

# THE Center for Education Reform



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## EDUCATION REFORM MILESTONES: FLORIDA, ILLINOIS, CONNECTICUT

ORLANDO, FL (3/12/95) As the movement for reform grows, several states have broken ground in creating better educational opportunities. In Florida, a group of dedicated citizens yesterday launched a private scholarship program to assist underprivileged families in securing a better education for their children. The CEO Foundation of Central Florida will help 200 children initially this fall with matching grants for tuition at any private school. The Orlando-based program is the newest of nearly two dozen such programs throughout the nation. Research has shown that most of the over 10,000 children in these programs do better academically than their public school counterparts and parents become more involved in their education.

This is just the latest in a series of reform milestones reached over the last five days. On Wednesday, the Illinois state Senate voted to provide 2000 low-income Chicago children with the option of attending the school of their choice.

In New Hampshire on Thursday the Senate came one step closer to passing a charter school bill in hearings that convinced many members of the benefits.

Continuing this momentum, a joint legislative committee in Connecticut meets Monday to hear testimony on a school choice and charter school bill that lost last year by only a tie vote. US Senator Joe Lieberman is among the bi-partisan group of state leaders in support.

Finally, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge is leading a rally in the state capitol rotunda at 11am Tuesday, March 14th in support of his budget proposal last week for expanded choice for children and teachers.

"Throughout the country, leaders are heeding the call of millions of deserving families whose children trapped in schools that don't meet their needs. These programs can only help these children" says Jeanne Allen, President of The Center for Education Reform.

For more information about private programs call CEO America President Fritz Steiger at (501) 273-6957. The Center for Education Reform is a national, non-partisan clearinghouse for reforms, research and action in education. For more information, please call the Washington, DC based Center at (202) 822-9000.