

THE Center for Education Reform



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EDUCATION PROGRAMS CONSTITUTIONAL; GROWTH STEADY

Studies document court decisions on charter schools and rising enrollment among minorities

Washington, D.C., July 26, 2007 – State rulings on public alternative schools have been issued in the last decade confirming that charter schools are legal instruments of state power. In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on integration, charter schools are permissible, voluntary integration options that have demonstrated steady growth particularly among minority students. These facts are addressed in two reports released by the Center for Education Reform (CER).

State legislators are challenged by opponents of these alternative education programs, who claim that charter schools are unconstitutional. Cases filed in the past eight years in more than 12 states have reached state Supreme Courts, which have found that charter schools are constitutional entities and thus entitled to the same rights and funding as conventional public schools.

Despite legal challenges, charter schools grew by 11 percent in 2006 and continue to serve a student body that is on average 53 percent minority and 54 percent low-income. Charter school popularity continues to grow among children most in need. In 2006, 42 percent of charter schools served an “at-risk” student population over 60 percent and 44 percent served a minority student population over 60 percent.

“The courts by their review and the people by their actions have ruled on this issue,” said Jeanne Allen, president of the Center for Education Reform. “Those who suggest otherwise deliberately hamper important legislative efforts and must be challenged. We believe this information will help reasoned leaders in their work.”

For copies of the two reports: **Understanding Constitutions & Charter Schools** and the **2007 Annual Survey of America’s Charter Schools**, please call Jon Hussey at 1-800-521-2118. For information about The Center for Education Reform (CER) go to www.edreform.com.