



NORTH CAROLINA COALITION FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

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Today Kicks Off National Charter Schools Week

North Carolina's public charter schools are growing in popularity

*Public charter schools complement, rather than compete with,
traditional public schools*

Raleigh, N.C. – Today kicks off National Charter Schools Week. North Carolina's public charter schools serve 130,000 students – double the number of students enrolled in charter schools just seven years ago.

Public charter schools are a free, public alternative to traditional zoned schools and are available to all. They complement, rather than compete with, traditional public schools by offering innovative teaching methods and more flexible curriculum options. Students do not need to live in a particular zone, or even in the same county, to attend a public charter school.

Lindalyn Kakadelis, Executive Director of the N.C. Coalition for Charter Schools, said, **"Public charter schools are part of the public school family. Just like different colleges have different strengths, different public charter schools can specialize in areas like STEM or the arts for students interested in those pathways. I'm so proud of the work of public charter school operators, teachers, and especially students."**

N.C. Senate Leader Phil Berger said, **"North Carolina's public charter schools offer families the option to send their child to a school that best fits their educational needs and curiosities. The tremendous growth of our charter schools shows how valuable they are to students, their families, and the entire education community."**

N.C. House Speaker Tim Moore said, **"This week, we join North Carolina's 205 public charter schools and the 130,000 public charter students in our state to celebrate National Charter Schools Week."** Moore continued, **"Public charter schools provide students with more options when it comes to how and where they learn. In fact, North Carolina charter schools such as Pinnacle Classical Academy, a charter school in my home district, are even exceeding all 115 of the state's school districts when it comes to student proficiency. The result is a win for students, families, and North Carolina."**

Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson said, **"This week we celebrate our charter schools and all of the great things they are achieving in our state. Charter schools allow children to get a quality education without being limited by their zip code, and that is why we continue to see them grow at a fast pace. I will always fight for the needs of our students which is why I have been a staunch supporter of charter schools, as they provide our parents and students with the vital option of choice that will help them succeed."**

Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt said, **"The growth in the number of charter schools speaks to parents' desire to pursue the best public education option for their student. The expansion of public charters in North Carolina shows that our state can provide a multitude of high-quality schooling options that address the needs of each individual student. I am excited to see this level of growth, as I know that public charters are one option helping to meet our children's educational needs."**

Public charter schools across the state are accomplishing wonderful things for the students they serve. For example, disadvantaged students and students of color at Pinnacle Classical Academy in Shelby doubled the statewide average in test scores for grade-level proficiency. And this year, the Sallie B. Howard School in Wilson, which serves a majority-minority student population, was named a **National Blue Ribbon School**, one of just eight in North Carolina. What's more, **U.S. News and World Report** included eight North Carolina charter schools on its list of the top 25 high schools in the state.

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