



**NEWS ALERT**

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**MISSOURI CHARTER LAW IS SOUND POLICY**  
*CER Files Friends of the Court Brief to Support Missouri Charter Schools*

**(December 7, 1999)** Arguing that Missouri children have the right to seek alternatives to failing schools, the Center For Education Reform (CER) and seven Kansas City charter schools have filed an amicus curiae brief to help the court understand the issue at stake.

Since 1998, Missouri families have had the right to place their children in charter schools. However, the St. Louis Board of Education has challenged the law by claiming it is unconstitutional. CER is responding to the lawsuit filed by the St. Louis Board. "About 4,500 children are pursuing alternative forms of public schooling in Missouri's 14 charter schools," said CER President Jeanne Allen. "We've researched in depth the progress of other states and can attest to the fact that Missouri's charter law will help children gain the education they need and deserve."

The suit filed by the St. Louis Board alleges that the Missouri Charter School Act- which has enabled more than 4,000 Kansas City children to seek alternatives to a failing school system - is unconstitutional and is in violation of several state laws.

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, policy makers and others who are working to bring fundamental reforms to their schools.

CER is prepared to defend other reform efforts wherever special interest groups seek to limit and challenge laws that have been passed to provide choice and opportunity to those children who are not being served in their current public schools.

Copies of the Amicus brief are available by calling CER at (202) 822-9000 or by visiting our website at [www.edreform.com](http://www.edreform.com).

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