



National Alliance for  
Public Charter Schools

CHARTER SCHOOLS  
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April 15, 2009

## Take Action: Tell Congress to Increase Federal Support for Charter School Programs

The crafting of the federal FY2010 budget is slowly inching along, affording charter supporters an additional opportunity to support increasing federal funding for the Charter School Programs and enabling the funds to support replication and expansion of successful charter schools. It is extremely important charter advocates take action and voice their support for this increase. [Take action now](#). Once you have taken action please forward the link to your networks.

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## Summary of Achievement Studies

Fifth Edition 2009

## New Report Released on Charter School Achievement

There's continuing evidence that charter schools are working to raise student academic performance, but the rapid growth of schools is making it harder for researchers to keep up. That's the conclusion of a new report from the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools that surveyed 140 research studies. "The operating practices and teaching methods used by charter schools are helping many students reach new heights in academic achievement, as seen in several excellent studies combining longitudinal data and rigorous research," said Alliance President and CEO Nelson Smith. "However, fewer than half the states with charter schools have conducted longitudinal studies. It's critical that more research be done in the coming years as charters continue to experience strong growth. It's imperative we know where progress is being made - and why." Get more information [here](#) on this comprehensive new report.

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## Colorado and Connecticut Rally to Support Charter Schools

Celebrating 15 years of charter schools in their state, the [Colorado League of Charter Schools](#) held a hugely successful rally on the Capitol steps in Denver on April 8. The occasion was also used to encourage Governor Ritter to treat charter schools fairly in the distribution of federal economic stimulus dollars being distributed to support education. As part of the celebration, the winners of the [Colorado Charter School Essay Contest](#) were announced. On the same day, leaders of the [Connecticut Charter School Network and ConnCAN](#) held a rally in Hartford to support legislators who'd recently proposed restoring funding for the state's

charters. Read more on the rally [here](#).

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## May 3-9 Is National Charter Schools Week

More than 1.3 million students in over 4,600 charter schools are working hard to reach their dreams, assisted by dedicated teachers, school leaders and parents. Help us recognize their outstanding work during National Charter Schools Week. This year's theme "Promoting Innovation & Excellence" reflects two of the core values of public charter schools. Want ideas for celebrating in your community? Check out the National Charter Schools Week [Toolkit](#). We'll feature your celebration in the News Blast and on our web site. Write us and tell your story... and send us pictures and videos you'd like to share. It's easy - just fill out this short [form](#).

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## Department of Education Adopts Alliance Recommendations for Economic Stimulus for Schools

With \$44 billion now available for states, districts, and schools to apply for under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the Alliance continues to closely monitor how charter schools can fairly access these funds. A number of key [recommendations](#) by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools for distributing the economic stimulus funding have been adopted by the Department of Education. Learn how the \$32.6

billion from the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) and \$11.4 billion in Title I, IDEA, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Independent Living programs administered by the Department will affect your state and its schools [here](#). The Education Department will soon issue more information on the use of stimulus funds and the Alliance is continuing to work with the Department to ensure fair treatment of charters. Stay updated on our ARRA work by signing up to receive [action alerts](#) and by checking for updates [here](#).

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## California Charter School Earns National Attention on ABC-TV's Good Morning America

ABC-TV's Good Morning America dropped in at South Central L.A. charter school View Park to check in on Inner City Education Foundation (ICEF) Public Schools founder Mike Piscal and his students last week. It was seven years ago that Mike was recognized for his outstanding leadership by Emeril Lagasse's Breakfast in Bed Challenge on GMA. "The man is incredible," reported Emeril, "and what he's doing with these kids is unbelievable." The two schools GMA visited in 2002 have blossomed into 13 charters, including elementary, middle and high schools. "Right now we have 3,000 students in 13 schools and we intend to grow to 17,000 students in 35 schools and the reason why is half the kids in South Central L.A. drop out of high school," Piscal told GMA. Read our blog and watch the clip from GMA [here](#). It's a story that you don't want to miss.

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## More Employment Opportunities On-Line

Looking for a job in the world of charter schools? A large number of new positions around the nation have been posted in the last week on the Public Charter Schools Job Board, including several in Colorado, Illinois, New York and South Carolina. Over 250 new positions have been posted in just the past 8 weeks, and you can check them all out [here](#). As always, all listings are a free service of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. (You can even post your resume for free!).

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