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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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CYBER CHARTER SCHOOLS: THE 21ST CENTURY SCHOOL HOUSE *Joining of Internet and Charter Schools Leading the Way*

(Washington, D.C. 1/11/02) Since their emergence nearly a decade ago, charter schools have produced new and innovative methods for teaching children. During that same time, the Internet has transformed life in America. The two have converged into cyber charter schools, which despite their enormous potential have not developed without resistance. The Center for Education Reform (CER) examines the controversy in *“Beyond Brick and Mortar: Cyber Charters Revolutionizing Education.”*

Today there are at least 30 cyber charter schools operating in 12 states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Kansas, Minnesota, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin.

“Cyber charter schools offer parents additional choices, especially for children physically or emotionally unable to attend brick and mortar schools,” said CER policy analyst Neal McCluskey. “Unfortunately, significant resistance has come from those who have a vested interest in the status quo.”

The Pennsylvania School Boards Association was recently joined by four Keystone state school districts in filing suit against cyber charter schools, challenging funding requirements for students that cross district lines to attend cyber charters.

“The arguments used by PSBA against cyber charter schools are the exact same arguments they employed to oppose enactment of the original charter law – it is clear that cyber charters represent a threat to the way they do business and they want to limit that growth,” noted McCluskey.

“Beyond Brick and Mortar: Cyber Charters Revolutionizing Education” is available for **\$3.00** by calling CER at (202) 822-9000 or on-line at <http://www.edreform.com/pubs/cyber.htm>.

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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>.