

Hudson Institute

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hudson Institute Awarded Pew Grant to Study Charter Schools

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN July 14, 1995 The Pew Charitable Trusts have awarded a two-year grant to Hudson Institute's Educational Excellence Network to examine the implementation of charter schools in seven states. The project is entitled *Reinventing Public Education: An Analysis of Charter Schools*.

What is entailed in actually bringing successful charter schools into being? What problems do they encounter? What solutions do they devise? In what policy environments are they more apt to thrive or falter? What impact are they having on communities and states? The Educational Excellence Network will illuminate both policy and practical issues surrounding the implementation of charter schools, including finances, governance, regulations, facilities, enrollment and personnel.

Through site visits, interviews and other means, project staff will gather, analyze and disseminate information about these schools, their communities and their states, information that will assist policy-makers and educators and will widen public understanding of the strengths and limits of this education reform strategy.

Approximately 35 charter sites per year will be invited to participate in the project. They will be selected from schools operating (or charters granted but not yet operating) in Minnesota, California, Arizona, Colorado, Michigan, Massachusetts and Wisconsin.

Primary project staff are Hudson senior fellows Chester E. Finn, Jr., (John M. Olin Fellow) and Bruno V. Manno, and Adjunct Fellow Louann A. Bierlein. They will be assisted by a network of advisors in participating states.

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The Educational Excellence Network has served as an information clearinghouse for education reformers since 1982. It has been part of Hudson Institute since 1992. The Network is directed by Finn and Diane Ravitch.

Founded in 1961 by the late Herman Kahn, Hudson Institute helps shape the future through research designed to anticipate the political, economic, and cultural trends critical to the success of U.S. public policy and business today and into the 21st century.

The Pew Charitable Trusts, a national and international philanthropy with a special commitment to Philadelphia, supports nonprofit activities in the areas of culture, education, the environment, health and human services, public policy and religion. Through their grantmaking, the Trusts seek to encourage individual development and personal achievement, cross-disciplinary problem solving and innovative, practical approaches to meeting the changing needs of a global community.

For further information, contact Bruno Manno or Chester Finn at (202) 223-5450 or Louann Bierlein at (504) 388-5006.