

THE Center for Education Reform



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NEWS ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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NEW INFORMATION ABOUT CHARTER SCHOOLS RELEASED SHOWING ONLY 4 PERCENT FAILURE RATE

(Washington, DC, 1/16/00) The Center for Education Reform today announced the release of new information documenting the success and accountability of the charter school movement.

As reported in CHARTER SCHOOLS TODAY: CHANGING THE FACE OF AMERICAN EDUCATION when it was released nearly a year ago, far from being an indictment of charter schools, closures provide real contractual accountability, which is all too often missing at many traditional public schools. The release of this data is a clear indication that charter school accountability programs are working.

With the number of charter schools at an all-time high of approximately 2,000 schools open and operating, the attention on their progress, missteps and activities is ever sharper. This report separates charter school closures into two main categories: failures and consolidations. As of December 2000, the number of failed charter schools stands at 86, and makes up 4 percent of the overall number of charter schools ever opened in the U.S. There are an additional 26 charter schools that were consolidated into their local school districts for a variety of reasons.

While the vast majority of charter schools are not in question, some schools simply fail to do what they are supposed to do. The question for observers and policy makers shouldn't be whether or not charter schools fail, but whether or not all schools, regardless of their category, are so sufficiently accountable that their lack of progress would lead to their closure.

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A copy of this report is available on-line at http://www.edreform.com/pubs/cs_closures.htm or by calling the Center at (202) 822-9000. The cost of the report is \$5.95 (free to members).

The Center for Education Reform is a national, independent, non-profit advocacy organization providing support and guidance to individuals, community and civic groups, policymakers and others who are working to bring fundamental reforms to their schools. For further information, please call (202) 822-9000 or visit our website at <http://edreform.com>.