

THE Center for Education Reform



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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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CER NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL DIRECTORY 2000 *Now Available*

*Number of charter schools will swell to 1,994 by September,
according to original research by CER*

(Washington, DC 5/3/2000) The number of charter schools in the U.S. surged by nearly 41 percent between the last two school years, increasing from 484 schools to the 1,689 in operation today. Each of these schools, which together serve more than 430,000 children, are profiled in the Center for Education Reform's *National Charter School Directory 2000*, just released in time for National Charter Schools Week, May 1-5.

"By September, the nation's charter school ranks will swell to nearly 2,000 and will be home to more than a half million U.S. children in 34 states," said Jeanne Allen, President of the Center for Education Reform, today in releasing the *National Charter School Directory 2000*, known as the nation's best resource on charter schools.

During the 1999-2000 school year, charters opened for the first time in Missouri and Utah. Charter school laws were either amended or impacted by other measures in seventeen states in 1999. Charter schools serve grades Pre-K-12, and include some adult programs. In today's charter schools, 55 percent of the schools are elementary schools, 20 percent high schools and 24 percent serve both.

For the past 5 years CER has published the nation's only comprehensive directory of charter schools, having distributed ten thousand copies to date.

Included in the 293-page directory are school addresses with contacts and telephone numbers, enrollment figures, grades served and a description of each schools' individual program. The average enrollment of a charter school is 256 students. The directory also includes state and national statistics on operating charter schools and the state by state ranking of charter school laws at-a-glance.

Also available from the Center is the 1997-1998 and 1998-1999 Survey of charter schools, first published as part of *Charter Schools Today: Changing the Face of American Education*, this February.

Copies of CER's *National Charter School Directory 2000* can be obtained exclusively by contacting CER. To order a copy by phone, call (202) 822-9000. Orders may also be placed through the CER website at www.edreform.com/pubs. The price for the Directory is **\$30 plus \$3 shipping and handing**. Special discounts are available. Contact CER for details.

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The Center for Education Reform is a national, independent, non-profit advocacy organization founded in 1993 to provide support and guidance to individuals, community and civic groups, policymakers and others who are working to bring fundamental reforms to their schools.