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**NEW ORLEANS TOPS NATIONAL “TOP 10” LIST FOR  
CHARTER SCHOOL MARKET SHARE  
FOR 2ND CONSECUTIVE YEAR**

**Two New Analyses from the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools  
Reveal Annual “Top 10” Communities List and  
“What We Know” About Research of Public Charter Schools**

October 17, 2007 -- Washington, D.C. -- New Orleans had 57% of its public school students enrolled in public charter schools during the 2006-2007 school year, the largest percentage of any major market community in the nation, reveals a new analysis from the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools.

This is the second year that New Orleans has topped the Alliance’s “Top Ten Communities by Market Share” analysis. In the previous year, 69% of the Crescent City’s public school students were enrolled in public charter schools. Notwithstanding the drop in market share, total charter enrollment changed dramatically, increasing almost 90%, from 7,815 students in the 2005-2006 school year to 14,822 in the 2006-2007 school year.

Eight communities, including New Orleans, had at least 1/5<sup>th</sup> of their public school students in public charter schools, an increase from six in the 2005-2006 school year. Statewide, Louisiana charter students still account for just 3% of the state’s public school students.

The full report is available at <http://publiccharters.org/content/publication/detail/2869/>. The 2005-2006 analysis is available at <http://publiccharters.org/content/publication/detail/1420/>.

“The charter movement continues moving ahead in New Orleans,” said Nelson Smith, President of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. “Growth and performance will both climb as more and more families choose public charter schools that offer students a real chance at high achievement.”

In all, the analysis, which examined communities with at least 10,000 public school students, found that 29 communities had between 13% and 57% of their public school students enrolled in public charter schools during the 2006-2007 school year, placing them in the “Top 10” communities for public charter school enrollment.

The Alliance also released today an extensive annual review of research on charter school achievement across the nation. This year’s analysis, the fourth edition of “Charter School Achievement: What We Know,” incorporates 12 new studies published

in the past year for a total of 70 comparative analyses of charter school and traditional public school performance. Fifty-four of the studies find student academic gains in public charter schools are greater than or comparable to those in traditional public schools. Of the twelve new studies, ten show greater or comparable gains in public charter schools. The full “What We Know” report is available at <http://publiccharters.org/content/publication/detail/2974/>.

“We’re encouraged that the most recent research continues to confirm that charters are generating strong growth in student achievement, in many cases outperforming that of traditional schools,” says Smith. “We hope that policymakers will take a good look at this evidence when considering how to meet the educational needs of American families.”

For the 2007-08 school year, about 4,200 charter schools are operating in 40 states and DC, serving approximately 1.2 million students.

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools ([www.publiccharters.org](http://www.publiccharters.org)) is the national nonprofit organization committed to advancing the charter school movement. The Alliance works to increase the number of high performing charter schools available to all families, particularly low-income and minority families who currently do not have access to quality public schools. The Alliance provides assistance to state charter school associations and resource centers, develops and advocates for improved public policies, and serves as the united voice for this large and diverse movement.

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