

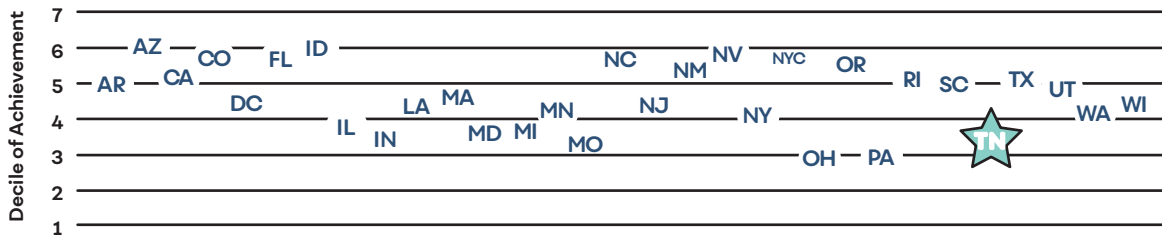
# Tennessee Public Charter School Students See Strong Growth

A common claim asserts that positive academic results in charter schools arise from advantages that their students bring to their schooling. In some cases, the claim suggests that charter schools target enrollment efforts at high-achieving students, a practice commonly referred to as “cherry picking” or “skimming.” When considering this concept in relation to Tennessee public charter schools, it’s important to understand that the opposite is true.

According to a national study of 1.8 million charter students by Stanford University’s Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO), **Tennessee charter students, on average, have lower achievement when entering their charter school compared to the national charter sector overall** — only three states enroll charter students with average entering achievement lower than Tennessee’s. This difference is likely because Tennessee charters are concentrated in underserved urban areas, and the stated purpose of Tennessee charter schools is explicitly “to close achievement gaps and provide quality educational options for all students.”<sup>1</sup>

Despite this low entering achievement, Tennessee charter school students are experiencing significant growth. In fact, **Tennessee charter school students have one of the highest growth rates in the country.**

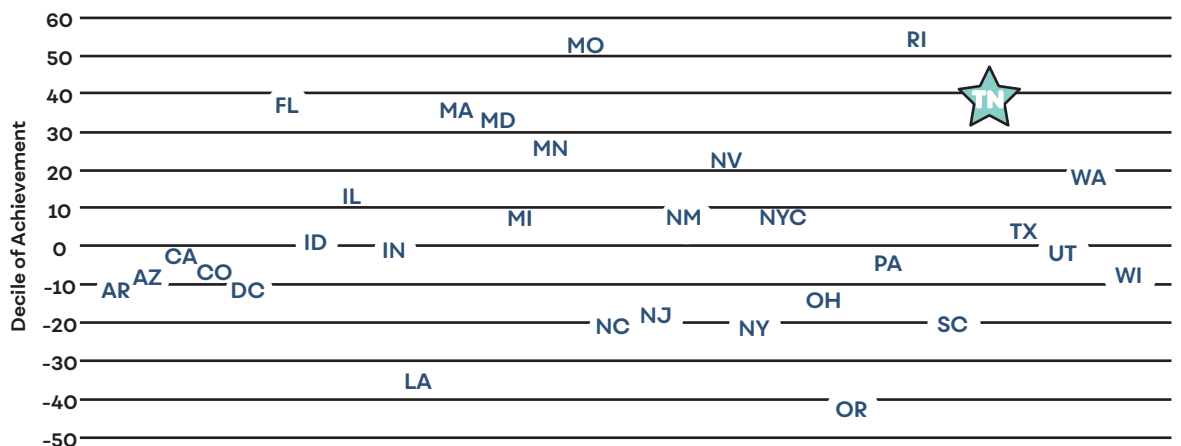
## TN Public Charter Students on Average Have Lower Entering Achievement Compared To Other States



Average achievement of all charter students by state, math 2017. Source: CREDO, 2023



## TN Public Charter Students Have One of the Highest Growth Rates in the Country



Average academic growth of charter students by state, math 2017. Source: CREDO, 2023



<sup>1</sup> TCA 49-13-102; TCA 49-13-106