



## FAX ALERT

For Immediate Release

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### CHARTER SCHOOLS PROVE POSITIVE IMPACT ON HOME DISTRICTS

July 22, 1999 Charter schools improve public education! So concludes research performed by the Center for Education Reform and released in its new report *Charter Schools: A Progress Report Part III: The Ripple Effect – A Cresting Wave*.

Solid evidence proves the positive impact charter schools are having on their traditional public school counterparts.

By September 1999, more than 1,400 charter schools will be operating in 34 states and the District of Columbia. Thirty-seven charter laws have now been enacted. "In *The Ripple Effect – A Cresting Wave*," CER provides dozens of examples of the tangible effects charter schools have had on their host districts," said Jeanne Allen, President of CER. "From curriculum changes to private partnerships to uniforms and longer school days and smaller classes to new business practices, charter schools have changed the face of U.S. education and have tipped the balance toward real and lasting reform," continued Allen.

*Following are examples of the ripple effect charter schools have made:*

- Responding to the popularity of two charter schools in the **Duluth** (MN) school district, the rest of the Duluth system has adopted several of the charter schools' most successful features including a longer school day, upgraded technology, and special reading and math programs.
- In **Mesa**, Arizona the school district has launched a major advertising campaign to win back some of the 5,000 students currently enrolled in local charter schools.
- The *Princeton Charter School* (NJ) has inspired the local district to copy its academic program and hiring practices.
- District schools in **Toledo** (OH) will implement many practices of the *Edison Project's* charter model including extending the school day and year and extending reading and math classes.

In some communities, just the anticipation of charter schools is creating reform. CER's latest paper proves what many on the forefront of education have known for a long time – charter schools help all students; those in their classrooms and those choosing to remain in traditional public schools.

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Copies are available from CER at minimal cost or can be directly accessed from CER's website at [www.edreform.com](http://www.edreform.com). For additional information on charter schools or other areas relating education reform, please contact the Center at (202) 822-9000.