

# THE Center for Education Reform



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

Tel 202-822-90  
Fax 202-822-50

## MARYLAND SENDS MESSAGE TO COUNTIES: NO MORE STALLING ON CHARTER SCHOOLS

**(Washington, DC 8/10/04)** Maryland charters got a boost late last week when the State Board of Education ruled that the Prince George's County school board failed to comply with the letter of the law when they delayed consideration of a charter application for the Potomac Charter School.

A determined community group appealed to the state board after the county tabled their charter school application. The county attributed the delay to lack of a completed approval process, but state officials didn't buy it. Prince George's County, like all counties, was supposed to have an approval process in place by the state's Fall 2003 deadline. The state board ruled that Prince George's County's excessive delay was an effective denial of the application.

The community group is in the process of submitting a new application that conforms to now in -place requirements. The state board put further pressure on the county to move forward quickly – demanding that county officials complete their review of the school's application within 60 days of receipt.

A year after the Maryland legislature passed a law authorizing charter schools, the state has yet to open a charter school. Charter proponents throughout Maryland and across the country hope that the state board's recent actions will help fuel a fire -- deterring county officials from stalling on innovation and progress for Maryland kids

# # #

*The Center for Education Reform (CER) is a national advocacy and research organization working with states and communities to provide more choices in education and better schools for all children.*

For more information, contact CER at (202) 822-9000 or visit [www.edreform.com](http://www.edreform.com).