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NEWS RELEASE

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STILL TOO EARLY TO JUDGE CHARTER SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Would students achieve more in public schools free of many rules in your local school district? The Comptroller's Office of Education Accountability released a report today that examines both state and national research about charter schools and how they perform, and found both the schools and research about them still evolving.

The report, titled "A Look at Tennessee's Charter Schools," found that national research shows some charter schools out-perform traditional public schools, while others do not. Different results probably arise from diverse charter school characteristics and contextual factors, as well as various research methods and outcome measurement.

There appear to be some characteristics common to many successful charter schools, such as teacher commitment, data-driven instructional practices, strategic use of time, and community involvement with the school. Interestingly, high-performing traditional public schools often share these same characteristics.

Government processes for authorizing charter schools appear to affect success, as do stable funding, facilities, and adequate planning and implementation time.

The report recommends that Tennessee improve charter school authorization, planning, and oversight procedures. The state should also distribute information about successful charter schools practices, and collect and analyze more comprehensive measures of charter school performance.

The report is available on the Comptroller's Web site at www.comptroller.state.tn.us.

For additional information about this report, please **contact**:

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