

THE Center for Education Reform



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April 23, 1998

"YOU SAY YOU WANT A REVOLUTION...." US NEWS & WORLD REPORT RESPONSE FROM JEANNE ALLEN

The impact of the April 27th report on charter schools in U.S. News & World Report is clearly being felt in states and cities nationwide. A few mischaracterizations and some blatant errors are cause enough in a movement so volatile that it tends to ebb and flow on information alone.

The Center has crafted a response aimed at setting the record straight, and we invite and encourage your input. Here's how you can help: Our web site has the response posted clearly at <http://edreform.com/usnews.htm>. We'd like you to review this, and share it with others as you see appropriate. But, you can also add your own corrections to those we've compiled. After a few days, we'll pull the "working document," edit it for consistency, and distribute it via mail and electronically to those who will no doubt need it the most — those in the trenches. Please be sure to leave your name and affiliation if you want to be listed as a "sponsor" of the final version. We'll make sure you get a copy to review, but want to make clear up front that we view this very much as a group effort. If, on the other hand, you find, as some have, that the U.S. News piece was just fine, disregard this plea.

Second request: When we distribute the final piece, we'd like to send along with it any responses to the magazine you may have drafted, or any important news articles of recent months that help balance out the negatives in this "news" piece. Please send (don't fax) your best copy of any materials to us as soon as you can.

Our goal is to have a package to anyone concerned with charter schools on a state or local level within the next 7-10 days. As has been the case with numerous other negative reports on reform, these unfortunate occurrences have a habit of developing a "shelf-life," and people who are working on charter schools across the land will no doubt need all the information they can get.

You can call me, or Chris at the Center if you have questions, or e-mail us via the web. If for some reason you can't pull down our Response on the web, call and we'll fax it to you.

Thanks for all of your help.

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