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CHARTER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT GROWS FOR 10TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Popularity of charter schools in Florida increases -- enrollment now exceeds 137,000

Florida, January 2010 – For more than ten consecutive years, student enrollment in Florida public charter schools has steadily increased. This school year (2009-2010), statewide student enrollment in public charter schools reached 137,049.

Enrollment figures at the state's public charter schools had continued to grow since their inception in 1996. Florida currently has more than 400 public charter schools serving the second largest public charter school enrollment in the nation. These figures, released by the Florida Department of Education (DOE) in December 2009, are based on the number of full-time students that have been reported to DOE by public schools districts across the state.

“The increased enrollment in charter schools is a testament to parental choice in public education and the great work charter schools are doing in the communities they serve,” said Robert Haag, President, Florida Consortium of Public Charter Schools, the state's leading charter school support organization.

Charter schools are tuition-free public schools created on the basis of an agreement or charter between the school and a school District. Charter schools have expanded freedom to develop curriculum in return for a commitment to meet higher standards of financial and academic accountability.

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