



AMERICA'S EDUCATION REFORM AUTHORITY SINCE 1993

**CENTENNIAL**

(Colorado)

B. RITTER - D. JONES

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104,105 sq. miles

5,024, 748 pop.

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Starts strong in competition, but loses ground to more ambitious runners; good groundwork for charter environment and alternative teacher cert; history of results could point to a win in initial round and perhaps a top 4 showing.

Odds 2:1 \**Favored to show*

Pays: \$376,591,499

**SMALL WONDER**

(Delaware)

J. MARKELL – L. LOWERY

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885,122 pop.

2,490 sq. miles

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Makes a lot of promises; runs with union support, which adds to the load; not welcoming to charters and offers no fixes to their law; running in lock-step with unions may slow turnaround plans in the long run; teacher evaluations much praised but a horse race isn't won on how good they look, but whether they can run the course.

Odds 10:1

Pays: \$107,268,274

**CAPITOL CITY**

(Washington, DC)

A. FENTY – M. RHEE

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599,657 pop.

68.3 sq. miles

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Often overlooked, but fierce competitor; allows charters to succeed and provides choice; hampered by union work rules and political infighting, but robust multi-tiered training environment produces results; runs to win, look for a garland in CC's future.

Odds 2:1 \**Favored to show*

Pays: \$112,494,840

**SUNSHINE**

(Florida)

C. CRIST - E. SMITH

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18,537,969 pop.

65,795 sq. miles

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One of today's favored contenders; long-term, results are rosy; teacher evaluations and certification are strong points, but charter landscape can be seen as a challenge; may start sluggish, moves quickly to the front of the pack.

Odds 2:1 \**Favored to show*

Pays: \$1,141,622,870

**GEORGIA PEACH**

(Georgia)

S. PERDUE - K. COX

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9,829,211 pop.

59,425 sq. miles

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Owners and trainers paint a pretty picture, but Georgia Peach has a lot of rough edges; charters have limited options and inequities abound; good teacher evaluation plans from the top are mired by political opposition and low LEA buy-in could mean trouble; likely no winner's circle appearance.

Odds 10:1

Pays: \$462,288,921

**LINCOLN'S LAND**

(Illinois)

P. QUINN - C. KOCH

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12,910,409 pop.

57,918 sq. miles

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With eyes fixed on the future, LL rarely wins in the present; trainers offer promises now for a big payoff, but this horse only pushes through in the final seconds; charters are hobbled and unions block a true winning equation for evaluations; alterations in training of late will pay no dividends in the long run.

Odds 20:1

Pays: \$510,128,396

**KENTUCKY GENTLEMAN**

(Kentucky)

S. BESHEAR - T. HOLLIDAY

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4,314,113 pop.

40,409 sq. miles

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**SCRATCH**

**BORN ON THE BAYOU**

(Louisiana)

B. JINDAL - P. PASTOREK

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4,410,796 pop.

51,885 sq. miles

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Another real contender for a victory lap, BOTB cross-trains to get results on many different tracks; strong on charter schools, teacher evaluations and certification; real example of turnaround success since 2004; a safe bet.

Odds 2:1 \**Favored to show*

Pays: \$314,453,326

**SPIRIT OF AMERICA**

(Massachusetts)

D. PATRICK - M. CHESTER

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6,593,587 pop.

10,555 sq. miles

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Strong history of standards, SOA stumbles with charter school offerings and hides their true weakness in teacher evaluations behind flowery language; SOA does offer an abundance of routes for teacher certification and is implementing turnaround plans to immediate affect. Perhaps next round.

Odds 5:1

Pays: \$287,000,349

**EMPIRE BUILDER**

(New York)

D. PATERSON - D. STEINER

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19,541,453 pop.

54,555 sq. miles

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Strong charter support, but hobbled by unions and puppet legislators when asked to kick into high gear; trainers leave too much on the shoulders of LEAs in hopes they will change without being told to; minimal student growth requirements dictated by unions may lead to a fall; too big to fail?

Odds 5:1

Pays: \$830,700,000

**TAR HEEL**

(North Carolina)

B. PERDUE - J. ST. CLAIR  
ATKINSON

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9,380,884 pop.

53,865 sq. miles

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A weak entrant that slipped through the cracks; no charter support or growth; vague teacher evaluation goals with lack of clarity on discipline; no real alternative certification path for would-be teachers; low expectation to show.

Odds: 20:1

Pays: \$469,485,456

**HEART OF IT ALL**

(Ohio)

T. STRICKLAND - D. DELISLE

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11,542,645 pop.

44,825 sq. miles

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A true middle-of-the-pack runner, never reaching, never falling; half-truths and lies cover truth of charter support; lack of specifics regarding teachers leaves much to be desired; no real workout regimen could lead to continued lackluster performance.

Odds 20:1

Pays: \$409,563,455

**INDEPENDENCE**

(Pennsylvania)

E. RENDELL - G. ZAHORCHAK

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12,604,767 pop.

46,055 sq. miles

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Another surprise runner; Independence supports charters at the top, but allows locals to block their success; lofty goals for teacher evaluations may not be possible in the given time frame; may push hard at the top of the race, but whither in the final lap.

Odds 10:1

Pays: \$399,902,529

### **LITTLE RHODY**

(Rhode Island)

D. CARCIERI – D. GIST

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1,053,209 pop.

1,545 sq. miles

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Has made a big splash this racing season, though with most change coming since R2TT application; aggressive when tying teacher evaluation to student data; slows when placed with stronger charter school environments; shows well, but can be sluggish in the long run.

Odds 10:1

Pays: \$126,978,456

### **PALMETTO**

(South Carolina)

M. SANFORD - J. REX

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4,561,242 pop.

32,020.1 sq. miles

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Inequities trump strengths in Palmetto's racing abilities; weak on charter environment and coasting on “plans” for teacher evaluation changes that offer no solid use of student growth to grade teacher effectiveness; no upfront workout for this horse likely means no showing at the finish.

Odds 50:1

Pays: \$299,841,083

### **THE VOLUNTEER**

(Tennessee)

P. BREDESEN - T. WEBB

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6,214,888 pop.

42,169 sq. miles

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Analysts have pulled for Volunteer, but have been blinded by a positive attitude and gee-whiz-git-r-done spirit; don't be fooled by faulty and incomplete reports on charters; much to say about value added model and compensation systems, but will it really lead to pay for performance and a pay day for TN?

Odds 5:1

Pays: \$501,792,892

*\* “Pays” figure drawn from amount requested by each state in their ‘Race to the Top’ application*

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