

# THE Center for Education Reform



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## NEWS ALERT

For Immediate Release

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### STATEMENT BY JEANNE ALLEN, PRESIDENT OF THE CENTER FOR EDUCATION REFORM ON THE SELECTION OF THE U.S. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

(Washington, DC 12/29/00) On the appointment by President-elect George W. Bush of Houston Independent School District Superintendent Rod Paige to be Secretary of Education we offer our support and assistance in bringing about much needed change and reform to America's schools.

The Center for Education Reform has noted in the past that Rod Paige is one of those unique local leaders who puts children ahead of conventional wisdom. During his tenure, he has raised the bar for all children, drawing praise from reformers and local union officials alike. He led Houston school district trustees to approve a plan allowing children in failing schools to attend alternatives in the private sector, he has turned several district schools into autonomous charter schools, and he has put his own salary on the line to tie pay to performance, a concept CER supports and believes should transfer to all educational leaders nationwide.

As one of the nation's leading education reform groups, we believe that the President-elect is on the right track to make serious changes in federal policy that can support local reform efforts. With Rod Paige as his Secretary of Education, we are hopeful that change can occur, and offer our help in building bridges to key state and local groups for reform.

His experience will serve President-elect Bush and the nation's school children well and we anxiously await action on the education program proposed by the new administration.

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*The Center for Education Reform is a national, independent, non-profit advocacy organization providing support and guidance to individuals, community and civic groups, policymakers and others who are working to bring fundamental reforms to their schools. For further information, please call (202) 822-9000 or visit our website at <http://edreform.com>.*