

THE Center for Education Reform



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MATCH CHARTER PUBLIC HS OF BOSTON NAMED A NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

Washington, D.C., May 16, 2007 – The Center for Education Reform (CER), the nation’s premiere education reform group, recognized the MATCH Charter Public HS of Boston as a National Charter School of the Year, an honor given to 53 charter schools from across the U.S. at a special awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. earlier today.

After the ceremonies, education writers Jay Mathews of the *Washington Post* and Greg Toppo of *USA Today* spoke to representatives from the schools at a Press Club luncheon. The representatives later had a chance to hear from Education Secretary Margaret Spellings and speak with members of Congress at an event on Capitol Hill.

“We commend the MATCH Charter Public HS and the other honorees for their achievement,” said CER President Jeanne Allen. “They are among the vanguard of a school choice movement that provides more than one million children an educational opportunity that might otherwise be unavailable.”

“Our students work very hard to become college-ready, and all of our teachers, tutors and staff are committed to their success,” said Principal Jorge Miranda. “The key here is that we have a small community where we build relationships with our kids and their families every day. It’s clear that kids don’t care how much adults know unless they know how much adults care. We work relentlessly to push kids to higher levels of achievement and we believe that with the right support, all kids can rise to meet our high expectations.”

All U.S. charter schools were eligible for the honor. The selection process began in the fall of 2006, with all schools asked to respond to CER's annual survey. A small percentage of survey respondents were invited to – and ultimately submitted – detailed information for consideration for this recognition.

Evaluation of the schools proceeded along four themes: achievement; planning and execution; satisfaction; and policies and programs. Each theme included additional criteria (12 in total), such as improvement over time; percentage of at-risk students served; meeting mission and goals; and parental involvement. CER identified 53 exceptional schools deserving recognition.

“Charter schools across the nation succeed despite limited resources and oftentimes hostile bureaucratic environments,” said Ms. Allen. “They are the heroes in a civil rights struggle for educational choice, particularly for children and parents of limited means. We’re delighted to recognize some truly shining examples.”

In the 2006-07 school year, there are more than 3,940 charter schools serving over 1.16 million students in 40 states and Washington, D.C.

Charter schools are innovative, public schools designed by educators, parents, or civic leaders that are open by choice, accountable for results, and free from most rules and regulations governing conventional public schools.

For a complete list of the 53 schools honored today, visit <http://www.edreform.com/csoy/>.

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The Center for Education Reform (CER) creates opportunities for and challenges obstacles to better education for America's communities. Founded in 1993, CER combines education policy with grassroots advocacy to foster positive and bold education reforms. For more information, visit www.edreform.com