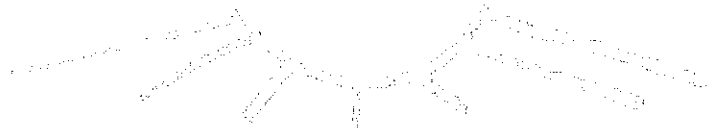


# THE Center for Education Reform



1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
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Tel: 202-822-9000  
Fax: 202-822-5077

April 9, 2007

Dear Principal/Head of School:

Ohio's community school movement is under an attack that places its very survival at risk. We must mobilize to fight the draconian methods being proposed by the Governor that would take away the choice that over 180,000 families have made in the state of Ohio.

Enclosed you will find packets to be distributed to the parents in your school to inform them of steps they can take to be ready for action when the time comes.

Countless groups in Ohio have been working to improve the rights of parents to make the best choice for their children.

Groups like Ohio Coalition for Quality Education, Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools, School Choice of Ohio and Ohio Coalition of eSchool Families have come together to ensure that the state of Ohio preserves your right to choose a school for your child.

It is imperative that these time sensitive materials be delivered to your parents as soon as possible.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Kara Hornung at The Center for Education Reform at (202) 822-9000 or email [kara@edreform.com](mailto:kara@edreform.com).

Best Regards,

Jeanne Allen  
President



**\*\*\* IMPORTANT NOTICE TO OUR PARENTS\*\*\***

The attached packet is being provided by The Center for Education Reform (CER), a national organization that supports our school. Some of our elected officials want to take funds away from our community, charter schools and take away our choices.

We all need to make our voices heard. Legislators in Columbus are meeting and they need to hear from parents and children. Several groups around the state are bringing parents to meet with legislators. We need to do more. No one can be a better advocate than a parent speaking on behalf of their child's school. Elected officials need to hear from you.

Please read and act on the information in this package and respond as soon as possible about how you can help. There is also information enclosed about a rally in Dayton next week on behalf of our schools; transportation may be available and we will let you know when we know more.

Thank you for taking time to read this. We value our parents and our children.

Your school leaders

## GET THE WORD OUT!

**Parents are everything!** Charter schools are counting on you to you to share your story and make your voice heard NOW!

### **WHY COLUMBUS NEEDS TO BE MORE THAN A NAME TO YOU!**

There are legislators in your state, and every one of them has a tremendous amount of power to affect what happens to your school. You need to know who they are, and know that they are people just like you. Most are parents, some own businesses, some are educators, and some are career politicians. Regardless, of their background you need to remind yourself that they work for YOU!

### **THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEEDS TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Visit [www.edreform.com/GetActive](http://www.edreform.com/GetActive) today and click on Ohio issues. There you can find your legislators, send an email or compose your own message all with the click of your mouse!

**You should also pick up the phone and call your legislators!** Tell them that you support charter school options and let them know you are disappointed with the Governor's proposal. **Tell them that you are going to watch how they vote on the issue.** Call their local office and their Columbus office.

If you do not know this information, you may contact the Ohio General Assembly at (614) 466-3615 or visit [www.edreform.com/GetActive](http://www.edreform.com/GetActive) to locate them through CER's Grassroots Action Center. You can also call CER at 1-800-521-2118 and we can find them for you.

While you're on the call, invite your state representative/senator to come visit your child's charter school and show them first hand the difference the school has made.

### **WHAT TO SAY TO YOUR LEGISLATORS AND FRIENDS**

- **Tell your story!** One mother said, *"I could write a book on the differences [my charter school] has made in my family's life and the lives of so many other families here in Ohio."* Your community and elected officials need to hear the rest of that story and why you made the choice you did!
- **Ohio's Charter Schools do better!** Researchers found charter schools' year-to-year improvements on the Ohio Performance Test actually exceeded those made by public schools, despite spending less money per pupil and having less-experienced teachers.
- Charter schools are educating over 90,000 students across the Buckeye State and about 1.15 million across the nation. Parents are not going to just let them go away!

# SIGN UP TO JOIN THE NEW PARENT COALITION

\_\_\_\_\_ Sign me up to help Support Ohio's Community Schools!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: Ohio ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

It is best to contact me by phone/email. (Circle One)

\_\_\_\_\_ YES! I would like to join friends and supporters on April 18 in Dayton.

[I would need transportation. Please contact me]

\_\_\_\_\_ I can't make it to Dayton, but please keep me posted on events happening in my city.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would be interested in joining other parents in Columbus for a rally in support of charter schools. Please keep me informed of this possibility.

**SHARE YOUR STORY!** Help us to compile testimony from parents all over Ohio.

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FAX THIS FORM TO: (202) 822-5077 or call 1-800-521-2118 to sign up!