

# Center for Education Reform



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## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
August 14, 1998

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### EDUCATION ENTREPRENEURS: GIVING OUR KIDS A FIGHTING CHANCE

#### *CER UNVEILS FIRST IN A SERIES ON CONTRACTING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS*

**Washington, DC** — Education entrepreneurs are changing the face of education in America today. Confronted with conclusive data on declining academic achievement, low test scores and real indicators of the failure of the educational system, schools and school districts have entered into new partnerships with private companies to provide academic services for their students. Polls show that choice, particularly through public-private arrangements, is an option that is becoming widely embraced.

Today, 11 states including Washington, DC, are home to district-wide partnerships with private management organizations. Over 80% of all school districts outsource to private business for services including transportation, food service and even education service. Many districts are turning to the private sector to address the problem of low performing students and the results have been encouraging. The Center for Education Reform (CER) explores these new arrangements in its most recent Action Paper, **Creating a Revolution: From the Boardroom to the Classroom; New Partners in Education.**

The emerging industry is both well intentioned and profitable. "Like any other business, these companies operate under the principle that success is dependent on satisfaction and results," stated Jeanne Allen, President of CER. "That kind of accountability in education is a concept that has become lost through the years." The movement toward expanding public-private partnerships is predictably facing opposition from those organizations who stand to lose what was a previously held monopoly in their workplace, our children's schools.

The paper provides anecdotal success stories of some current programs and reviews opposition faced by some districts in trying to implement similar programs in their areas. Copies of **Creating a Revolution: From the Boardroom to the Classroom; New Partners in Education**, can be obtained by calling The Center for Education Reform at (202) 822-9000 or can be downloaded from CER's website at "edreform.com."

*The Center for Education Reform is a national, independent, non-profit advocacy organization providing support to individuals and groups who are working to bring fundamental reforms to their schools. CER is the leading authority for information on innovative reforms in education and works in states and communities across the country to advance the cause of educational excellence.*

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