

# THE Center for Education Reform



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## **CER LAUNCHES NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**Washington, D.C., May 2, 2006** – Charter school students are outperforming conventional public school students in cities across the country. More than a million students who were stuck in our nation's failing public schools have found new life in charter schools. To recognize the innovation, accountability, and achievement of these new public schools, The Center for Education Reform (CER) is proud to announce the creation of the National Charter School of the Year Award. The year-long review process will culminate in a gala event during the 2007 National Charter Schools Week. The winning school will receive \$10,000, a trophy, and will be featured in CER's *National Charter School of the Year* program.

"There are more than 3,600 charter schools across the country providing innovative opportunities for children who have been overlooked by the conventional public school system," said CER founder and president Jeanne Allen. "It's about time these schools were given the national recognition they deserve."

Using several criteria, including test results, graduation rate, and successes, every participating charter school will be reviewed and ranked by a blue-ribbon panel of education providers, experts, and researchers. All of the nation's charter schools will receive a National Charter School of the Year Award survey before the end of the summer. Schools will have until December 1, 2006 to complete their survey and present the appropriate data online or through the mail to be considered for the award.

Charter schools are innovative, public schools designed by educators, parents or civic leaders that are open by choice, accountable for results, and free from most rules and regulations governing conventional public schools. Today, more than 3,600 charter schools serve more than a million children in forty states plus the District of Columbia.

Following the presentation of the award during next year's National Charter Schools Week, CER will release the *National Charter School of the Year* program with an in-depth cover story on the winning school, followed by data on the top 100 charter schools in the nation. To ensure that this award is recognized by the President, CER will seek the assistance of the Department of Education and the White House.

"Our polling over the last two years has shown that the public is still uninformed on the issue of charter schools," said Allen. "We hope that this program will shine the spotlight on these innovative schools and will provide CER with more comprehensive data to promote education reform across the country."

For more information about the National Charter School of the Year Award, visit CER at [www.edreform.com](http://www.edreform.com) or email [cer@edreform.com](mailto:cer@edreform.com).

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