



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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NINE YEARS OF RESEARCH CONFIRMS CHARTER SCHOOLS' SUCCESS *Center for Education Reform Updates Summary of Research on Charter Schools*

(Washington, D.C. 9/17/03) -- The Center for Education Reform (CER) today released the third edition of its report *What the Research Reveals About Charter Schools*, a summary of studies, dating back to 1995, that assess the impact of charter schools on students, teachers and communities.

"What the research reveals is: charter schools work," said CER president Jeanne Allen. "In major studies by universities, researchers, state departments of education, policy groups and the U.S. Department of Education, charters are shown to have enriched the educational scene and offered, not just viable, but, excellent educational opportunities for thousands of children in hundreds of communities.

"In short, charters have accomplished what their advocates said they would. They have sparked innovation, prompted changes in the traditional district school system and provided much needed, and widely demanded, options for parents."

In the ten years since the first charter school opened its doors, the schools have been criticized without regard to their actual benefits, accomplishments, or acceptance by parents and communities. But 88 studies carried out over nine years counters the critics with actual findings of fact.

"It was important to get this information out the first time and it remains important to keep it updated and included in the public record and the public debate," Allen said. "The critics are still out there, and they're still using the same baseless arguments they've always used against charters. This is a counter balance to that misinformation and to the confusion it creates."

(more)

In the 36 months since CER published the first *What the Research Reveals* the number of charter schools in the nation has increased from 2,000 to over 3,000. In that same period, the body of charter school research has also grown, with 45 more studies appearing in this edition of the report than in the inaugural edition.

This edition of CER's report adds new material to the previous reports and includes overviews of major research published during the last two years, bringing the number of studies included in this volume to 98. Among the findings appearing in the third edition of *What the Research Reveals About Charter Schools*:

- Charters are more effective in improving academic achievement;
- Higher proportions of disadvantaged and special needs students choose charters, (dispelling the "creaming" myth about charter enrollments);
- Charter schools are highly accountable to the students they serve; and
- Parents are overwhelmingly, and adamantly, supportive of charter schools.

What the Research Reveals About Charter Schools is available from the Center for Education Reform for \$14.95, or on-line at the CER website at:

http://www.edreform.com/charter_schools/research.pdf

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CER is the leading authority for information on innovative reforms in education and works in states and communities across the country to advance the cause of educational excellence. CER celebrates its 10th Anniversary this October. For more information, contact CER at (202) 822-9000 or send e-mail to cer@edreform.com.