



# State of Tennessee

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## State Comptroller's Office Releases Second Charter School Task Force Report

A task force has made recommendations regarding charter school applications, reporting requirements and transportation. Several other policy issues related to charter schools were identified in the task force's report, which was released today by the Comptroller's Offices of Research and Education Accountability (OREA).

In 2008, the Tennessee General Assembly created the Charter School Task Force. The task force is comprised of local education agency representatives, charter school representatives, a representative of the Tennessee Department of Education and a representative of the Tennessee State Board of Education. OREA has facilitated task force discussions and created the task force's final report.

The report, "Legislative Brief: Charter School Task Force Report – February 2011," provides an overview of charter schools in Tennessee along with a brief summary of relative legislation.

Task force policy suggestions outlined in the report include:

- State and district laws and policies related to charter school applications should be amended. Major changes should include: creation of a standard set of waivers, creation of multi-tier applications and streamlining the application process.
- Clarifying the responsibility for compliance with state reporting requirements and creating a time line that would outline the mandated requirements to the state, including deadlines.
- Further legal clarification is needed regarding provision of transportation by charter schools, to specify that they are not required to provide transportation in the exact manner as school districts.

The report summarizes task force discussions on facilities funding and the schedule of local payments to charter schools. The task force was unable to reach consensus on those issues.

This report is the second Charter School Task Force report. The first report was released in March 2010.

OREA is an agency within the Comptroller's Office that is charged with providing accurate and

objective policy research and analysis for the Tennessee General Assembly and the public.

To view the report online, go to: <http://www.comptroller1.state.tn.us/OREA/>

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