

THE Center for Education Reform



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

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

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Contact: Jon Hussey
(202) 822-9000

PHILADELPHIA'S MULTIPLE PROVIDER MODEL MAKES PROGRESS

Washington, D.C., January 30, 2007 –Five years after the state of Pennsylvania took over the financially and educationally bankrupt school system of Philadelphia, five years after the new, dynamic CEO Paul Vallas was given oversight of the new system, and five years after the new School Reform Commission turned over the worst-performing schools to numerous education service providers to fix, educational progress across all schools in Philadelphia is at a record high. This is the conclusion of a new report released today by the Center for Education Reform (CER). “The Philadelphia Story of 2007: Educational Progress in the City of Brotherly Love” highlights the city’s partnership with numerous Education Service Providers (ESP), whose entry into the city has lifted all boats. Using data and a historical look at trends, the report concludes that “competition works,” and the combination of factors that has helped the city make tremendous progress in a short time needs to continue.

Below is an excerpt from the report:

Philadelphia public schools have seen a radical transformation in the last five years. For the first time in modern history, educational achievement is on the rise in a meaningful way. Such progress is attributable to the introduction of new and varied providers of education, something few traditional education researchers and observers are able to fully acknowledge.

Click here to read the entire report. For more information or to interview CER experts, contact Jon Hussey at 202-822-9000.

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The Center for Education Reform (CER) creates opportunities for and challenges obstacles to better education for America’s communities. Founded in 1993, CER combines education policy with grassroots advocacy to foster positive and bold education reforms. For more information, visit www.edreform.com