Nashville Charter Schools Provide Families With An Alternative To Priority Schools In Their Area

For the 2022-23 school year, Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) had 19 priority schools serving over 9,000 students. Eighteen of these priority schools are traditional district-run schools and one is a charter school.

Charter schools are a free public school option, with many located near Nashville’s lowest-performing schools (priority schools). By intentionally locating in clusters with those 19 priority schools, 38 Nashville charter schools provide another closely located option for families who may be zoned to a priority school, while these priority schools are receiving the supports necessary to improve.

Definitions

Charter school. The Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) defines a charter school as a public school operated by an independent, nonprofit governing body. At public charter schools in Tennessee, students are taught and held to the same academic standards as students enrolled in other public schools.

Source: Tennessee Department of Education – Charter Schools FAQ

Priority school. These schools perform in the bottom 5 percent of schools in the state based on multiple years of Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) results. Any school with a graduation rate lower than 67 percent also earns priority status. At the federal level, these schools are referred to as comprehensive support and improvement (CSI) schools.

Source: Tennessee Department of Education – 2022 School Accountability