



National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

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TEN PUBLIC CHARTER HIGH SCHOOLS AMONG BEST IN NATION, ACCORDING TO NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE SURVEY

BASIS Charter of Tucson Rated America's Top School

May 20, 2008 – Washington DC – Ten public charter schools are among the top 100 best high schools in America as graded by Newsweek magazine's Challenge Index Rating, including BASIS Charter School in Tucson, cited as the nation's top-ranked high school in the survey released this week.

The achievement is significant because public charter schools currently comprise only approximately 3% of all public schools nationwide and are more likely to enroll students from disadvantaged communities than traditional public high schools.

"While only about 3% of all schools, ten public charters made the top 100, demonstrating that the charter school principles of accountability and innovation are producing remarkable results," said National Alliance for Public Charter Schools President Nelson Smith. "We congratulate the students and teachers of BASIS Charter School and the other nine public charter high schools for their achievement."

The top public charter schools making the list are:

School	Location	Overall Rank
BASIS Charter	Tucson, Arizona	1
Pruess Charter	San Diego, California	4
Match Charter	Boston, Massachusetts	25
Benjamin Franklin Charter	New Orleans, Louisiana	35
Raleigh Charter	Raleigh, North Carolina	27
Peak to Peak Charter	Lafayette, Colorado	40

Sturgis Charter	Hyannis, Massachusetts	43
Moreno Valley Charter	Angel Fire, New Mexico	51
Charter School of Wilmington	Wilmington, Delaware	98
Signature Charter	Evansville, Indiana	99

Charter schools are public schools with unique traits that increase the likelihood of a successful education for a child.

- Charter schools have increased flexibility to adapt to the educational needs of individual children, make timely decisions about developing curriculum, structure the school day, and hire teachers who meet the needs of their students.
- Charters operate within a multi-tiered accountability system – to parents, authorizers, the state, and lenders – that leads to quality schools and high achievement.
- Parents elect to send their children to charters, and teachers choose to work in them.

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About the survey:

[Newsweek's Challenge Index](#) is a ratio of the number of students taking rigorous high school achievement exams such as the Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Cambridge tests divided by the number of students in the school's graduating class. Consequently, the index identifies schools with the most rigorous academic environment place.

About the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools:

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (www.publiccharters.org) is the national nonprofit organization committed to advancing the charter school movement. The Alliance works to increase the number of high-performing charter schools available to all families, particularly low-income and minority families who currently do not have access to quality public schools. The Alliance provides assistance to state charter school associations and resource centers, develops and advocates for improved public policies, and serves as the united voice for this large and diverse movement.

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