



## National Leaders Urge Obama to Address Education Crisis

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Today the Center for Education Reform is distributing to every federal and state lawmaker in the country a monograph of recommendations that the national group is confident can help guide government leaders to improve our nation's schools. Such recommendations suggest a new role for the U.S. Department of Justice in policing school choice, a national imperative to have student level data on a daily basis for every child, a rejection of the appalling performance of too many teachers and a call for every school to abandon their central districts and to behave like charter schools.

While others propose that the global economic crisis and a matrix of threats to our national security must lead the Obama Administration's long list of priorities, this brief but commanding booklet argues that fixing public education is hands down the most leveraged domestic policy opportunity of our time.

Utterly refreshing in its approach, *Mandate for Change* does not spend a lot of time diagnosing the causes of our current afflictions. Instead, it moves immediately to prescribe a five-part cure made all the more compelling by the star power of its authors and their basic insights into the key issues at hand:

- Juan Williams - *Federal Accountability*
- Honorable John M. Engler - *Transparency*
- Honorable Kevin P. Chavous - *Charter Schools*
- Jeanne Allen - *School Choice*
- Richard Whitmire - *Teacher Quality*

Each of these five themes is taken up in a separate essay that aims to simply and succinctly present uncommon solutions outlining what we need to do and what we need to avoid. As the editor writes in the introduction, "the challenge at hand - as we have accepted it in these pages - is to focus on what matters most and to provide actionable recommendations that leaders in government can move today to implement."

Download copies of the complete text and monitor the ongoing discussion at the Center for Education Reform's dedicated website, [mandate.edreform.com](http://mandate.edreform.com)

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*The Center for Education Reform drives the creation of better educational opportunities for all children. CER changes laws, minds and cultures to allow good schools to flourish.*

