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To: "Margaret M. LaMontagne ( CN=Margaret M. LaMontagne/OU=OPD/O=EOP@EOP [ OPD ] )"; "Sandy Kress ( CN=Sandy Kress/OU=OPD/O=EOP@EOP [ OPD ] )"; "Scott McClellan ( CN=Scott McClellan/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [ WHO ] )"  
Subject: : FW: Charter School Studies  
Date: Monday, June 11, 2001 11:42 AM

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CREATOR:Laura S. Lawlor ( CN=Laura S. Lawlor/OU=WHO/O=EOP [ WHO ] )  
CREATION DATE/TIME:11-JUN-2001 10:42:56.00  
SUBJECT:: FW: Charter School Studies  
TO:Margaret M. LaMontagne ( CN=Margaret M. LaMontagne/OU=OPD/O=EOP@EOP [ OPD ] )  
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"Private Abbott, Terry" <Abbott\_T@ed.gov>  
06/08/2001 10:31:11 AM  
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To: Laura S. Lawlor/WHO/EOP  
cc:  
Subject: FW: Charter School Studies

Here you go Laura:

> This is the latest press release for the charter studies; it still needs  
> some work (make sure the White House knows it's tentative) but it gives a  
> good idea about what the most important study shows. (Basically, that  
> competition from charter schools is having a positive impact on public  
> school districts.) <<charter impact on districts.doc>>  
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- charter impact on districts.doc

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00  
File attachment <P\_8JQB2004\_OPD.TXT\_1>

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

File attachment <P\_8JQB2004\_OPD.TXT\_2>

**The following document is attachment  
P\_8JQB2004\_OPD.TXT\_1**

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**The following document is attachment  
P\_8JQB2004\_OPD.TXT\_2**



FOR RELEASE

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## CHARTER SCHOOLS PROMPTING CHANGE IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Two new research reports from the U.S. Department of Education show that school districts often change educational services and district operations in response to charter schools. The reports, *Challenge and Opportunity: The Impact of Charter Schools on Districts* and *The National Charter School Accountability Study*. The findings suggest that charter schools and school choice can play a positive role in helping to improve all public schools.

“Charter schools offer meaningful options for parents and their children – particularly for those children who would otherwise be held at a disadvantage by low-performing schools,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige. “Because charter schools motivate parents and communities to insist on change, districts often respond by listening to parents, adding programs at other public schools, and more closely examining student achievement to determine what needs to be done to improve it. This means more choice for families and improvement for the entire school system.”

The Bush administration strongly supports charter schools and has asked Congress for \$175 million for a proposed Charter Schools Homestead Fund, Paige said. The fund would leverage support to help charter schools purchase, construct, renovate or lease facilities -- a critical obstacle faced by most charter schools. In addition, the administration seeks \$200 million for planning, start-up and dissemination grants to new and existing charter schools in its fiscal year 2002 budget request.

“The President’s solid support for charter schools, coupled with bipartisan Congressional backing, will help expand public school choice and provide more options for children and parents,” Paige said.

**-MORE-**

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The report, *Challenge and Opportunity: The Impact of Charter Schools on Districts*, examines district leaders' perspectives on changes attributed to charter schools. It is the largest study to date on the impact of charter schools on larger schools systems and is based on interviews and site visits to 49 school districts in **Arizona, California, Colorado, Massachusetts and Michigan.**

Positive changes cited by many districts included:

- added an educational program at existing schools, such as all-day kindergarten;
- opened a specialty school, such as gifted or dropout programs;
- more responsive to parents including better communication;
- introduced character education or a specialized curriculum.

Some districts reported negative effects on their budget, pointing to reduced revenue resulting from students who had transferred from district schools to charter schools.

A major factor related to the amount of change within a district was the nature of the entities in that area authorized to grant charters. When entities other than local school districts, such as the state board of education, were authorized to grant charters, the local district was more likely to enact changes of its own. Districts were less likely to respond to charter schools when the local district was the sole entity responsible for deciding whether to grant charters to new schools in the first place.

The study is part of the Department's four-year national evaluation of charter schools, prepared under contract with the Office of Educational Research and Improvement by RPP International, Emeryville, Calif.

To date, some 2,100 charter schools exist in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the 36 states that have passed charter school legislation.

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**NOTE TO EDITORS:** The report will be available on-line at [www.ed.gov/-----](http://www.ed.gov/-----)

