Table Of Contents

Introduction from our CEO, Dr. Maya Bugg 4
Who We Are 5
Overview of Tennessee Charter Schools 6
  Through the Years
  Charter Locations
  Charters by the Numbers
  State Reward Schools
Policy & Advocacy Leadership 10
Key Policy & Advocacy Wins 11
Innovation, Engagement & Collaboration 13
  2019 TN Charter School Conference
Quality & Growth 17
  Memphis
  Nashville
  Chattanooga
  Knoxville
  TN State Board of Education
  Achievement School District (ASD)
The Path Forward 26
Dear Friends,

Charter schools in Tennessee are leading the way on innovative techniques, best practices and community partnerships to take academic achievement to the next level. From cutting-edge science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) pathways to workforce development programs, next generation schools are helping scholars gain in-demand skills in the classroom and putting them to work through real-world applications and experiences. TCSC is proud of these accomplishments and remains committed to advocating for our schools by celebrating successes and continuing to hold high standards for achievement in schools.

During the 2018-19 school year, 114 charter schools served more than 40,000 students across the state. Our numbers continue to grow each year, with an increase of over 2,000 students over the past year. With the student growth, public charter schools continue to perform well academically. For example, in Nashville, the rates of economically disadvantaged students in public charter schools who are performing at or above grade level is higher than district-managed schools by 50 percent in math, and 83 percent in ELA, than district-managed schools by 50 percent in math, and 83 percent in ELA.

Under TCSC’s leadership, along with policymakers and education stakeholders, Tennessee passed significant policies and programs to support improvement and innovation in public education in Tennessee. Our policy and advocacy team supported legislation that ensured the Charter School Facilitate Program was not only funded for another year but doubled in amount to $12 million, a significant stride towards closing the public charter school facilities funding gap. We also worked with policymakers on the establishment of the State Board of Education as a formal accountability body for charter school authorizers. As a result, Tennessee was recently awarded one of the most improved in terms of Charter School Laws by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools.

We are proud of the progress we have made but there is much work left to be done to elevate education in Tennessee. Your support of our efforts to bolster public charter schools is critical to our State’s success. TCSC will continue to advocate for all students to ensure that every child in Tennessee has access to a high-quality public education.

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

The Tennessee Charter School Center is committed to developing and supporting high-performing public charter schools, raising the bar of excellence for public school student outcomes and helping to ensure more children in Tennessee have access to high-quality education. Our work to lead the charge for effective policy, excellent schools, quality operators and informed communities is driven by:

**Diversity**

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

**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.

**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.

**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.
Through the Years

Overview of TCSC

Tennessee policymakers and education stakeholders have demonstrated a strong commitment to education reform by advancing significant policies and programs to support improvement and innovation in public education in Tennessee. As a result, the public charter school movement in Tennessee has gained strength and generated results for students and communities.

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 accomplishment of the necessary outcomes of education.

2003
First Tennessee charter schools opened in Nashville (1) and Memphis (3).

2005
Law intended 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. Removal of the “cap” on number of charter schools. Achievement School/District created.

2013
The 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.

2014
Legislation passed to allow State Board of Education to act as an authorizer upon appeal for charter applicants in school districts with a priority school in their area.

2017
Legislation passed that modernizes and strengthens the 2002 Tennessee Charter School Act. This law clarifies rules on everything from the application process to closure. Enables local districts to charge an authorizer fee to cover cost of charter oversight. Established fund of up to $6 million per year for facilities. The Memphis Charter Compact was approved. The Compact will help to Provide facility support for charters, Establish a School Performance Framework, Formalize School Closure Procedures for charters, Establish a District Shared Services Standard Operating Procedure and a more collaborative agreement for unified relations with a focus on quality schools regardless of model or operator type.

2019
The Public Charter School Commission—an independent commission with the authority to hear charter school appeals and authorize schools following successful appeal anywhere in Tennessee—was established. The State Board of Education was established as the formal accountability body for charter school authorizers, including the requirement for evaluation of authorizer compliance with state law and the Tennessee Quality Authorizing Standards, as well as the power to enforce compliance.

2021
Tennessee Charter School Center Impact Report 2020

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 accomplishment of the necessary outcomes of education.

2003
First Tennessee charter schools opened in Nashville (1) and Memphis (3).

2005
Law intended 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.

Expansion of enrollment eligibility to “at-risk” students. Limit or “cap” on number of charter schools raised to 20.

2011
Open enrollment amendment passed to allow all students the option to attend a charter school. Removal of the “cap” on number of charter schools. Achievement School/District created.

2013
The 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.

2014
Legislation passed to allow State Board of Education to act as an authorizer upon appeal for charter applicants in school districts with a priority school in their area.

2017
Legislation passed that modernizes and strengthens the 2002 Tennessee Charter School Act. This law clarifies rules on everything from the application process to closure. Enables local districts to charge an authorizer fee to cover cost of charter oversight. Established fund of up to $6 million per year for facilities. The Memphis Charter Compact was approved. The Compact will help to Provide facility support for charters, Establish a School Performance Framework, Formalize School Closure Procedures for charters, Establish a District Shared Services Standard Operating Procedure and a more collaborative agreement for unified relations with a focus on quality schools regardless of model or operator type.

2019
The Public Charter School Commission—an independent commission with the authority to hear charter school appeals and authorize schools following successful appeal anywhere in Tennessee—was established. The State Board of Education was established as the formal accountability body for charter school authorizers, including the requirement for evaluation of authorizer compliance with state law and the Tennessee Quality Authorizing Standards, as well as the power to enforce compliance.
Tennessee Charter Locations

Tennessee charter schools exist in the four major metro areas across the state. Here’s where they are located:

- **Nashville, TN**
  - Liberty Collegiate Academy
  - KIPP Academy Nashville
  - KIPP Academy Nashville Elementary
  - KIPP Nashville College Prep
  - Nashville Classical
  - Rocketship Nashville Northeast Elementary
  - Valor Flagship Academy
  - Valor Voyager Academy

- **Chattanooga, TN**
  - Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy
  - Chattanooga Charter School of Excellence

- **Memphis, TN**
  - City University School of Liberal Arts
  - Aurora Collegiate Academy
  - Memphis RISE Academy

Each year, the Tennessee Department of Education recognizes the schools that are consistently performing at top-quality levels. The state began using its current framework in 2018 which takes into account a variety of measures ranging from academic performance to school climate. The framework is based on the principles that poverty is not destiny and the success of each student matters.

Congratulations to the 13 public charter schools across the state that were designated state reward status schools!
Policy & Advocacy Leadership

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

Each year, the Tennessee Charter School Center identifies key political challenges and opportunities facing the state’s charter school sector. Working closely with schools, districts, legislators, teachers, parents and other community advocates, TCSC is committed to making sure all voices are clearly heard and students always come first.

Legislative Session

We monitored 180 bills during the 2019 Legislative Session and advocated for key policies that help support the public charter school landscape in Tennessee.

State Assessment Challenges

The TCSC Team worked with partners to provide advocacy against seven bills that sought to limit or weaken the quality of Tennessee’s statewide assessments. These bills sought to replace the current assessment, limit accountability related to the assessment, and allow alternatives to the assessment which would interfere with accountability.

Key Policy & Advocacy Wins 2019 – 2020:

Passage of the Governor’s legislation establishing an independent commission with the authority to hear charter school appeals and authorize schools following successful appeal anywhere in Tennessee:

Through that legislation, establishment of the State Board of Education as a formal accountability body for charter school authorizers, including the requirement for evaluation of authorizer compliance with state law and the Tennessee Quality Authorizing Standards, as well as the power to enforce compliance.

Media Coverage

TCSC earned 19 Media mentions and/or quotes from staff that highlight our positions and priorities for the sector.

Improvements to the Default Closure Law

Passage of legislation to bring the process for charter schools that fall on the priority list in line with the process for traditional public schools by allowing authorizers to choose to give schools that appear on the list the first time a chance to improve, but requiring closure if a charter school falls on the list a second consecutive time.

The Governor’s budget, passed successfully through the House and the Senate this week, which doubles the state’s previous contribution to the Charter School Facilities Fund, bringing the fund to $12 million for the coming grant year.

Cornerstone Prep Denver was able to use charter schools facilities funds to fund additional teachers. This allowed their 3rd-5th grade classes to departmentalize and an additional block of time designated to re-teaching and intervention. In addition, the student/teacher ratio decreased. Departmentalization allowed teachers to really hone in on their specific subject matter (ELA, math, or science) which really paid off on end of the year assessments!
Impact Report 2020

Tennessee Charter School Center

POLICY IN ACTION


U.S. Department of Education’s Assistant Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education Frank Brogan visited Ivy Academy, in Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee.

Innovation, Engagement & Collaboration

Communities are coming together and charter schools are thinking outside the box to embrace innovation, techniques, best practices and community partnerships to take academic achievement to the next level. From cutting-edge science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) pathways to workforce development programs, next generation schools are helping scholars gain in-demand skills in the classroom and putting them to work through real-world applications and experiences.

Social Media Engagement

Stakeholder outreach and education stats are trending positively; this is important because it means we are reaching more people with accurate info about charters while also starting to build a base of potential advocacy participants.

TCSC gained 290+ new followers on social media and had 17 average daily post engagements, which means followers are liking, commenting, sharing or clicking on our posts.

Charter Facility Center

TCSC received funding from National Alliance for Public Charter Schools to assist in launching and developing The Charter Facility Center which researches different ways that public charter schools can access school buildings, including through public policy and private financing.

Valor’s “Powered by Compass” Approach

WE FIND OURSELVES THROUGH RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

Valor Collegiate Academy calls its approach to education the Powered by Compass Approach. This approach is built around its comprehensive human development model, the Valor Compass. The Valor community believes inspired and purposeful lives are built by individually and collectively engaging in their own comprehensive development.

Valor is also committed to serving as a sharing and learning hub for schools locally and across the nation. To support this commitment, they’ve designed two training and coaching programs for schools to partner with them on their journey toward becoming trusting, relationship-based communities: The Compass Camp and Compass-in-Leadership Programs.

Within the year that we implemented the Compass model, we went from 112 suspensions in 17-18 to 25 suspensions in 18-19, a total decrease of 87%. The Compass model is a paradigm shift: our scholars no longer resorted to violence as a way to handle their issues. ”

– MURICE JOHNSON, Carmen School of Science and Technology Principal

School Leader and Staff Trainings

TCSC hosted 9 trainings throughout the 2018-2019 school year with 166 participants. Topics covered were:

• Advanced Equity: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Standards and Indicators;
• Charter School Management: Maintaining Compliance with District and State;
• Charter 101: Resources and Q&A for Potential Charter Applicants;
• Along with various Special Education Compliance and Charter Facilities trainings.

State Conference

TCSC hosted its second annual Tennessee Charter School Conference at which over 57% of schools were represented. The content for the sessions contained strands for teachers, instructional leaders, charter leaders, operational staff, and board members.

Charter Facility Center

TCSC received funding from National Alliance for Public Charter Schools to assist in launching and developing The Charter Facility Center which researches different ways that public charter schools can access school buildings, including through public policy and private financing.

Valor’s “Powered by Compass” Approach

WE FIND OURSELVES THROUGH RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

Valor Collegiate Academy calls its approach to education the Powered by Compass Approach. This approach is built around its comprehensive human development model, the Valor Compass. The Valor community believes inspired and purposeful lives are built by individually and collectively engaging in their own comprehensive development.

Valor is also committed to serving as a sharing and learning hub for schools locally and across the nation. To support this commitment, they’ve designed two training and coaching programs for schools to partner with them on their journey toward becoming trusting, relationship-based communities: The Compass Camp and Compass-in-Leadership Programs.

Within the year that we implemented the Compass model, we went from 112 suspensions in 17-18 to 25 suspensions in 18-19, a total decrease of 87%. The Compass model is a paradigm shift: our scholars no longer resorted to violence as a way to handle their issues. ”

– MURICE JOHNSON, Carmen School of Science and Technology Principal

School Leader and Staff Trainings

TCSC hosted 9 trainings throughout the 2018-2019 school year with 166 participants. Topics covered were:

• Advanced Equity: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Standards and Indicators;
• Charter School Management: Maintaining Compliance with District and State;
• Charter 101: Resources and Q&A for Potential Charter Applicants;
• Along with various Special Education Compliance and Charter Facilities trainings.

State Conference

TCSC hosted its second annual Tennessee Charter School Conference at which over 57% of schools were represented. The content for the sessions contained strands for teachers, instructional leaders, charter leaders, operational staff, and board members.

Charter Facility Center

TCSC received funding from National Alliance for Public Charter Schools to assist in launching and developing The Charter Facility Center which researches different ways that public charter schools can access school buildings, including through public policy and private financing.
A Quick Glance at the 2019 TN Charter School Conference:

The Tennessee Charter School Center hosted our second annual Charter School State Conference on November 14-16th in Nashville, TN, which included a schedule of content sessions aligned to our findings from our collaborative working groups.

During the 2019 conference, we hosted two specialty trainings for attendees—the Facilities Institute and the Teacher Institute.

The Facilities Institute was designed for Superintendents, CFOs, Board Members, and District Staff involved in growth and expansion. The charter school landscape is constantly evolving and growth is becoming both easier and more difficult at the same time. TCSC brought together industry experts from across the country for this daylong training covering budget building, site identification, financing options and more.

The Teacher Institute intensive included seven teacher-specific trainings through which teachers were able to earn professional development points. Sessions focused on teachers as charter school advocates, encouraging students to use evidence-based thinking, advice on connecting the dots between planning, teaching and assessments, and tackling literacy in schools.

TCSC hosted our Annual Charter Champion Award Gala where schools and leaders across the state were honored for their efforts and achievements within the Tennessee Charter Sector.

Governor Bill Lee attended our Awards Gala on Friday evening to accept his Charter Champion award from the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. This was an incredible opportunity for him to hear about the important work being done inside of our schools, and for our school leaders to have face-to-face time with the head of our state.

Some of the topics we covered:
• Tackling early literacy;
• Focusing on teacher needs and retention;
• Activating parents as advocacy partners;
• A day-long, facilities-focused training devoted to educating school leaders about the constantly evolving charter school landscape.

Governor Bill Lee attended our Awards Gala on Friday evening to accept his Charter Champion award from the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. This was an incredible opportunity for him to hear about the important work being done inside of our schools, and for our school leaders to have face-to-face time with the head of our state.

CHARTER CHAMPION
Teacher of the Year
Jasmine Gregg
Purpose Preparatory Academy

CHARTER CHAMPION
Administrator of the Year
TiaCharline Brown
The Soulsville Charter School

CHARTER CHAMPION
School of the Year
Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy

CHARTER CHAMPION
Community Project of the Year
KIPP Memphis Elementary
The Library Project

CHARTER CHAMPION
Sen. Raumesh Akbari

Some of the topics we covered:
• Tackling early literacy;
• Focusing on teacher needs and retention;
• Activating parents as advocacy partners;
• A day-long, facilities-focused training devoted to educating school leaders about the constantly evolving charter school landscape.

Governor Bill Lee attended our Awards Gala on Friday evening to accept his Charter Champion award from the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. This was an incredible opportunity for him to hear about the important work being done inside of our schools, and for our school leaders to have face-to-face time with the head of our state.

Some of the topics we covered:
• Tackling early literacy;
• Focusing on teacher needs and retention;
• Activating parents as advocacy partners;
• A day-long, facilities-focused training devoted to educating school leaders about the constantly evolving charter school landscape.

Governor Bill Lee attended our Awards Gala on Friday evening to accept his Charter Champion award from the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. This was an incredible opportunity for him to hear about the important work being done inside of our schools, and for our school leaders to have face-to-face time with the head of our state.

Some of the topics we covered:
• Tackling early literacy;
• Focusing on teacher needs and retention;
• Activating parents as advocacy partners;
• A day-long, facilities-focused training devoted to educating school leaders about the constantly evolving charter school landscape.

Governor Bill Lee attended our Awards Gala on Friday evening to accept his Charter Champion award from the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. This was an incredible opportunity for him to hear about the important work being done inside of our schools, and for our school leaders to have face-to-face time with the head of our state.
CGLA PARTNERS WITH BCBS TO BUILD OUTDOOR SPORTS COMPLEX

Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy partnered with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee Health Foundation to create a new outdoor sports and fitness complex, part of BlueCross Healthy Place Program. The BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Foundation awarded the grant for the project to the Young Women’s Leadership Academy Foundation, the founding sponsor of CGLA. The BlueCross Healthy Place program supports places for physical activity and allow new connections to form among neighbors. When complete, CGLA and its partner school, the all-boys charter school Chattanooga Preparatory School, will have access to the new sports and fitness complex, complete with inclusive playgrounds, a soccer field, a basketball and tennis court and more.

Members of STEM Preparatory Academy’s 2011 founding fifth-grade class made history in May 2019 by receiving their high school diplomas and becoming the school’s inaugural graduating class. The school serves nearly 1,000 students in grades 5-12, a majority of whom are students of color and English Language Learners. The 95 members of the graduating class received a total of 152 scholarships valued at over $3 million shattering expectations.

“At STEM, we have all come face-to-face with our differences because our community represents countries from around the world. Our daily environment recognizes our differences and respects them; unfortunately for us, the world will not always be as kind. We must remember that it is our differences that make us unique and strong enough to shatter any ceiling... Each of us has achieved the expectation-placed on high school minorities by graduating from this top-ranked rigorous academic institution today. It has been a long journey of success, failure, happiness, disappointment, anxiety, and triumph, but if there is one lesson I want each graduate to leave with, it is that you control your own destiny.”

– Valedictorian Xeria Keys said. Keys received a full scholarship to attend Vanderbilt University.

Nationwide Training
Hosted 5 national trainings on best practices on facilities in GA, NC, TX, TN, and Las Vegas.

Funding for Landscape Analysis
For the second year in a row, TCSC secured funding for national dissemination to provide a deep dive in landscape analysis in Tennessee and Georgia.

Credit Enhancement
To date, our schools have used $7 million in TCSC Credit Enhancement for lending, and we have nearly $20 million more in the pipeline for support.
The KIPP Memphis Library Project began when one teacher found out that less than 30% of charter schools across the nation have libraries or librarians. The school decided to build a library of its own. Within 6 months, the school built a library with over 10,000 books, all hand-selected by the students and culturally relevant to their audience. One year later, KIPP Memphis Academy was designated a Level 5 TVAAS score for exceptional growth in English Language Arts.

Inspiring lifelong reading habits among students is only one aspect of the impact this project has had on its students. Not only are students gaining access to libraries filled with books that feature protagonists of color, authors of color, and otherwise marginalized communities and groups, the students are part of the team that builds the library and keeps it running every single day. Students learn how to set up a complex library management system and learn to manage codes such as MARC records, Dewey Decimal systems, and are responsible for everything from check outs to returns, fees to collection systems and more. This effort has led nearly 1,500 students across KIPP Memphis to read upwards of 90 million more words per year, and has fostered a love of reading that is beyond quantifiable. The Library Project has extended to a total of 6 schools as of 2019: KIPP Memphis Academy Middle and Academy Elementary, and Collegiate High all in North Memphis, Crosstown High in Midtown, and the on-going library build at Prep Elementary and Prep Middle in South Memphis. Even though this project originated at KIPP Academy Middle, they have expanded access and opportunities in schools all over Memphis. This has led to an enormous impact beyond their walls, and the community has been incredibly supportive and involved.

LEARN MORE AT www.kippmemphis.org/library-project

When principal Michelle Lyons received the data that her students at Cornerstone Prep Denver weren’t making the grade, she knew that her team needed to take action. Part of that action plan included using the last hour of the school day -- an already additional hour of school devoted to math and reading interventions-- to focus on leveraging math lessons.

In the 2018-2019 school year, the hard work paid off when nearly one third of Cornerstone Prep Denver’s 3rd to 5th grade students performed at or above grade level on state exams -- an increase of 9 percentage points from the previous year and the highest mathematics proficiency level in the Achievement School District.

Cornerstone Prep Denver earned a Level 5 TVAAS score in overall student growth, a Level 5 TVAAS Score for student growth in English Language Arts, and a Level 4 TVAAS score for student growth in Mathematics, showing that targeted curriculum and consistent practices can make a world of difference in student performance.

When Jermaine Gassaway was made principal of Rocketship Nashville Northeast, he was immediately tasked with not only improving students’ academic performance, but improving the overall culture of the school.

After counseling students that were having recurring behavioral issues in the classroom, Gassaway realized that perhaps his students were longing for care, guidance, and support from authoritative figures they could relate to. With a student population that is 97% students of color, Gassaway and his team decided to use the “windows and mirrors” approach, and he set out to recruit a diverse teacher pool. The “windows” present students with glimpses into another person’s views or life experiences and the different perspectives they have to offer, while the “mirrors” reflect students’ own cultures and allow them to see their own experiences validated and valued. Gassaway began recruiting a pool of teachers as diverse as the school’s student population. Today, Rocketship Nashville Northeast’s staff is 75% educators of color.

LEARN MORE AT www.rocketshipnashville.org/wINDOWS-MIRRORS

2019/205 6
**SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS**

- The Soulsville Charter School’s Executive Director, NeShante Brown, was named TCSC’s Administrator of the Year Charter Champion.
- The Soulsville Charter School’s Executive Director, NeShante Brown, was named TCSC’s Administrator of the Year Charter Champion.
- Purpose Preparatory Academy is ranked the 11th non-selective school in MPS for percentage of Economically Disadvantaged students on or above grade level in ELA. Purpose Prep is also ranked in the top 10% of Tennessee schools for African-American students at test at or mastered in ELA.
- STEM Prep’s founding scholars graduated in May. 89 percent are Non-English Language Background students with more than 37 different countries. 80 percent are non-income. Over 90 percent will be first-generation college students. Over 60 percent will be first-generation high school graduates.
- Data from the 2019 Tennessee state standardized testing shows that the percentage of economically disadvantaged students in Nashville public charter schools who are on grade level or above in elementary and middle school significantly outperforms their peers in all other Nashville public schools. The success rate of economically disadvantaged students in public charter schools is higher than district-managed schools by 55 percent in ELA, 83 percent in math, and 81 percent in social studies.
- It is important to stress how rare it is for schools to achieve so highly in both achievement and growth. Valor’s three schools are in the top 2% of all middle and high schools in the State for both categories.
- LEAD Southeast Middle and high school scored a Level 5 for the for the 5th consecutive year (Middle) and second consecutive year (High).

**SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS**

- The Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS) measures student growth year over year and rates each school on their ability to help students learn and grow. A Level 5 rating represents the highest level of growth. Level 4 ratings are meeting or exceeding expectations, and Level 1-2 ratings are signs of needed improvements.

**SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS**

- Data from the 2019 Tennessee state standardized testing shows that the percentage of economically disadvantaged students in Nashville public charter schools who are on grade level or above in elementary and middle school significantly outperforms their peers in all other Nashville public schools. The success rate of economically disadvantaged students in public charter schools is higher than district-managed schools by 55 percent in ELA, 83 percent in math, and 81 percent in social studies.
- It is important to stress how rare it is for schools to achieve so highly in both achievement and growth. Valor’s three schools are in the top 2% of all middle and high schools in the State for both categories.
- LEAD Southeast Middle and high school scored a Level 5 for the for the 5th consecutive year (Middle) and second consecutive year (High).

**SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS**

- The Soulsville Charter School’s Executive Director, NeShante Brown, was named TCSC’s Administrator of the Year Charter Champion.
- The Soulsville Charter School’s Executive Director, NeShante Brown, was named TCSC’s Administrator of the Year Charter Champion.
- Purpose Preparatory Academy is ranked the 11th non-selective school in MPS for percentage of Economically Disadvantaged students on or above grade level in ELA. Purpose Prep is also ranked in the top 10% of Tennessee schools for African-American students at test at or mastered in ELA.
- STEM Prep’s founding scholars graduated in May. 89 percent are Non-English Language Background students with more than 37 different countries. 80 percent are non-income. Over 90 percent will be first-generation college students. Over 60 percent will be first-generation high school graduates.
- Data from the 2019 Tennessee state standardized testing shows that the percentage of economically disadvantaged students in Nashville public charter schools who are on grade level or above in elementary and middle school significantly outperforms their peers in all other Nashville public schools. The success rate of economically disadvantaged students in public charter schools is higher than district-managed schools by 55 percent in ELA, 83 percent in math, and 81 percent in social studies.
- It is important to stress how rare it is for schools to achieve so highly in both achievement and growth. Valor’s three schools are in the top 2% of all middle and high schools in the State for both categories.
- LEAD Southeast Middle and high school scored a Level 5 for the for the 5th consecutive year (Middle) and second consecutive year (High).
Although Chattanooga's charter sector is small, Hamilton County continues to see a significant demand for more public school options. In 2018, a fifth charter school, the all-male Chattanooga Preparatory Academy, opened its doors in Hamilton County. The sector continues to expand this innovative and effective education model in the community.

Knox County Schools opened its first public charter school, Emerald Academy, in 2015 as community leaders turned to public charter schools as a way to expand education options for more parents in Knox County. The Emerald Youth Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving underserved youth in Knoxville, helped open the school to focus on promoting a college-going culture for students. While Emerald Academy’s students are outperforming the state’s average proficiency rates, the school is struggling with overall growth.

**SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS**
- Emerald Academy’s average scores on the Algebra I and Geometry end-of-course assessments – taken by seventh and eighth grade scholars – exceeded the district average for all test takers in Knox County Schools (KCS) as well as the state of Tennessee.
- Emerald Academy third graders outperformed the KCS district average as well as the average for the state of Tennessee for elementary schools in Language Arts (LA). More than 41 percent of Emerald Academy third graders were reading at or above grade level, compared to 38.9 percent of KCS third graders.
- Emerald Academy third graders performed in the top third of all KCS elementary schools in reading, outperforming 32 of the district’s 49 elementary schools.
- Emerald Academy had a lower rate of chronic absenteeism than the district in 2018-19. 12.7 percent of Emerald Academy scholars were chronically absent, compared to 15.8 percent of KCS students.

**ACADEMIC GROWTH & ACHIEVEMENT**
- The Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS) measures student growth year over year and rates each school on their ability to help students learn and grow. A Level 5 rating represents the highest level of growth, Level 3-4 ratings are meeting or exceeding expectations, and Level 1-2 ratings are signs of needed improvements.
- Emerald Academy third graders performed in the top third of all KCS elementary schools in reading, outperforming 32 of the district’s 49 elementary schools.
- Emerald Academy third graders outperformed the KCS district average as well as the average for the state of Tennessee for elementary schools in Language Arts (LA). More than 41 percent of Emerald Academy third graders were reading at or above grade level, compared to 38.9 percent of KCS third graders.
- Emerald Academy had a lower rate of chronic absenteeism than the district in 2018-19. 12.7 percent of Emerald Academy scholars were chronically absent, compared to 15.8 percent of KCS students.

**SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS**
- Emerald Academy’s average scores on the Algebra I and Geometry end-of-course assessments – taken by seventh and eighth grade scholars – exceeded the district average for all test takers in Knox County Schools (KCS) as well as the state of Tennessee.
- Emerald Academy third graders outperformed the KCS district average as well as the average for the state of Tennessee for elementary schools in Language Arts (LA). More than 41 percent of Emerald Academy third graders were reading at or above grade level, compared to 38.9 percent of KCS third graders.
- Emerald Academy third graders performed in the top third of all KCS elementary schools in reading, outperforming 32 of the district’s 49 elementary schools.
- Emerald Academy had a lower rate of chronic absenteeism than the district in 2018-19. 12.7 percent of Emerald Academy scholars were chronically absent, compared to 15.8 percent of KCS students.

**ACADEMIC GROWTH & ACHIEVEMENT**
- The Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS) measures student growth year over year and rates each school on their ability to help students learn and grow. A Level 5 rating represents the highest level of growth, Level 3-4 ratings are meeting or exceeding expectations, and Level 1-2 ratings are signs of needed improvements.
- Emerald Academy third graders performed in the top third of all KCS elementary schools in reading, outperforming 32 of the district’s 49 elementary schools.
- Emerald Academy third graders outperformed the KCS district average as well as the average for the state of Tennessee for elementary schools in Language Arts (LA). More than 41 percent of Emerald Academy third graders were reading at or above grade level, compared to 38.9 percent of KCS third graders.
- Emerald Academy had a lower rate of chronic absenteeism than the district in 2018-19. 12.7 percent of Emerald Academy scholars were chronically absent, compared to 15.8 percent of KCS students.
The Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS) measures student growth year over year and rates each school on their ability to help students learn and grow. A Level 5 rating represents the highest level of growth, Level 4 ratings are meeting or exceeding expectations, and Level 1-2 ratings are signs of needed improvements.

SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

- KIPP Antioch College Prep Elementary School’s Chronic Absenteeism rate is now 2.9% compared to the 13.1% state average.
- KIPP Antioch College Prep will open its doors on a new K-8 campus in August 2019 and will serve students in kindergarten, first and fifth grades.
- Each week, KIPP Antioch College Prep Elementary posts the first graders’ sight words on their Facebook page, ensuring that parents and guardians have the opportunity to stay informed and help their students succeed.
- For the second year in a row, Bluff City High earned a Level 5 Overall TVAAS Score and a Level 5 TVAAS score in Literacy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># OF SCHOOLS</th>
<th>AVERAGE GRADUATION RATE</th>
<th>AVERAGE ACT SCORE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 in Memphis</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 in Nashville</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>15.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data reflects Achievement School District (ASD) charter school data exclusive of ASD direct-run schools.

Academic Growth & Achievement (TVAAS Composite)
The Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS) measures student growth year over year and rates each school on their ability to help students learn and grow. A Level 5 rating represents the highest level of growth, Level 4 ratings are meeting or exceeding expectations, and Level 1-2 ratings are signs of needed improvements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RACE &amp; ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN</th>
<th>ACADeMIC GROWTH &amp; ACHIEVEMENT (TVAAS COMPOSITE)</th>
<th>SPECIAL POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American: 6,704 (90.20%)</td>
<td>Hispanic: 559 (8.08%)</td>
<td>Students with Disabilities (SWD) 12.7% (1,183 students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American: 8,704 (90.20%)</td>
<td>White: 254 (3.74%)</td>
<td>English Language Learners (ELL) 13.8% (62 students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic: 559 (8.08%)</td>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native: 6 (0.09%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White: 254 (3.74%)</td>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 4 (0.06%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native: 6 (0.09%)</td>
<td>Multiple Ethnicities: 111 (1.62%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 4 (0.06%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Ethnicities: 111 (1.62%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Path Forward

Expanding effective practices and embracing new approaches to educating students across the state is key to advancing our public education system. It is the Tennessee Charter School Center’s priority to increase the number of seats in high-quality public education institutions by encouraging innovation in the classroom, fostering the growth of high-performing public charter schools and strengthening those public charter schools that already exist.

As districts, elected officials and education partners continue to navigate future priorities in education, we will advocate for the following:

- Ensuring that appropriations to the Charter School Facilities fund are recurring in order to establish a consistent source of funding to support success and growth.
- Encouraging collaboration between public charter school and traditional public school leaders and staff to share best practices in hopes of elevating all public education in Tennessee.
- Supporting policies or funding that support school leaders’ and teachers’ efforts to implement innovative learning and teaching techniques so that all students have the best chance at academic success.
- Creating a robust policy environment that ensures equitable distribution of resources specifically as it relates to facilities and special education reimbursements.

Sources

1. PURPOSE PREPATORY ACADEMY

2. CORNERSTONE PREP DENVER

3. KIPP MEMPHIS COLLEGIATE SCHOOLS

4. BLUFF CITY HIGH SCHOOL

5. ROCKETSHIP NASHVILLE NORTHEAST ELEMENTARY

6. CORNERSTONE PREP DENVER

7. CSLA

8. NASHVILLE CHARTER COLLABORATIVE

9. CORNERSTONE PREP

10. NASHVILLE CHARTER COLLABORATIVE

11. KIPP ANTIOCH COLLEGE PREP