

Smaller size

WHITE HOUSE RELEASES STUDY SHOWING BOOM IN CHARTER SCHOOLS AND ANNOUNCES \$30 INCREASE IN CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING

February 11, 2000

The White House today will release a new report detailing the growth of charter schools across the country, and will announce that the President's FY 2001 budget includes a \$30 million increase in charter school funding. Charter schools are independent public schools founded by parents and teachers, and open to all students. In exchange for high levels of accountability for student achievement, they are given more autonomy and flexibility than traditional public schools in staffing, curriculum and other areas. Today's report, produced by the Department of Education, reveals that charter schools are growing more widespread each year, and sheds light on the benefits they bring through smaller size and diversity. The President's FY 2001 budget includes a \$30 million increase for charter schools, bringing total funding to \$175 million annually.

NEW REPORT HIGHLIGHTS POPULARITY, SMALLER SCHOOL SIZE, AND DIVERSITY OF CHARTER SCHOOLS. Today's report shows that more than 250,000 students nationwide are now enrolled in charter schools in 30 states and the District of Columbia. (Thirty-six states and the District of Columbia have now passed legislation allowing the creation of charter schools). According to the report, seven out of ten charter schools have waiting lists for students. The report also shows that most charter schools are small schools. In fact, the median enrollment of all charter schools is 137 students, compared to 475 for all public schools in the same states. Seven of ten charter schools are also newly created schools. Eighteen percent are pre-existing public schools that convert to charter status, while 10 percent are converted private schools. The report also reveals that charter schools enroll a slightly higher percentage of students who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch than other public schools in their states and reflect similar racial diversity.

President Clinton's leadership key to growth of charter schools. President Clinton has long been a champion of charter schools. When the President was first elected, there was only one public charter school open in the United States. This year, according to today's report, 1,605 charter schools were in operation as of September 1999 -- more than halfway to the President's goal of 3,000 charter schools. National leadership has played a key role in this rapid growth: federal funds have supported the creation of individual charter schools and helped disseminate best practices and strategies among these schools. Today the White House will announce that the President's FY 2001 budget includes \$175 million for the Education Department's Public Charter Schools Program -- a \$30 million increase over last year's levels. Local charter schools use federal funds for planning and development, as well as for start-up costs, which are a major barrier to the creation of such schools.

Charter schools: IMPROVING PUBLIC EDUCATION AND EMPOWERING PARENTS.

- **Public charter schools exemplify a standards-based approach to education.** Every charter school works with a public authority to establish clear performance standards. A charter school that fails to meet the terms of its charter is closed down. The Public Charter Schools program, which was reauthorized with the President's leadership in 1998, gives priority to states that have strong standards for academic accountability. Charter schools receiving federal funding must be measured by the same state assessments as any other public school.
- **Charter schools empower parents through public school choice.** States and districts around the

country are using public charter schools, inter-district choice, and other innovations to offer students high-quality, well-tailored educational options. Public school choice can spur school improvement, and charter schools are key to an effective public school choice strategy. Surveys find high levels of support and satisfaction among parents of public charter school students. A recent national survey found that 65 percent of parents rated their child's public charter school as better than their former public school (and only 6 percent rated them worse).

smaller sizes

more flexible / more autonomy -
more local leadership

clear performance standards

built-in support of parents
& community.

ISSUES MEETING

January 4, 2000

AGENDA

I. BUDGET / STATE OF THE UNION ROLL-OUT DISCUSSION

(see attached)

II. POLICY FOLLOW-UP

- Child Care - should have D.C. event when increased funding comes through in Nov '00
- Hispanic Education - Have a White summit - follow up w/ commitments + find out what ppl are doing (6 months progress report)
- Youth Conference - Bringing young people + experts together (June?)
- Prescription for Reading - Convene ppl. to figure out strategy for keeping the initiative alive after Nov '00
- District of Columbia - charter school / CHP
- Health Issues
 ↳ immunizations + vaccine (HRC has not gotten enough credit)
- Character education
- Foster care + Adoption

III. POLICY COORDINATION AND LEGACY DOCUMENTS

Child Abuse
Domestic violence
Gulf War syndrome -
Microcredit - in NY -
FMLA - expansion - domestic partners?
Schools discipline / smaller schools
Pediatric AIDS / drugs / tobacco
Arts agenda
Alternative schools

FY 2001 BUDGET ROLLOUT STRATEGY

ROLL-OUT EVENTS WITH POTUS

- Teacher Quality Initiative
- Health Insurance Coverage Initiative w/ CHIP
- Digital Divide Initiative - hold for St. of Union
- Privacy Initiative

1/25th Superintendent Conference

ROLL-OUT EVENTS SOLO IN DC OR NY

- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Outreach Initiative (or combined with POTUS health insurance coverage event) ~~POTUS~~
- Charitable Giving Incentive through Deductions for Non-Itemizers - D.C. event
- Infectious Disease Surveillance Initiative - Westchester Co.
- Environmental Evaluation of Cancer Causes Initiative - Long Island w/ breast cancer advoc.
- Equal Pay Initiative - Buffalo - working people's mtg (do it earlier downstate) - press release that a.m.
- Youth Initiative (combine with service or community-center event - NY) - Town mtg in Albany (24th + 25th) Hobart College 23rd?
- Child Care Initiative
- Food Safety -

OTHER AMPLIFICATION STRATEGY (E.G. LEAK, CALL, COORDINATED EVENT)

- Hispanic Agenda Budget Increases (coordinate with VP's office to have an event in NY)
- Family Planning Budget Increase (if possible, announce budget mark at 1/11 meeting) - pro-choice news Tues.
- Children's Hospitals Budget Increase (phone calls to key leaders or small meeting - DC)
- Small Schools Initiative (amplification)

One event/wk by POTUS to roll out State of The Union

Teacher Quality, smaller ~~classes~~ schools

Freedom to Farm events

Food Safety - Albany - E. coli outbreak

- Nursing home quality
- Mental health } HRC amplifies

try to get more H-
got signif. \$

1/7/00

Policy and Events to Continue to Follow in DC/Develop Accomplishments

Child Care: Meetings with advocates and calls to Members of Congress, as needed. DC 1/21/00

Adoption and Foster Care: Monitor progress and follow-up on implementation of legislation.
Need to know what advocates say about this issue

Youth Conference: To include heavy involvement of young people themselves, as well as experts; focus on varied youth issues - positive and negative -- including service, mentoring, violence, etc. [to take place most likely before end of school year]. *Hobart College*.

Prescription for Reading: HRC to hold meeting to talk about specific steps to maintain initiative; invite NY PFR to White House meeting. *Letter/mtg.*

District of Columbia: Keep working to help with Charter Schools, CHIP, Music Museum.

Hispanic Education: Follow-up with NY programs highlighted at Hispanic Convening. *Impact aid*

Character Education: Consider participating in Amitai Etzioni/Communitarian Network Conference. *will do in NY -*

Youth Violence - *face up a piece by HRC*
School discipline / Town hall -
do w/ teachers

Immunizations and Vaccines *disruptive kids -*

Domestic Violence *Put together the story - 1993 - led to record levels of immunization*

Child Abuse

Gulf War Syndrome

Asthma, Epilepsy

Microcredit

FMLA

Safe and Early Schools

Guns

Drugs

Tobacco

Arts Agenda

Alternative Schools [AA in Schools]

Single Parent Scholarship Fund

great ideas
Moynihan > do events to champion his causes - environment - acid rain
transportation, See Sen?
FairShare - families,