

# THE Center for Education Reform



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## THE CENTER FOR EDUCATION REFORM ISSUES COMPREHENSIVE CHARTER SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Jeanne Allen, president of the Center for Education Reform, today announced the release of the Center's National Charter School Directory, the first comprehensive listing of America's charter schools.

"The National Charter School Directory is as important a resource document as it is a guide for others who want to establish charter schools in their states," Allen said. "As a reference it will be invaluable to school administrators and faculty in establishing a mutually-supportive network of charter-school professionals," Allen explained. "But I also believe it will be equally valuable as a starting point for those who are anxious to establish charters in their states and communities."

The Center's Charter School Directory lists, alphabetically and by state, all charter schools operating around the country, as of the close of 1995, and provides a listing of schools by the year they opened. Included in the information are school addresses, telephone numbers and contact names, enrollment figures, grades served and a brief synopsis of each school's philosophy and educational mission.

"It's really very gratifying to review the directory because, as a gauge of the success of the charter school movement, it shows not just what can happen but what is happening in education reform across the country," Allen said.

The Directory identifies 271 charter schools, with a total enrollment of more than 60,000 students, operating in ten states, and illustrates a significant trend toward the establishment of charters, with the number of schools increasing nearly eight-fold (from 36 schools to 271) between 1993 and 1995.

"It's important not to overstate the numbers because, comparatively, they're still small. But it's also important not to understate their significance," Allen said. "They are a ripple that seem to be growing into a wave, particularly as more and more states adopt charter laws." Since the Charter School Directory was printed, two more states -- Illinois and Florida -- have enacted charter school laws and other states have taken up charter bills in legislative committees.

"It's a rapidly developing trend," Allen said, "which is why we called the Directory a 'Working Draft.' It's as up-to-date as it can be considering the pace of reform. We will update it regularly, and we are already in the process of expanding it to include more detailed analyses of the schools, their policies and curricula."

The National Charter School Directory is available, for \$9.95, plus shipping and handling, by contacting The Center for Education Reform at 1001 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 204 NW, Washington, DC 20036. Phone: 202-822-9000. E-Mail: cerdc@aol.com

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