars are spent.
- TISA specifically includes a direct funding component for students enrolled in a charter school. This is a huge step in closing the funding gap that we know exists between public charter schools and traditional public schools.
- All legislation that would have negatively impacted Tennessee’s public charter school sector, including legislation to allow for-profit charter schools to operate in Tennessee, was defeated.

$38 million in facilities funds

Successfully advocated for a historic $38 million investment in facilities funding, including a $22 million recurring budget item for charter school facilities.

Tennessee Investment in Education Act

The Tennessee Investment in Education Act (TISA), the state’s new student-based K-12 funding formula was established, and included a $1 billion investment in education funding.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Increased Staff Numbers Meant Increased Student Gains at Believe Memphis Academy

In 2021, schools across the nation were working to identify strategies to mitigate learning losses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Believe Memphis Academy was highlighted by Chalkbeat for their ten percent student gain in math scores on mid-year tests at a time when many schools were struggling, especially in math.

The school attributes these learning gains directly to staffing increases, as well as technological investments, the school was able to establish through community fundraising.

“THERE’S JUST A VERY INTIMATE AND VERY DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN THE MONEY THAT WE’RE RAISING AND BEING ABLE TO HAVE STORIES LIKE THIS TO TELL,” Jason Baker, the school’s director of development and marketing, told Chalkbeat.

“Chalkbeat shared that Believe Memphis credits adding staff at this critical time with allowing teachers more time to teach in each lesson period, as well as more time to explore test data and create data-based individualized learning plans for students. A bigger staff also allowed more individual time between faculty and students to build connections, check on absent or distracted students, and make sure students had needed access to technology and other resources. Staff even had capacity to regularly deliver breakfast and lunch to student homes and help families sign up for free internet service. Each of these supports for students and families contributed to student learning gains during a challenging time.”

To read the complete article, visit TN.Chalkbeat.org

TCSC tracked 60+ pieces of legislation impacting charter schools and K-12 education during the 2022 legislative session.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Increased Staff Numbers Meant Increased Student Gains at Believe Memphis Academy

In 2021, schools across the nation were working to identify strategies to mitigate learning losses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Believe Memphis Academy was highlighted by Chalkbeat for their ten percent student gain in math scores on mid-year tests at a time when many schools were struggling, especially in math.

The school attributes these learning gains directly to staffing increases, as well as technological investments, the school was able to establish through community fundraising.

“THERE’S JUST A VERY INTIMATE AND VERY DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN THE MONEY THAT WE’RE RAISING AND BEING ABLE TO HAVE STORIES LIKE THIS TO TELL,” Jason Baker, the school’s director of development and marketing, told Chalkbeat.

“Chalkbeat shared that Believe Memphis credits adding staff at this critical time with allowing teachers more time to teach in each lesson period, as well as more time to explore test data and create data-based individualized learning plans for students. A bigger staff also allowed more individual time between faculty and students to build connections, check on absent or distracted students, and make sure students had needed access to technology and other resources. Staff even had capacity to regularly deliver breakfast and lunch to student homes and help families sign up for free internet service. Each of these supports for students and families contributed to student learning gains during a challenging time.”

To read the complete article, visit TN.Chalkbeat.org
Tennessee Charter School Center Impact Report 2022

Innovation, Engagement & Collaboration

TCSC strongly values innovation and collaboration as there are always opportunities to learn and grow from others. In order to achieve the states of all students accessing and realizing a high-quality education, it is important that we work with, and alongside a variety of partners, stakeholders and communities.

The year 2021 saw relationships develop and partnerships grow as TCSC identified similarly focused leaders and organizations committed to educating Tennessee’s children. Together, we focused on empowering educators, students and families with information, trainings and other resources.

- **CHARTER CHAMPION AWARDS**
  TCSC once again put forward the Charter Champion Awards, which allows the charter school community to nominate those in their schools and school communities for awards ranging from school of the year to advocate of the year, and even community impact project of the year. This year we received 33 nominations and presented awards to winners at schools all across the state.

- **CHANGEMAKER CHARTER SCHOOL LIST**
  For the first time, TCSC presented a list of schools recognizing academic success. The list acknowledged schools that demonstrated strong growth in the 2021-22 school year and also performed in the top 25% of schools in the state for improving over their pre-pandemic levels of success. The list recognized 28 schools for Math, ELA, and growth.

- **COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS**
  The Communications team worked in partnership with the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools to design and promote a ten-week media campaign sharing facts and basic information about public charter schools for Public Charter Schools to design and promote a ten-week media campaign around membership, which resulted in almost 50% of schools joining in year one, exceeding our goal.

- **MEMPHIS ADVOCACY**
  The TCSC team participated in over 25 school based, family and staff centered events to provide education about our work and allow interested people to sign on as “advocates” through our new advocacy building platform Phone 2 Action. We have collected over 750+ advocates through this new piece of our work. TCSC’s policy, communications, and advocacy teams collaborated to coordinate an action campaign against a TSSAA proposal to prohibit charter middle school teams from participating in district sports. The Memphis advocacy team helped distribute nine full scholarships from the Federal Aviation Administration and the FedEx flight training programs for Black girls for National Flight Academy. Students from Memphis RISE, Compass Community Schools, MSCS traditional public schools and DeSoto County Schools attended the training. Our team’s diligent work resulted in defeating the proposal.

- **MEMBERSHIP**
  In order to fully appreciate the lessons on the Renaissance Period from the 14th through 17th century, students are using the four question method and asking, “What questions do we have that we haven’t previously done. They are not learning this because it will be on a test later. They are learning this because they want to learn so that they are informed citizens and make better choices going forward.”

Nashville Classical Fourth Graders Study Social Studies By Answering Four Questions

While many schools have invested less in or eliminated social studies, Nashville Classical is taking very noticeable steps to ensure its students get the lesson. Forbes Magazine highlighted the school in its Feb. 2022 article, “Want Kids to Learn History? Ask These Four Questions.”

Nashville Classical Director of Knowledge and Curriculum Emma Colonna began researching different ways to teach research-based history to elementary and middle school students a few years ago. She became interested in the Four Question Method as created and documented by two Boston-area high school history teachers, Jonathan Bassett and Gary Shiffman. After participating in one of their trainings, Colonna inquired about using those lessons for elementary students. For three years, the trio worked together to build a foundation that would be accessible to fourth graders and lead them successfully grasping history lessons. Not only are students learning from textbooks, educators are identifying ways for students to think critically so that they are able to apply those lessons to their present circumstances.

“We believed it was really important for kids to have a lot of context and knowledge,” Colonna said. “Without context to understand what is being discussed, they can never have the full meaning of what they are learning.”

In order to fully appreciate the lessons on the Renaissance Period from the 14th through 17th century, students are using the four question method and asking, “What happened? What were they thinking? Why then and there? And what do we think about that?” The classes have been going well. “It’s been great! The first couple of classes would be accessible to fourth graders and lead them successfully grasping history lessons. Not only are students learning from textbooks, educators are identifying ways for students to think critically so that they are able to apply those lessons to their present circumstances.

The classes have been going well. “It’s been great! The first couple of classes were really different. Students are able to engage with history in a way that they haven’t previously done. They are not learning this because it will be on a test later. They are learning this because they want to learn so that they are informed citizens and make better choices going forward.”

- **SPORTS ADVOCACY**
  TCSC, led by SVI Advocacy for Nashville Laurie Brown, led work to create a charter middle school sports league to ensure they could play after MNPS prohibited charter middle school teams from participating in district sports. TCSC’s policy, communications, and advocacy teams collaborated to coordinate an action campaign against a TSSA proposal to prohibit charter schools from Division 1, the public school division, to Division 6, independent schools. This campaign resulted in a unanimous vote against the proposal from the TSSAA Legislative Council.

- **TISA**
  TCSC played a key role in advocating for TISA, a new student-based funding formula in Tennessee for public education, and offered detailed feedback to EDEE’s funding framework. Our team’s advocacy ensured a charter-specific weight included in the formula that will allow for a consistent budget item that charter schools can plan around. The Policy Team also participated in the TDOE’s TISA/Charter School working group to provide front end feedback on the development of the rules with TDOE and the State Board.

- **PARTNERSHIP WITH FAA AND FEDX**
  The Memphis advocacy team helped distribute nine full scholarships from the Federal Aviation Administration and the FedEx flight training programs for Black girls for National Flight Academy. Students from Memphis RISE, Compass Community Schools, MSCS traditional public schools and DeSoto County Schools attended the training. Our team’s diligent work resulted in defeating the proposal.

- **PROGRAM INSIGHT**
  TCSC offered trainings throughout the year open to all schools regarding facilities financing and debt service. In addition to hosting 25 PD sessions focusing on ELA, MATH, and School Operations with over 250 participants with 65% school participation.
Charter Champion Awards

The Tennessee Charter School Center, along with Hyde Family Foundation, facilitated its inaugural Charter School Awards. Our team announced the results for each of our annual awards Nov. 15-17, 2022. Read below to learn more about the finalists and winners.

Although ongoing caution regarding public health made it impossible to gather in person for the awards, this process allowed us to connect with schools, school leaders, and teachers in a particularly special way. We have enjoyed watching school leaders, teachers, and advocates celebrate each other. For a complete listing of Charter Champion Award winners, visit www.tnchartercenter.org/charter-award-winners/

TCSC’s 2022 Charter Champions were:

**CHARTER CHAMPION**

**Teacher of the Year**

Eddie Walsh
Memphis Grizzlies Prepatory Charter School (Memphis)

Relationships and rigor are the hallmarks of Eddie Walsh’s educating style. Students in his class are engaged in active and spirited discussion. During the 2021-22 school year alone Walsh saw his students’ achievement percentile increase 16 points. This resulted in Walsh being placed in the 95th percentile of educators in the state. In addition to teaching swim and lifeguarding electives, Walsh started and coaches swim teams at Grizzlies Prep and Crosstown High School.

Finalists: Megan Cohen, Emerald Academy, Shelbi Stanbridge-Monte, Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy

**CHARTER CHAMPION**

Advocate of the Year

Nicole Lattimore
Emerald Academy (Knoxville)

Nicole Lattimore is a very active parent at Knoxville’s Emerald Academy. She leads the school’s Parent Student Teacher Association, established an annual uniform swap to help families save money and launched an exciting Fall Festival for Families. Lattimore regularly supports the school’s faculty and staff and also serves as a member of the Emerald Charter Schools Board of Directors.

Finalists: Tad and Kelly Alling, Chattanooga Preparatory School

**CHARTER CHAMPION**

Administrator of the Year

Jamie Gutter
Valor Flagship (Nashville)

Jamie Gutter is an exceptional leader who is incredible with creating systems, developing people and leading academic programs. His strong leadership has consistently raised Valor amongst the top 5% of Tennessee’s charter schools in Tennessee. Valor’s suspension data is the lowest in the school district. These data for exiting EL students is highest in the school district. It is rare for a school to excel in any of these areas and truly remarkable to excel across all.

Finalists: Michelle Lyons, Compass Community Schools, Anthony Andelson, Memphis Business Academy

**CHARTER CHAMPION**

Statewide Policy Champion

Sen. John Stevens (Huntington)

Sen. Stevens has been a steadfast supporter of charter schools and public school options during his tenure in the Tennessee general assembly. Stevens deeply understands the value of charter schools and the desires of families and students to have access to more high-quality public school options. As vice chair of the senate finance ways and means committee, Sen. Stevens has supported efforts like charter school facilities funding and creation of the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission. He has led legislative efforts aimed at improving the charter school approval process to provide more families what the charter school option.

Finalists: Cornerstone Prep - Denver (Memphis) and Chattanooga Preparatory School (Chattanooga)

**CHARTER CHAMPION**

School of the Year

Purpose Preparatory Academy (Nashville)

Purpose Prep’s mission requires an impeccable academic foundation, most intensively within literacy, measurable at each grade level, and we devote the majority of our financial, remedial, and curricular resources towards that goal. Purpose Prep is in the 91st percentile for increasing the percentage of students who are proficient in ELA across the state’s parallel assessment in 2019, among the top 25% of the state for this rate of increase. Purpose Preparatory Academy has been named to the Changemaker Charter School List for OVERALL recognition, as well as ELA and Math recognition. Purpose Preparatory Academy is the only public charter school in the state recognized in all categories. Purpose Prep is also a 2022 Reward School as designated by the State of Tennessee, an honor the school has received multiple times.

Finalists: Cornerstone Prep - Denver (Memphis) and Chattanooga Preparatory School (Chattanooga)

**CHARTER CHAMPION**

Community Impact Project of the Year

Dr. Patrick Washington
Promise Academy and Man Up! (Memphis)

Dr. Patrick Washington’s Man Up Teacher Fellowship recruits, develops, and places male teachers of color in area schools. Since 2018, the program has placed more than 100 male teachers of color in Memphis classrooms (pupil-12). By giving students of color access to high-quality teachers of color, Man Up looks to disrupt the “school to prison pipeline” and reduce the amount of high school dropouts.

Finalists: Compass Community School - Glen-Memphis, Mid South Food Bank, Lichterman Nature Center

**CHARTER CHAMPION**

Local Policy Champion

John Little (Nashville)

John Little is a long time community advocate and champion of children across Nashville and the state of Tennessee. He has been dedicated to improved educational outcomes for children, especially those who are most marginalized.

Finalists: Dr. Patrick Washington’s Man Up Teacher Fellowship project, Neighbors Without Homes, Tennessee Food Bank

**CHARTER CHAMPION**

School of the Year

Purpose Preparatory Academy Charter School (Nashville)

Purpose Prep’s mission requires an impeccable academic foundation, most intensively within literacy, measurable at each grade level, and we devote the majority of our financial, remedial, and curricular resources towards that goal. Purpose Prep is in the 91st percentile for increasing the percentage of students who are proficient in ELA across the state’s parallel assessment in 2019, among the top 25% of the state for this rate of increase. Purpose Preparatory Academy has been named to the Changemaker Charter School List for OVERALL recognition, as well as ELA and Math recognition. Purpose Preparatory Academy is the only public charter school in the state recognized in all categories. Purpose Prep is also a 2022 Reward School as designated by the State of Tennessee, an honor the school has received multiple times.

Finalists: Cornerstone Prep - Denver (Memphis) and Chattanooga Preparatory School (Chattanooga)
Promise Academy Spring Hill Principal Kimbra McBride entered the school auditorium with other educators for a special assembly, but this was no typical gathering.

“Do: Washington came and interrupted the assembly. He put a message on the screen that said we were a level five school! I can’t describe how my heart swells when I see the results of our hard work,” said Shauna Russell, the school’s director of academics. “Parents and teachers kept putting in the work, and it all paid off. They’d see data that showed student ELA and Math scores were the lowest they’d been. School leaders made specific efforts “not to remediate, but to accelerate.” For example, educators knew third-grade students would have a decline in fluency and reading when they returned. Third and fourth-grade teachers worked together so that they’d be prepared to move students forward with comprehension. Students that needed further assistance got extra support through intervention.

“The Pivot” Charter school’s nimble model creates changemakers for children

Despite a worldwide health pandemic that interrupted traditional learning for two years, some 18 public charter schools in Tennessee saw meaningful academic growth in 2021, according to the Tennessee Charter School Center Impact Report 2022.

While many schools across the country had virtual learning, we actually had kids learning to what grew to about 50 percent of the school’s students. In addition to COVID interrupting traditional student learning, Purpose Preparatory students and educators also dealt with another natural disaster. A tornado tore through the community weeks before the health pandemic caused students worldwide to begin lessons at home. “Our school was alright, but we had scholars,” said Megan Cohan, a sixth-grade teacher whose scholars achieved some of the highest results in school history and outperformed the district average. These results show that we are closing the achievement gap and are on the right trajectory to grow these results even further.

“We are very proud of our schools’ achievements,” said Carlisa Martin, school director of Emerald Academy. “This is a testament not only to their hard work but also to parents, faculty and staff who are working to prepare them for college and community leadership. These significant gains are critical as we continue to scaffold and build toward our goal of becoming a ‘Great School.’”

Additionally, Emerald Academy was named a Changemaker Charter School by the Tennessee Charter School Center. This distinction is for schools that are in the top 25% of all public schools in the state for an increase in the percent of students proficient over pre-pandemic (2019) scores in English Language Arts (ELA) and/or Math, along with Tennessee Value-Added System scores (academic growth) of Level 3 or above in the same areas.

Although the pandemic proved challenging, Martin said educators must continue pushing students forward. “While it is easy to get caught up in the challenges that students face, education is their way to be successful in life. Those high expectations are what drive us every day. Dropping the bar is a disservice to them. They’re our way to be successful in life. Those high expectations are what drive us every day.”

The “joy factor” has been a big part in creating the success Emerald students have seen in recent years, according to Carlisa Martin, school director at Emerald Academy in Knoxville.

“We want scholars to want to be here and want to enjoy learning,” said Martin. “Even adults, the staff, we have to step out of their comfort zone to make things fun.” Emerald Academy is not about fun alone. The energizing cheers and chants are life daily parties with a purpose. The motivation keeps the students focused on lessons and learning, which were especially necessary after COVID interrupted traditional school.

“We are facing a generation that, after COVID, is very weak to skip school to find reasons not to be in school. Bringing the joy factor really is key,” said Martin.

In addition to COVID interrupting traditional student learning, Purpose Preparatory students and educators also dealt with another natural disaster. A tornado tore through the community weeks before the health pandemic caused students worldwide to begin lessons at home. “Our school was alright, but we had scholars,” said Shauna Russell, the school’s director of academics. “We’d been raising funds to help students and checking in with students.” There was spring break, and then school closures followed. “ Teachers sprang to action to build virtual models that reflected our values,” Russell said. They focused on literacy, a two-teacher model and data-driven instruction. Those strategies continued until students returned to the physical building.

The Purpose Prep team found that there had been a learning loss before students returned to the school building. They’d see data that showed student ELA and Math scores were the lowest they’d been. School leaders made specific efforts “not to remediate, but to accelerate.” For example, educators knew third-grade students would have a decline in fluency and reading when they returned. Third and fourth-grade teachers worked together so that they’d be prepared to move students forward with comprehension. Students that needed further assistance got extra support through intervention.

“We used PPP funds for professional development so that teachers would know how to intervene and not reduce rigor,” said Russell. “Today, having a student below grade level is rare. We are so data-driven, the results are never a surprise, but we are overwhelmingly proud of our teachers, scholars and parents. We know they’d reach that high bar.”

Promise Academy’s charter states that it can have longer school days, 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. When all students returned to the campus in 2021, leaders at Promise Academy’s charter states that it can have longer school days, 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. When all students returned to the campus in 2021, leaders

The school hired teachers specifically for intervention and focused on the needs of each student. Regular assessments showed growth, parents and teachers kept putting in the work, and it all paid off.

“I can’t describe how my heart swells when I see the results of our hard work,” said McBride.
**CHANGEMAKER CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Having a Strong Impact on Student Proficiency

Particularly in light of the unique challenges the pandemic presented to all schools in terms of recovering learning losses following the significantly disrupted school years in 2020 and 2021, in reviewing 2022 TNReady data, TCSC zoomed in on schools that not only helped students avoid or recover any learning losses but also found ways to help students achieve beyond even their pre-pandemic proficiency levels. This year, TCSC announced our first ever K-8 Changemaker Charter Schools List, and will celebrate high school Changemaker Charter Schools in Spring 2023. With this K-8 list based on TNReady results, TCSC is pleased to honor public charter schools that utilized their unique nimbleness and autonomy to support student success in both proficiency and growth particularly during this unique set of school years. There are two different categories of criteria determining honors. The schools honored on this list are:

**ELA AND MATH**

Public charter schools that are in the top 25% of all public schools in the state for the significance of increase over 2019 in proficient students in ELA, Math, or both on the 2021-22 TNReady assessment along with level 3 or higher TVAAS growth in the same subjects.

**OVERALL**

Public charter schools performing in the top 25% of all public schools in the state for percentage of proficient students in both ELA and Math on the 2021-22 TNReady assessment along with level 3 or higher TVAAS growth in both subjects.

### 2022 Changemaker Charter Schools (K-8)

#### Overall (Top 25% of all schools in state for total percentage of proficient students + 3 or above TVAAS composite)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>ELA/MATH COMPOSITE TVAAS</th>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>PERCENT MEETS/EXCEEDS ELA</th>
<th>ELA PERCENTILE RANK</th>
<th>PERCENT MEETS/EXCEEDS MATH</th>
<th>MATH PERCENTILE RANK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valor Flagship Academy</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>SCS</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valor Voyager Academy</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>MNPS</td>
<td>54.6%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>61.3%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashville Classical Charter School</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>MNPS</td>
<td>47.7%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>50.6%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose Preparatory Academy</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>MNPS</td>
<td>58.4%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>46.8%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIPP Antioch College Prep Elementary School</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>TPCSC</td>
<td>42.6%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>46.5%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ELA

(Top 25% of all schools in state for proficiency growth + 3 or above subject matter TVAAS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>TVAAS (ELA)</th>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>PERCENT MEETS/EXCEEDS ELA FY19</th>
<th>PERCENT MEETS/EXCEEDS ELA FY22</th>
<th>% POINT CHANGE</th>
<th>PERCENTILE RANK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memphis STEM Academy</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>SCS</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City University School Girls Preparatory</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>SCS</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journey Community Schools East Academy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SCS</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promise Academy - Spring Hill</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>ASD</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Center Academy Hickory Hill Elementary School</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>SCS</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornerstone Prep Denver Campus</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>ASD</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose Preparatory Academy</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>MNPS</td>
<td>51.6%</td>
<td>58.4%</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom Prep Whithaven Elementary at Millbranch</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>SCS</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strive Collegiate Academy</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>MNPS</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivy Academy</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>HCDE</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Math

(Top 25% of all schools in state for proficiency growth + 3 or above subject matter TVAAS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>TVAAS (ELA)</th>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>PERCENT MEETS/EXCEEDS ELA FY19</th>
<th>PERCENT MEETS/EXCEEDS ELA FY22</th>
<th>% POINT CHANGE</th>
<th>PERCENTILE RANK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smithson Craighead Academy</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>MNPS</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explore Community School</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>MNPS</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerald Academy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Knox</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose Preparatory Academy</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>MNPS</td>
<td>45.2%</td>
<td>46.8%</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promise Academy - Spring Hill</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>ASD</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Memphis

Home to Tennessee’s first charter schools dating back to 2003, Memphis continues to host the largest public charter school sector in the state. Overwhelming parent demand for high-quality public school options and community engagement has spurred this growth. While some schools face performance struggles, most are making a positive difference and are offering quality options to families.

Tennessee Charter School Center Impact Report 2022

54 SCS PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS*
29 OPERATORS

18,931 STUDENTS ENROLLED

TVAAS

Tennessee’s public charter schools achieved high levels of student growth in the 2021-22 school year, particularly as measured by TVAAS, which Tennessee uses to measure growth by value added. In nearly every district, public charter schools saw significantly higher percentages than traditional public schools of students meeting or exceeding expectations at levels 3, 4, and 5. The levels of growth Tennessee’s public charter schools saw in the school year is particularly notable as these schools have identified strategies for success while serving many of the state’s most vulnerable students. Nearly 92% of Tennessee’s Public Charter School students are students of color, with public charter schools serving a greater percentage of economically-disadvantaged students than traditional public schools.

88%

GRADUATION RATE

(District Schools = 78%)
(Source: Tennessee Department of Education Graduation Cohort file, 2021-2022, and Ready Graduate Data file, 2021-2022)

22%

READY GRADUATE RATE

(District Schools = 24%)
(Source: Tennessee Department of Education Graduation Cohort file, 2021-2022, and Ready Graduate Data file, 2021-2022)

Nashville

The city of Nashville has experienced a population boom in recent years, and a growing need for access to a high-quality public education has followed. Nashville’s public charter schools are reimagining what’s possible in public education and providing parents a new set of quality public school options to consider.

Tennessee Charter School Center Impact Report 2022

26 MNPS PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS*
15 OPERATORS

13,057 STUDENTS ENROLLED

TVAAS

Tennessee’s public charter schools achieved high levels of student growth in the 2021-22 school year, particularly as measured by TVAAS, which Tennessee uses to measure growth by value added. In nearly every district, public charter schools saw significantly higher percentages than traditional public schools of students meeting or exceeding expectations at levels 3, 4, and 5. The levels of growth Tennessee’s public charter schools saw in the school year is particularly notable as these schools have identified strategies for success while serving many of the state’s most vulnerable students. Nearly 92% of Tennessee’s Public Charter School students are students of color, with public charter schools serving a greater percentage of economically-disadvantaged students than traditional public schools.

93%

GRADUATION RATE

(District Schools = 78%)
(Source: Tennessee Department of Education Graduation Cohort file, 2021-2022, and Ready Graduate Data file, 2021-2022)

41%

READY GRADUATE RATE

(District Schools = 23%)
(Source: Tennessee Department of Education Graduation Cohort file, 2021-2022, and Ready Graduate Data file, 2021-2022)

*Analyses are based on data provided directly from districts as well as publicly available files. Schools with replaced data are excluded from these numbers. School counts and enrollment reflect FY23 whereas high school outcomes reflect FY22.
Chattanooga

Although Chattanooga’s charter sector is small, Hamilton County continues to see a significant demand for more public school options. The sector continues to expand this innovative and effective education model in the community.

SPECIAL POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

Students of Color (Black/Hispanic/Native American)

(Tennessee Charter School Center, 2022-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District Schools</th>
<th>88%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Source: Hamilton County Schools, 2022-2023)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Knoxville

Emerald Academy, in 2015 as community leaders turned to public charter schools as a way to expand education options for more families. The Emerald Youth Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting underserved youth in Knoxville, helped open the school to focus on promoting a college-going culture for students.

SPECIAL POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

Students of Color (Black/Hispanic/Native American)

(Tennessee Charter School Center, 2022-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District Schools</th>
<th>37%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Source: Hamilton County Schools, 2022-2023)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although Chattanooga’s charter sector is small, Hamilton County continues to see a significant demand for more public school options. The sector continues to expand this innovative and effective education model in the community.

SPECIAL POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

Students of Color (Black/Hispanic/Native American)

(Tennessee Charter School Center, 2022-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District Schools</th>
<th>37%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Source: Hamilton County Schools, 2022-2023)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Educational outcomes from public charter schools are notably different from traditional public schools. Tennessee’s public charter schools achieved high levels of student growth in the 2021-22 school year, particularly as measured by TVAAS, which Tennessee uses to measure growth by value added. In nearly every district, public charter schools saw significantly higher percentages than traditional public schools of students meeting or exceeding expectations at levels 3, 4, and 5. The levels of growth Tennessee’s public charter schools saw in this school year is particularly notable as these schools have identified strategies for success while serving many of the state’s most vulnerable students. Nearly 92% of Tennessee’s Public Charter School students are students of color, with public charter schools serving a greater percentage of economically-disadvantaged students than traditional public schools.

TVAAS

(Tennessee Department of Education Graduation Cohort file, 2021-2022, and Ready Graduate Data file, 2021-2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Charter</th>
<th>District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations by value added. In nearly every district, public charter schools saw significantly higher percentages than traditional public schools of students meeting or exceeding expectations at levels 3, 4, and 5. The levels of growth Tennessee’s public charter schools saw in this school year is particularly notable as these schools have identified strategies for success while serving many of the state’s most vulnerable students. Nearly 92% of Tennessee’s Public Charter School students are students of color, with public charter schools serving a greater percentage of economically-disadvantaged students than traditional public schools.

TVAAS

(Tennessee Department of Education Graduation Cohort file, 2021-2022, and Ready Graduate Data file, 2021-2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Charter</th>
<th>District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students of Color
(Black/Hispanic/
Native American)

TN Public Charter School Commission

The Tennessee Public Charter School Commission was established to hear new start, revocation, and renewal charter school appeals from across the state and serve as an authorizer to any charter schools that it authorizes upon appeal. The Charter Commission took over charter school appeal responsibilities from the Tennessee State Board of Education on January 1, 2021. In the 2021-2022 school year, the Charter Commission began serving as the authorizer for the schools that transitioned from the State Board of Education’s authority, and moving forward, also serves as an authorizer to schools that have appealed to their authority and have been authorized and some schools that have applied to transition from the Achievement School District following their successful removal from the Priority List.

Achievement School District (ASD)

Established in 2011, the Achievement School District (ASD) is the state-run turnaround system implemented to intervene in the state’s lowest performing schools. With the goal of providing innovative supports and improving student achievement, the ASD leverages charter operators and directly operates a select few schools to support this work. Since its beginning, the district has seen both bright spots and noted challenges in its efforts to improve the quality of these local schools, but the ASD’s most recent approach focuses on collaboration and partnership with local school districts to turn around schools together.

SPECIAL POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

Tennessee’s public charter schools achieved high levels of student growth in the 2021-22 school year, particularly as measured by TVAAS, which Tennessee uses to measure growth by value added in nearly every district, public charter schools saw significantly higher percentages than traditional public schools of students meeting or exceeding expectations at levels 3, 4, and 5. The levels of growth Tennessee’s public charter schools saw in the school year is particularly notable as these schools have identified strategies for success while serving many of the state’s most vulnerable students. Nearly 92% of Tennessee’s Public Charter School students are students of color, with public charter schools serving a greater percentage of economically-disadvantaged students than traditional public schools.

TVAAS

Tennessee’s public charter schools achieved high levels of student growth in the 2021-22 school year, particularly as measured by TVAAS, which Tennessee uses to measure growth by value added in nearly every district, public charter schools saw significantly higher percentages than traditional public schools of students meeting or exceeding expectations at levels 3, 4, and 5. The levels of growth Tennessee’s public charter schools saw in the school year is particularly notable as these schools have identified strategies for success while serving many of the state’s most vulnerable students. Nearly 92% of Tennessee’s Public Charter School students are students of color, with public charter schools serving a greater percentage of economically-disadvantaged students than traditional public schools.

SPECIAL POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

TVAAS

Tennessee’s public charter schools achieved high levels of student growth in the 2021-22 school year, particularly as measured by TVAAS, which Tennessee uses to measure growth by value added in nearly every district, public charter schools saw significantly higher percentages than traditional public schools of students meeting or exceeding expectations at levels 3, 4, and 5. The levels of growth Tennessee’s public charter schools saw in the school year is particularly notable as these schools have identified strategies for success while serving many of the state’s most vulnerable students. Nearly 92% of Tennessee’s Public Charter School students are students of color, with public charter schools serving a greater percentage of economically-disadvantaged students than traditional public schools.

SPECIAL POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

TVAAS

Tennessee’s public charter schools achieved high levels of student growth in the 2021-22 school year, particularly as measured by TVAAS, which Tennessee uses to measure growth by value added in nearly every district, public charter schools saw significantly higher percentages than traditional public schools of students meeting or exceeding expectations at levels 3, 4, and 5. The levels of growth Tennessee’s public charter schools saw in the school year is particularly notable as these schools have identified strategies for success while serving many of the state’s most vulnerable students. Nearly 92% of Tennessee’s Public Charter School students are students of color, with public charter schools serving a greater percentage of economically-disadvantaged students than traditional public schools.

SPECIAL POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

TVAAS

Tennessee’s public charter schools achieved high levels of student growth in the 2021-22 school year, particularly as measured by TVAAS, which Tennessee uses to measure growth by value added in nearly every district, public charter schools saw significantly higher percentages than traditional public schools of students meeting or exceeding expectations at levels 3, 4, and 5. The levels of growth Tennessee’s public charter schools saw in the school year is particularly notable as these schools have identified strategies for success while serving many of the state’s most vulnerable students. Nearly 92% of Tennessee’s Public Charter School students are students of color, with public charter schools serving a greater percentage of economically-disadvantaged students than traditional public schools.

SPECIAL POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

TVAAS

Tennessee’s public charter schools achieved high levels of student growth in the 2021-22 school year, particularly as measured by TVAAS, which Tennessee uses to measure growth by value added in nearly every district, public charter schools saw significantly higher percentages than traditional public schools of students meeting or exceeding expectations at levels 3, 4, and 5. The levels of growth Tennessee’s public charter schools saw in the school year is particularly notable as these schools have identified strategies for success while serving many of the state’s most vulnerable students. Nearly 92% of Tennessee’s Public Charter School students are students of color, with public charter schools serving a greater percentage of economically-disadvantaged students than traditional public schools.

SPECIAL POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

TVAAS

Tennessee’s public charter schools achieved high levels of student growth in the 2021-22 school year, particularly as measured by TVAAS, which Tennessee uses to measure growth by value added in nearly every district, public charter schools saw significantly higher percentages than traditional public schools of students meeting or exceeding expectations at levels 3, 4, and 5. The levels of growth Tennessee’s public charter schools saw in the school year is particularly notable as these schools have identified strategies for success while serving many of the state’s most vulnerable students. Nearly 92% of Tennessee’s Public Charter School students are students of color, with public charter schools serving a greater percentage of economically-disadvantaged students than traditional public schools.

SPECIAL POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

TVAAS

Tennessee’s public charter schools achieved high levels of student growth in the 2021-22 school year, particularly as measured by TVAAS, which Tennessee uses to measure growth by value added in nearly every district, public charter schools saw significantly higher percentages than traditional public schools of students meeting or exceeding expectations at levels 3, 4, and 5. The levels of growth Tennessee’s public charter schools saw in the school year is particularly notable as these schools have identified strategies for success while serving many of the state’s most vulnerable students. Nearly 92% of Tennessee’s Public Charter School students are students of color, with public charter schools serving a greater percentage of economically-disadvantaged students than traditional public schools.

SPECIAL POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

TVAAS

Tennessee’s public charter schools achieved high levels of student growth in the 2021-22 school year, particularly as measured by TVAAS, which Tennessee uses to measure growth by value added in nearly every district, public charter schools saw significantly higher percentages than traditional public schools of students meeting or exceeding expectations at levels 3, 4, and 5. The levels of growth Tennessee’s public charter schools saw in the school year is particularly notable as these schools have identified strategies for success while serving many of the state’s most vulnerable students. Nearly 92% of Tennessee’s Public Charter School students are students of color, with public charter schools serving a greater percentage of economically-disadvantaged students than traditional public schools.

SPECIAL POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

TVAAS

Tennessee’s public charter schools achieved high levels of student growth in the 2021-22 school year, particularly as measured by TVAAS, which Tennessee uses to measure growth by value added in nearly every district, public charter schools saw significantly higher percentages than traditional public schools of students meeting or exceeding expectations at levels 3, 4, and 5. The levels of growth Tennessee’s public charter schools saw in the school year is particularly notable as these schools have identified strategies for success while serving many of the state’s most vulnerable students. Nearly 92% of Tennessee’s Public Charter School students are students of color, with public charter schools serving a greater percentage of economically-disadvantaged students than traditional public schools.
The Path Forward

Each year, the Tennessee Charter School Center team strives to ensure that every student in Tennessee has access to a high-quality, public school option. It is vital for the future of Tennessee’s students to encourage innovation and student-focused practices.

The Tennessee Charter School Center’s goal is that by 2026, our state will have 100,000 high-quality charter seats available or approved, and that Tennessee will be the best place in the country to launch a public charter school.

In 2023, the Tennessee Charter School Center’s policy team is focused on:

1. Ensuring facilities funding and equitable facilities access for public charter schools
2. Strengthening the role of the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission to ensure high quality authorizing practices across the state
3. Protecting against any efforts to limit or decrease the ability for charter schools to operate across the state.
4. Protecting public charter school quality and transparency
5. Adding clarity to existing charter school law to meet best practices regarding charter school enrollment lotteries, grade band expansion in line with authorizing district bands, and allowing authorizers to provide corrective action plans when challenges arise

Contact

Office Locations

NASHVILLE OFFICE
1033 Demonbreun St., Suite 300
Nashville, TN, 37203

MEMPHIS OFFICE
1350 Concourse Ave., Suite 434
Memphis, TN, 38104

Social Media

@TNCharters
facebook.com/tncharters

Email

learn@TNCharterCenter.org

WWW.TNCHARTERCENTER.ORG

@TNCharters