

THE Center for Education Reform



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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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CONGRESS LOOKS AT CHARTER SCHOOLS *Tours of D.C. Schools Brings Focus on Charter Contributions*

(Washington, DC 5/2/2000) Capping off National Charter Schools Week, on Friday, May 5, 2000, a Congressional delegation will arrive via school bus to tour two of the District's Charter Schools. This congressional tour will bring onto the national stage the focus of Charter Schools achievements and activities.

The purpose of the Congressional Salute to Charter Schools, organized by CER, is to bolster the visibility of charter schools and highlight the activities taking place around the country under the leadership of state charter school resource centers in nearly every state.

The School for Arts in Learning and Hospitality Public Charter School will open their doors to Honorary Co-Chairs of the Congressional Salute to Charter Schools – Reps. Tim Roemer and Peter Hoekstra – as well as any others from the delegation and members of the press.

"I previously have had the opportunity to tour several charter schools in the District of Columbia, and I look forward to Friday's visit as an opportunity to see and learn how these public schools are working hard to bring about new ideas and innovation," said Roemer.

"Charter schools are a creative way to reform and improve our public schools. Education reform is a top priority for Americans. I hear about the importance of this issue from parents, businesses, and

educators. They understand that if America is going to excel in the next century we must concentrate on improving our public schools."

"During our work on the Education at a Crossroads project, we have visited many charter schools throughout the United States," said Congressman Pete Hoekstra, chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the House Education and the Workforce Committee. "We continually find that charter schools provide parents, teachers and administrators the flexibility and accountability they need to ensure that students get the best educational experience possible."

Senators Judd Gregg and Joseph Lieberman who also serve as honorary co-chairs of the congressional Salute to charters invite their colleagues to join them on the school bus tour on Friday, May 5 from 8:00 am to 10:00. am. Please call CER at 202-822-9000 to reserve a space.

Members of the press are welcome to join the members of Congress on the school bus but, must RSVP to Mary Kayne Heinze at the Center for Education Reform. Please note that immediately following tours, Hospitality High will hold press conference to issue its report card on student achievement.

SCHOOL INFORMATION:

School for Arts and Learning

100 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Grades K-5

This is an alternative learning community for children with special needs, particularly learning disabilities. Emphasizes education through the arts to stimulate intellectual, emotional, physical and social development.

TOUR: 8:30 AM TO 9:00 AM

Hospitality Public Charter School

1225 Eye Street, N.W.
Suite 551
Washington, DC
Grade: 9

Provides students with strong preparation for continuing education and/or career in career in the hospitality industry. Includes paid internship, industry related technology systems training, student learning projects and mentor

TOUR: 9:15 AM TO 9:45 AM