



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, charter schools are public schools that increase learning opportunities for all students and provide families with expanded choices within the public school system; and

WHEREAS, there are 116 charter schools operating in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, charter schools serve more than 43,900 students in Tennessee, representing four percent of the public school population in the state; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, Tennessee was the 38th state in the nation to establish charter schools; and

WHEREAS, charter schools serve as beacons of innovation and produce effective models of education, of significance to all public schools; and

WHEREAS, many charter schools are designed specifically to serve children from traditionally underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, charter schools have made dramatic gains in accelerating the closing of the achievement gap for those underserved populations, increasing the graduation rate and improving college readiness; and

WHEREAS, charter schools offer a variety of learning environments and emphases, including college-preparedness, career technical education, arts, and sciences; and

WHEREAS, charter schools play an integral role in Tennessee's public education system, the communities in which they operate, the families they serve, and the students' lives they impact; and

WHEREAS, by providing high-quality education to students, charter schools contribute to the statewide effort to improve education in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, charter schools encourage community and parental involvement in the education of our youth; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee joins the many public charter school teachers, leaders, advocates, parents, and students in celebrating the accomplishments and contributions of charter schools to public education;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 7-13, 2023, as

Charter Schools Week

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this seventh day of May 2023.

Handwritten signature of Bill Lee in black ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Judith Siskind in blue ink.

Secretary of State

