



1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 204 • Washington, DC 20036

Tel 202-822-9000  
Fax 202-822-5077

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Mary Kayne Heinze  
(202) 822-9000**

### **CER COMMENDS FINAL ACTION ON FEDERAL EDUCATION BILL** *Now it's time to bring back the "wall chart"*

(Washington, DC 12/11/01) Noting progress on several levels in the education compromise bill ratified today by members of the House-Senate conference committee, the Center for Education Reform applauded the efforts of the committee for some noteworthy successes.

"While long and often uncertain, the legislative debate on the proper role of and accountability for federal education funds was long overdue," said CER president Jeanne Allen. "For the first time in history, Americans were treated to a debate about whether schools should have to show they are using proven programs and demonstrating results in order to receive taxpayer funds. This is a first in Washington," Allen added.

The compromise bill does four things for education reform:

- 1) Calls for higher standards for America's schools and teachers by imposing a yearly testing requirement on states;
- 2) Helps ensure that poor children will have access to a better education and the ability to exercise choice when they are stuck in persistently failing schools;
- 3) Gives states flexibility in hiring, training and compensating teachers, and
- 4) Maintains the viability and continued expansion of the charter school movement.

CER called for Secretary of Education Rod Paige to reinstate a modern day version of the "Wall Chart" once used by his predecessors to help the nation track and compare progress in the states.

"The Wall Chart was loved by parents and local reform groups for the information it provided in a timely manner," said Allen. "With this new federal endeavor comes a need to let the sun shine on all that the states do with federal funds. The recreation of a new and dynamic electronic Wall Chart by the Secretary would put all members of the public on the same page and allow us not only to more urgently and efficiently monitor progress on this new federal effort, but also on all the state-based activities that are in place."

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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>.*