



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

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

PRESS ALERT

For Immediate Release

**Contact: Mary Kayne Heinze
(202) 822-9000**

NEW DATA MAKES CASE FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

(Washington, DC 9/21/01) The Center for Education Reform (CER) today released additional data documenting the positive effects of charter schools on students, parents and communities.

“The data shows conclusively that charter schools have made an indelible mark on education. Findings continue to reinforce the facts: charter schools are working, parents are happy with them, traditional school districts have been propelled to make improvements and children are thriving in a charter school setting,” observed CER president Jeanne Allen. “These findings and reports are so definitive they leave little room for those that say charter schools hurt public education.”

“What the Research Reveals about Charter Schools” looks at the growing number of national, regional and state charter school studies. Of 65 studies, 61 show positive effects of charter schools. Of particular note are two U.S. Department of Education studies confirming the ripple effect charter schools have on local districts by driving these schools to implement new educational programs, make systemic changes or create similar programs within the traditional public schools.

An important conclusion from an Arizona study, “Does Charter School Attendance Improve Test Scores?: The Arizona Results” finds that the longer a student attends a charter school the greater the academic gains – with no similar result among district school students. That study was one of the largest in scope, tracking 40,000-50,000 students who spent one to three years in charters, comparing them to students in comparable district schools and accounted for things like ethnicity, gender, language and more. Similar results were found in a Texas study.

(more)

Also released is the *Survey of Charter Schools, 2000-2001*. The survey's findings bolster long-held convictions that charter schools serve diverse populations, offers varied but demanding curricula and are held accountable. These data come from responses to CER's national survey of charter schools operating in the 200-2001 school year and represent 346 schools of more than 2,030 operating nationwide as of September 2000.

Key Findings Include:

- More than 97 percent of charter schools administer at least one standardized test annually.
- Most charters serve students persistently underserved by the current system – including at-risk, minority and low-income students.
- The use of innovative curricula is the norm in most charter schools: Nearly a quarter use “Core Knowledge” and/or Direct Instruction in their schools.
- Nearly two-thirds of charters have waiting lists at least half the schools' enrollment.

...

Copies of these publications, *What the Research Reveals About Charter Schools* and *Survey of Charter Schools, 2000-2001* can be found on the CER website at: [http:// edreform.com](http://edreform.com) or for a modest fee from the Center at (202) 822-9000.

#

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>.