

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Mary Kayne Heinze
(202) 822-9000

CER RELEASES 8TH NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL DIRECTORY *Some 2,700 schools serve nearly 685,000 students nationally*

(Washington, D.C., 1/21/03) Jeanne Allen, president of the Center for Education Reform (CER), the nation's leading charter school resource, today announced the release of the eighth edition of the *National Charter School Directory 2003* – the only guide of its kind. The *Directory* offers current information on the expansion and development of charter schools since the passage of the first charter school law more than a decade ago.

The *Directory* profiles the 2,695 charter schools that are operating for the 2002-2003 school year, serving 684,495 students in 36 states and Washington, D.C. Another 84 schools that already are approved to open for the 2003-2004 school year are also profiled.

This year's *Directory* notes a number of firsts: schools opening this year in Indiana and Wyoming make their debut, and in another first, a Louisiana charter opened on an active military base to serve military families and the neighboring community.

A new feature in this edition includes a separate a section for specially-focused schools that address the needs of parents seeking a particular focus or curriculum including schools that are: Arts-based, Core Knowledge and Montessori.

(more)

“This year finds more than 1.8 million people involved in charter schools – showing strong grassroots support – proof positive that charter schools have become a vibrant part of communities nationwide,” noted Allen. “Charter schools continue to offer parents attractive options to the traditional district schools: charters are usually smaller and proportionally serve higher numbers of students typically under-served by the district system.”

The comprehensive *Directory* contains important school data including: school contact, phone number, enrollment figures, grades served and a description of each school’s program. Website addresses are listed where available.

Copies of the *National Charter School Directory 2003* can be obtained exclusively by contacting CER. To order a copy by phone call 202-822-9000 or order on-line at <http://www.edreform.com>. The price for the *Directory* is \$67.95 + shipping/handling. **NOTE:** *The Directory is not available on-line or in an electronic format.*

Also available from CER:

Charter School Laws Across the States: Ranking Score Card and Legislative Profiles: A study and evaluation of the Nation’s 40 charter school laws for \$39.95 + S & H.
<http://www.edreform.com/press/2003/charterlaws.htm>.

Charter Schools 2002: Results from CER’s Annual Survey of America’s Charter Schools
http://www.edreform.com/charter_schools/survey2002.pdf.

Charter School Closures: The Opportunity for Accountability:
http://www.edreform.com/charter_schools/closures.pdf.

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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>.