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## PRESS ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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### 10 YEARS FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS CER KICKS OFF NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

(Washington, DC 4/25/01) Marking the Tenth Anniversary of charter schools, the Second Annual National Charter Schools Week begins Monday through Friday, April 30-May 4, and will be observed by thousands of commemorative events and celebrations in most states.

#### CER Sponsored Charter School Week Activities in Washington, D.C.

- April 30 – **CER Ranks the States:** Release of “Charter School Laws: State Rankings” update, containing the most recent information, state-by-state, on strength of new and amended charter school laws.
- May 1 – **Congressional Tour** of D.C. Charter Schools, bus departs at 8:30 am from the Rayburn Horseshoe (South Capital Street Entrance).
- May 2 – Pre-release of key data from the *2001 Survey of Charter Schools*, providing a snapshot of current charter school information, including data on enrollments, state assessments, curriculum and populations served.
- May 3 – **Capitol Hill showing** of PBS film, “Charter Schools that Work.” Screening will be held at 5:00 pm in Room 2257 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

Additionally, CER’s website offers the unique opportunity to “visit” well over 500 charter schools nationwide. CER has developed a “Toolkit” offering ideas to charter schools on how to mark the observance and has offered at no-cost the loan of the video, “Charter Schools that Work” for local screenings.

(more)

### **Selected Highlights of Charter Schools Week Nationwide**

- April 30<sup>th</sup>, the **Michigan** Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA) will host a graduates luncheon honoring nearly 1,000 Michigan charter school seniors. For more information, call (517) 374-9167.
- Students from West Springfield, **Massachusetts** New Leadership Charter School will participate in a leadership training exercise led by the Massachusetts National Guard from April 30-May 3. The New Leadership Charter School was founded in partnership between the Urban League of Springfield and the Massachusetts National Guard. For more information, call (413) 750-2454
- In Sacramento, **California** on May 2<sup>nd</sup> individual schools will rally at the capitol. For information call: California Network of Educational Charters (CANEC) 650-654-6003.
- In **Hawaii**, the Connections Charter School in Mountain View will open the “Charter School Gallery of Youth Art” and formally announce the expansion of its program from K-6 to K-12. The expanded program will include a Japanese exchange program.
- In **Georgia** charter school leaders are announcing the formation of a new Georgia Charter Schools Association who will act as charter advocates on a state and local level. The Association has designed and distributed special National Charter Schools Week T-shirts to member schools.

A listing of other events from around the states can be found at the Charter Friends National Network’s website at: <http://www.charterfriends.org/csweek.html>

**Editors:** Please post a notice that visits to charter schools in cyberspace can be accessed through <http://www.edreform.com>.

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*The Center for Education Reform is a national, independent, non-profit advocacy organization providing support and guidance to individuals, community and civic groups, policymakers and others who are working to bring fundamental reforms to their schools. For further information, please call (202) 822-9000 or visit our website at <http://edreform.com>.*