

**CHARTER SCHOOLS: A PROGRESS REPORT**  
**PART I: ACHIEVEMENT**  
**A Growing Addendum**

On October 14, 1998 The Center for Education Reform released the first of a series of reports that document the maturation of charter schools. But before the press could cool more achievement data splashed across state newspapers. We expect that this will continue to occur, so we are taking measures to keep our readers up to date with this addendum that will act as a spring board for information heading into updated versions of "New Evidence of Achievement."

**Arizona**

...November 1998

The **Tempe Preparatory Academy's** Stanford 9 test scores were among the best of any in the area. The average score nationwide is 50 (out of 99) in language, math, and reading. Tempe Prep scores ranged from 77 to 90 for the 7<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> graders in 1997-1998. In 1997 scores ranged from 59 to 83. But the school keeps it all in focus. "At the end of the day, what really matters is what we do in our curriculum, "the school's headmaster told *The Tribune*. "One secondary fruit of that are good test scores."

**Delaware**

...October 1998

**The Charter School of Wilmington** achieved the highest average SAT score this year among all Delaware public secondary schools. The charter school averaged a 1,107. The state average was 964 compared to a national average of 1,011.

**New Jersey**

...October 1998

Reading scores for third and eight grade students completing their first year at Trenton's two new charter schools were markedly higher than their counterparts in the city's traditional public schools.

**The Trenton Community Charter School** third grade students scored higher in reading, language and math. According to Spring 1998 Metropolitan Achievement Test

results, the charter schools third grade students scoring at/ above the 50 percentile were 65.9% in reading, 72.7% in math and 47.7% in language. Comparatively, Trenton public school peer percentages were 36.9% in reading, 52.9% in math, and 46.2% language.

Eighth grade students at the **Samuel D. Proctor Academy Charter School** scored higher in math and lower in writing than their peers in traditional Trenton public schools. The charter passed 65% in reading, 44% in math, 20% in writing and 20% in all three exams. The Trenton Public Schools passed 52% in reading, 43% in math, 28% in writing, and 20% in all three.

While the schools are pleased with the progress Thomas Howard Jr., director of the Trenton Community Charter School put it in perspective, "We serve the same community and our goals are the same – to educate students. I'm not interested to see if we do better or worse," he told the *Trentonian*. "I'm interested in educating children. That's my mission, that's my goal."