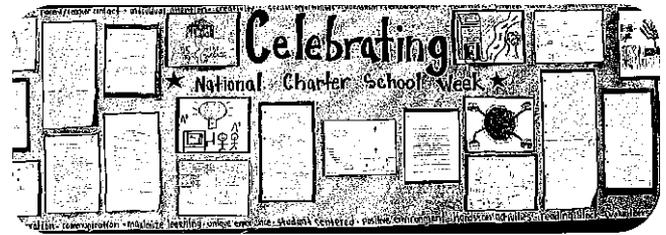




Roundup of the Fourth Annual National Charter Schools Week

April 28–May 2, 2003

It has been more than 10 years since the first charter school opened its doors. Today, according to the Center for Education Reform's (CER) studies, nearly 2,800 charters are open in 36 states and the District of Columbia. The schools serve almost 685,000 students, and over 1.8 million teachers, administrators and board members participate in this movement, yet most people still do not know about charter schools; their successes; and their contributions to children, families and communities.



Camino Nuevo Charter Academy celebrates National Charter School Week

CER led the national efforts to celebrate the fourth annual National Charter Schools Week, supported by thousands of charter schools and charter activists nationwide. While the state-level groups developed programs and activities locally, CER ensured that charter schools received both Presidential and Congressional recognition, as well as significant media attention. At the local level, charter schools used this week to honor the teachers, parents, volunteers and students who make their schools a success.



U.S. Undersecretary of Education Eugene Hickok on board the U.S.S. Intrepid with students from the Beginning with Children Charter Schools

The following is a review of National Charter School Week, including CER activities and events from around the country.

Monday, April 28:

Washington, DC: Visiting the Arts and Technology Academy, John Bailey, director of the Office of Educational Technology at the U.S. Department of Education, remarked "Charter schools ... have the opportunity to completely rethink the way education is provided but also have the accountability to ensure that children are not left behind."

Tuesday, April 29:

New York, NY: Undersecretary of Education Eugene Hickok was the featured guest at "Celebration of New York City Charter Schools" aboard the U.S.S. Intrepid, sponsored by the New York Charter Schools Association. More than 350 charter leaders, citizens and opinion makers were present.



CER President Jeanne Allen and Deputy Undersecretary of Education for Innovation and Improvement Nina Rees with students from Camino Nuevo Charter Academy

Los Angeles, CA: Deputy Undersecretary of Education for Innovation and Improvement Nina Rees and CER President Jeanne Allen visited Camino Nuevo Charter Academy and met with charter, business and community leaders at a luncheon sponsored by the Los Angeles Alliance for Student Achievement.

Wednesday, April 30:

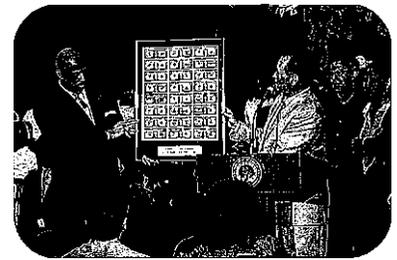
Washington, DC: CER sponsored the "First Annual Lesson on Capitol Hill," with Deputy Secretary of Education Bill Hansen serving as the master of ceremonies. The event brought DC charter school students and members of Congress together for a unique lesson in civics and government. Senators Tom Carper (DE) and Lamar Alexander (TN) and congressmen Jeff Flake (AZ) and Johnny Isakson (GA) provided the lessons to dozens of students.



Congressman Johnny Isakson (GA) at the Lesson on Capitol Hill

Thursday, May 1:

Washington, DC: District of Columbia charter school leaders were saluted by U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige, District of Columbia Mayor Anthony Williams, DC School Board President Peggy Cooper-Cafritz and DC City Councilmember Kevin Chavous at the Community Academy Charter School. Community Academy founder Kent Amos; Irasema Salcido, founder of the Cesar Chavez Public Policy Charter High School; and Donald Hense from the Friendship-Edison School announced the formation of the new DC Charter School Association.



Donald Hense of Friendship-Edison, Kent Amos of Community Academy and Irasema Salcido of Cesar Chavez announce the DC Charter School Association

Detroit, MI: Thanks to collaboration with the state's charter organization, MAPSA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Gerald Reynolds visited Ross Hill Academy in Detroit and the Henry Ford Academy in Dearborn. He also addressed state and local leaders at a luncheon.

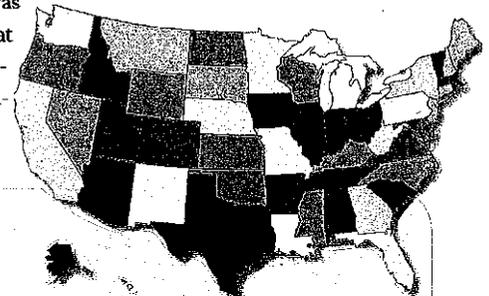


U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige salutes DC charter school leaders

Friday, May 2:

Columbus, OH: Department of Education General Counsel Brian Jones spoke at the Ohio Charter School Conference and visited two outstanding Columbus charter schools, Millennium Community School and the Arts and College Prep Academy. A few days later, a judge threw out a lawsuit against the state's charter law, capping a great week for Ohio.

Indianapolis, IN: Assistant Secretary of Education for Vocational and Adult Education Carol D'Amico toured the 21st Century School and the Irvington Community Charter School. She was the keynote speaker at a luncheon with charter school and business leaders.



National Charter Schools Week 2003 received national recognition, including:

Presidential Proclamation: President Bush, in his CER-drafted National Charter Schools Week Proclamation, stated that "Charter schools provide many children with a first-class education, and they have gained national recognition for their accountability standards, innovative programs and success with young people."

Congressional Record: House of Representatives, April 29, 2003: Congratulating Charter Schools across the United States for Their Ongoing Contributions to Education. Senate, April 29, 2003: Declaring National Charter Schools Week.

U.S. Congressional Co-Chairs for National Charter Schools Week: Congressmen John Boehner (OH), Johnny Isakson (GA), Mike Castle (DE) and Jeff Flake (AZ) and senators Joe Lieberman (CT), Tom Carper (DE), Judd Gregg (NH) and Lamar Alexander (TN).