

## Charter School Enrollment Tops 3 Million Students

**“Today, there are more than 3 million students enrolled in over 6,900 charter public schools and the demand for innovative and effective schools is growing. All parents want more high-quality public school options in their communities, but in too many cases these demands are going unmet. The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools is committed to ensuring that all students across our country have access to high-quality public education options and that all parents have a choice in finding a school that meets their child’s needs. As this report makes clear, there is more work to do in order to bring charter public schools to the communities that want them.”**

Nina Rees, President & CEO of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

### KEY FINDINGS

- Total charter school enrollment surpassed 3 million students for the first time.
- In 2016-17, there are more than 6,900 charter schools, enrolling an estimated 3.1 million students.
- Over the past 10 years, enrollment in charter schools has nearly tripled.
- Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, estimated charter school enrollment increased by more than 200,000 students.
- Across the country, more than 300 charter schools opened in fall 2016.

### SUPPORT FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

- In a recent survey of 1,000 parents, 73 percent of parents favored increasing the number of charter schools nationwide.
- The same survey found that 78 percent of parents who have charter schools in their community, and 73 percent of parents who do not, reported that they favor having one open in their neighborhood.

### INCREASED DEMAND FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

- Demand for charter schools is increasing and there is significant unmet demand due to lack of capacity.
- Ten percent of parents indicated that a charter school would be their first choice – meaning that there are at least 2 million additional students whose parents would enroll them in a charter school today if they could.
- Over 50 percent of parents who have charter schools in their community cite access problems – including excessive distance to the schools and demand being higher than the number of available seats – as barriers to sending their child to a charter school.<sup>1</sup>

## About the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

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The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools is the leading national nonprofit organization committed to advancing the public charter school movement. Our mission is to lead public education to unprecedented levels of academic achievement by fostering a strong charter sector. For more information, please visit [www.publiccharters.org](http://www.publiccharters.org).

1. “Demanding a Chance: Parents’ Demand for Charter Public Schools Continues to Grow,” National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, April 28, 2016 (<http://www.publiccharters.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Parent-Survey-Report.pdf>).