



## National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

For Immediate Release  
May 28, 2009

Contact: Bill Schulz  
(202) 521-2828  
Sarah Johnson  
(202) 521-2826  
[pressroom@publiccharters.org](mailto:pressroom@publiccharters.org)

### **Report Calls on Public Charter Schools to Maintain High Standards for Operations**

Washington, D.C. – A new report released today by the National Consensus Panel on Charter School Quality calls on public charter schools to maintain high standards for financial performance and sustainability, parent and community involvement, and governing board stewardship.

The 16-page report, *A Framework for Operational Quality*, is designed as a guide for charter school leaders and support organizations as they establish schools that are prepared to achieve and sustain success. It recommends that leaders adopt a specific series of essential indicators, measures, metrics and targets for their operations. The report also serves to advise authorizers, philanthropists and lenders in monitoring the operational practices of high-quality public charter schools.

“Like all public schools, high-quality charter schools must have sound financial, governance, and operational infrastructures that support academic success,” said National Alliance for Public Charter Schools CEO Nelson Smith. “In order to be successful, the charter school movement must be both self-critical and self-aware. The National Consensus Panel on Charter School Quality has worked hard to agree on these core indicators and to define a course for promoting their adoption across the charter sector.” Smith added: “We encourage leaders to use this framework in conjunction with the previously published *Framework on Academic Quality* to establish a strong academic and operational foundation and then to build upon it with additional measures suitable for the mission of each individual school.”

“Recent reports indicate that two-thirds of mid-term charter revocations have happened for reasons other than academic performance,” said Macke Raymond, Director of the Center for Education Outcomes (CREDO) at Stanford University. “This may be because financial and organizational failures are often evident before academic shortcomings,

but it confirms that sound operations must be in place to ensure charter school success. The framework provides all different constituencies within the movement a common basis from which to examine the performance of charters in these important areas.”

The report is available on-line at  
<http://www.publiccharters.org/Framework+for+Operational+Quality>

The project’s National Consensus Panel is composed of more than two dozen education reform professionals and foundation executives playing leading roles in the charter school movement nationally, assisted by convening partners from the National Association of Charter School Authorizers, the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, CREDO at Stanford University, and the Colorado League of Charter Schools. A Framework for Operational Quality is the second publication in a series of initiatives of the three-year Building Charter School Quality project funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

The report will be the subject of a special panel, “Adoption of the BCSQ Initiative” at the 9th Annual National Charter Schools Conference in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, June 23, 10:15 a.m., in Room 206, Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

## #

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools ([www.publiccharters.org](http://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. Currently, more than 1.4 million students attend 4,600 public charter schools in 40 states and the District of Columbia. The first charter school opened in Minnesota in 1992. Growth has risen sharply recently, with over 1,000 schools opening in the past three years.