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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: June 15, 2009

Only 6 New Mexico Charter Schools Performing Better Than Regular Public Schools, According to Study

SANTA FE – Only six charter schools in New Mexico are exceeding academic outcomes of traditional public schools across the state, according to a study by the Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO) at Stanford University. The majority of charter schools are keeping pace with traditional schools.

The study was independently commissioned by the Public Education Department's (PED) Charter School Division to address quality authorization for charter schools. It became a comprehensive academic study of charter schools in 16 states, and the District of Columbia, including the first comparative study of New Mexico charter schools with their traditional public school counterparts.

"I urge parents, Charter School Authorizers and the PED Charter School Division to take a closer look at this report, carefully examining the six out-performing schools and share their best practices with educators," said New Mexico Education Secretary Dr. Veronica C. García.

"Overall the range of performance for New Mexico's charter schools mirrors the performance of our traditional schools," Secretary García continued. "It appears that the major difference provided by charter schools is choice in curricular focus and school size. These factors are attractive to some of our families."

The New Mexico study will continue under the direction of CREDO for the next two years. After the three-year examination by CREDO, the study protocols will continue under the direction of the New Mexico Public Education Department. The study will provide authorizers and charter schools an additional method for viewing the academic performance of students in both charter and traditional public schools.

Highlights of the study include:

- Charter schools are a strong force in New Mexico for public school choice with 73 charter schools in operation by July 1, 2009.
- Parents continue to demonstrate the need for charter schools as a viable public school choice as over 68% of charter schools reporting a waiting list for enrollment.
- 6 charter schools were academically outperforming their traditional public schools counterparts. (A list of these schools is at the end of the news release.)
- 27 charter school students were achieving at the same level of academic performance as their traditional public school counterparts. (A list of these schools is at the end of the news release.)
- 12 charter schools had mixed results of student performance. (A list of these schools is at the end of the news release.)
- 10 charter schools were performing lower than their traditional public schools (A list of these schools is at the end of the news release.)
- Charter schools are drawing lower-performing students from traditional public schools.

- Charter schools need to offer more educational opportunities that will continue to attract at-risk, English Language Learners, and special-needs students.
- Greater emphasis should be focused on attracting a diverse student population to charter schools that is reflective of the total student enrollment across the state of New Mexico.

Media can request a free copy of the full New Mexico State Charter School Analysis and obtain more information on the study at www.credo.stanford.edu.

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Charter schools academically outperforming their traditional public schools counterparts

- Sidney Gutierrez Middle School (Roswell)
- Southwest Primary Learning Center (Albuquerque)
- Albuquerque Institute of Math & Science (Albuquerque)
- La Academia Dolores Huerta (Las Cruces)
- Turquoise Trail Charter School (Santa Fe)
- Twenty-First Century Charter School (Albuquerque)

Charter schools achieving at the same level of academic performance as traditional public school counterparts

- Aldo Leopold Charter School (Silver City)
- Alma d' Arte Charter High School (Las Cruces)
- Amistad Charter (Clayton) (Closed)
- Bridge Academy (Las Vegas) (Closed)
- Cesar Chavez Community School (Albuquerque)
- Charter School 37 (Santa Fe) (Tierra Encantada)
- Creative Ed. Preparatory Institute #1 (Albuquerque)
- Creative Ed. Preparatory Institute #2 (Albuquerque)
- Digital Arts & Technology Academy (Albuquerque)
- East Mountain High School (Albuquerque)
- Horizon Academy West (Albuquerque)
- La Resolana Leadership Academy (Albuquerque)
- Lacy Simms Middle School (Alamogordo) (Closed)
- Montessori Elementary School (Albuquerque)
- Montessori of the Rio Grande (Albuquerque)
- Moreno Valley High School (Albuquerque)
- North Albuquerque Co-op Community (Albuquerque)
- Nuestros Valores Charter School (Albuquerque)
- Ralph J. Bunche Academy (Albuquerque)
- Red River Valley Charter School (Questa)
- Rio Gallinas School (West Las Vegas)
- Robert F. Kennedy Charter School (Albuquerque)
- Roots & Wings Community School (Questa)
- San Diego Riverside Charter School (Jemez Valley)
- South Valley Academy (Albuquerque)
- Taos Municipal Charter School (Taos)
- Youth Build Community Charter (Albuquerque)

Charter schools with mixed results of student performance

- Academia de Lengua y Cultura (Albuquerque)
- Amy Biel Charter High School (Albuquerque)
- Cottonwood Valley Charter School (Socorro)
- Christine Duncan Community School (Albuquerque)
- El Camino Real Academy (Albuquerque)
- Española Military Academy (Española)

- La Luz del Monte Learning Center (Albuquerque)
- Native American Community Academy (Albuquerque)
- Southwest Secondary Learning Center (Albuquerque)
- Public Academy for Performing Arts (Albuquerque)
- The Learning Community School (Albuquerque)
- Walatowa Charter High School (Jemez Valley)

Charter schools performing lower than traditional public schools

- Academy for Technology and the Classics (Albuquerque)
- Deming Cesar Chavez Charter School (Deming)
- Horizon Academy Prep High School (Albuquerque)
- Jefferson Montessori Academy (Carlsbad)
- La Academia de Esperanza (Albuquerque)
- Los Puentes Charter School (Albuquerque)
- Monte del Sol Charter School (Santa Fe)
- Mosaic Academy Charter (Aztec)
- North Valley Academy (Albuquerque)
- Village Academy (Bernalillo)