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MORE THAN 90% OF CHARTER SCHOOLS TESTED PASSED THE FCAT

Tallahassee, FL – July 2008 – Public charter schools in Florida are making the grade. According to school grades released today by the Florida Department of Education, approximately 90 percent of Florida public charter schools tested earned an ‘A’, ‘B’ or ‘C’ on the 2007-2008 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test.

A number of public charter schools improved their overall grade compared to last year:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
<u>Broward County</u>		
Paragon Elementary Charter School	A	B
Broward Community Charter Middle	A	B
Smart School Charter Middle	B	D
Parkway Academy High School	C	F
<u>Escambia</u>		
Beulah Academy of Science	A	B
Byrneville Elementary School	A	B
Jackie Harris Preparatory Academy	B	C
<u>Flagler</u>		
Summit Academy	B	C
<u>Gadsden</u>		
Crossroad Academy	A	B
<u>Indian River</u>		
St. Peter’s Academy	A	C
<u>Lake</u>		
South Lake Charter Elementary School	B	C
<u>Lee</u>		
Lee Charter Academy	A	D
Cape Coral Charter School	B	C
Six Mile Charter Academy	C	D
<u>Orange</u>		
Passport Charter School	A	B
Northstar High Charter	B	F

Miami-Dade

Mater Performing Arts & Entertainment	A	D
Mater Academy Charter High School	A	C
Coral Reef Montessori Academy Charter	A	B
Mater Gardens Academy	A	B
The Charter School at Waterstone	A	B
Keys Gate Charter School	A	B
Somerset Academy Charter Middle	A	B
Mater Academy Charter Middle	A	B
Renaissance Middle Charter	A	B
International Studies Charter High	A	B
Downtown Miami Charter School	C	F
Lawrence Academy	C	F

Osceola

Bellalago Academy	A	C
Four Corners Charter School	A	B
P. M. Wells Charter Academy	B	D
Canoe Creek Charter Academy	C	D

Palm Beach

Leadership Academy West	A	F
JFK Medical Center Charter School	A	C
Bright Futures International	A	B
G-Star School of the Arts	B	C

Polk

Hillcrest Elementary School	A	B
McKeel Academy of Technology	A	B
Berkley Elementary	A	B

Sarasota

Island Village Montessori Middle	A	C
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Public charter schools are a vital, thriving component of Florida's K-12 public education system. Charter schools are public schools that are operated by individuals or groups under contract with their sponsor – usually a local public school district. They are required to participate in federal and state accountability programs, such as FCAT and No Child Left Behind, and are held strictly accountable for both academic and financial performance. There are currently more than 360 public charter schools in the state of Florida serving more than 104,000 K through 12th grade students.