



1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 204 | Washington, DC 20036

Tel 202-822-9000  
Fax 202-822-5077

**Embargoed for Release  
on 2/11/2004**

**Contact: Mary Kayne Heinze  
(202) 822-9000**

## NUMBER OF CHARTER SCHOOLS OPERATING UP TEN PERCENT

*Additional data find that they remain small, serve special populations and are accountable.*

WASHINGTON, DC -- With a 10 percent increase in the 2003-04 school year, the number of charter schools operating in the United States grew from 2,687 to 2,996, an increase of 309. Since 1992, only nine percent of the total number of charter schools ever opened have been shut down, in most cases a result of rigorous performance contracts, funding inequities and in a few cases, poor management or programs. Other causes of charter school closings range from political or organized labor opposition to zoning impediments.

Among the key findings from the 2004 *Annual Survey of America's Charter Schools*, charter schools are serving a disproportionately high numbers of low-income, at risk and minority students. They use a wider variety of innovate curricula, are smaller, give more instructional time, attract more students than they can serve and still receive fewer dollars than non-charter public schools.

Copies of *Annual Survey of America's Charter Schools* are available and may be purchased by contacting the Center at (202) 822-9000 or through the CER website at <http://www.edreform.com>.

Also released today: *Charter School Laws Across the States: Ranking Scorecard and Legislative Profiles* which rates and ranks the nation's 41 state charter laws on the basis of 10 different criteria.

See <http://www.edreform.com> for more information.

# # #

*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. For more information, contact CER at (202) 822-9000 or send e-mail to [cer@edreform.com](mailto:cer@edreform.com).*