



## **SOLUTIONS TO THE CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING GAP**

*New Report Outlines Deficiencies in Law and How to Correct Them*

**Washington, D.C.** (8/30/05) New evidence that charter schools are funded inequitably in most states is the basis for a new report released today by The Center for Education Reform (CER). Solving the Charter School Funding Gap is based on comprehensive research in forty states and surveys from more than half the nation's charter schools. Charter schools are new, innovative public schools held accountable for student results. Solving the Charter School Funding Gap identifies the major causes of under-funded charter schools, providing research-based solutions on how to correct the deficiencies in law. Since the charter school movement began in 1991, one aspect that has often been overlooked by policymakers is the wide disparity between these schools and conventional public schools. Used in conjunction with the comprehensive report released last week by the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, Charter School Funding: Inequity's Next Frontier, these findings provide lawmakers with a clear guide to strengthen charter law and avoid legislating funding gaps.

"I welcome CER's thoughtful analysis on funding disadvantages faced by charter schools," said Indiana Senate Education Committee Chair Teresa Lubbers. "The report will be useful in putting to rest the position that charter schools have financial parity with traditional public schools. For example, Indiana's charter schools receive no funding for buildings and facilities, yet opponents seek ways to reduce state funding even more."

Poorly drafted public school funding laws and regulations add to the funding gap when charter laws are drafted. Research indicates that strong funding language accounts for approximately 4 percent more funds.

"Many state education finance laws were written and implemented prior to the existence of charter schools and have not been amended to incorporate the existence of these new public schools, such that, over time, charters have been short-changed," said CER president Jeanne Allen. "This report is intended to offer realistic solutions to help advocates and lawmakers in their efforts to ensure that laws are properly written, implemented and corrected." Copies of Solving the Charter School Funding Gap can be obtained by calling CER at 202-822-9000 or at [www.edreform.com](http://www.edreform.com).

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*The Center for Education Reform (CER) creates opportunities for and challenges obstacles to better education for America's communities. Founded in 1993, CER combines education policy with grassroots advocacy to foster positive and bold education reforms. For more information, visit [www.edreform.com](http://www.edreform.com)*