



FROM THE EDUCATION FRONT LINES

(November 16, 1999) The Center for Education Reform (CER) is pleased to provide you with this unique glance at education policy in the making, from several key states where some the Center's 25,000 members and friends are involved.

On Tuesday, **Florida** Governor Jeb Bush announced a multi-phased plan called the "*One Florida Initiative*" to increase minority enrollment in colleges and universities. The plan will improve resources in underperforming schools and reform university admissions policies. It focuses on improving low performing schools by ending social promotion, promoting accountability, while providing incentives and rewards for improvements. This program offers both the resources and flexibility for schools to succeed.

Said Governor Bush "... we will clearly communicate how schools do, based on student achievement. ...It may anger schools when they are given a D or an F, but it also creates resolve...we've moved back to that principle of imposing different consequences for success and failure in some very meaningful ways."

CER President Jeanne Allen said in the *St. Petersburg Times* on Tuesday, "I think Governor Bush has the right focus; you don't solve the higher education problems without looking at K through 12. When you have kids entering college and taking remedial courses, you're not solving the problem."

Also in **Florida**: On Friday, November 12th, the first step in the legal defense of the statewide Opportunity Scholarships – an integral part of the A+ Plan for Education – began. The Institute for Justice and the State of Florida will argue their motions to dismiss before Judge L. Ralph Smith in the Circuit Court of Leon County, Florida. We hope that the Milwaukee wave floods the Florida shores!

North Carolina charter schools fight for their equal right to monies collected in fines and forfeitures that are by law distributed to the counties for use in the public schools. The Francine Delany New School in Asheville has taken the local authorities to court in an attempt to obtain these funds. Charter schools are typically small and function on a fraction of the money allotted to district public schools.

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The Center for Education Reform is a national, independent, non-profit advocacy organization founded in 1993 to provide support and guidance to individuals, community and civic groups, policymakers and others who are working to bring fundamental reforms to their schools. If you would like to receive this update through email please let us know either by calling the Center or by signing up directly at CER's homepage at www.edreform.com.