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**Ineffective laws and overregulation are strangling education opportunity, CER charter school law research finds**

**WASHINGTON, DC** — Despite increasing demand for charter schools throughout the United States, an increased supply of new education opportunities for students has been compromised. This is owing to poorly written charter school laws and overregulation in many states, according to a new report from the Center for Education Reform (CER). The 2018 National Charter School Law and Rankings is the Essential Guide to Charter School Laws, and provides not only state by state analyses and data but also research and case studies that make the case for radical change.

“There is a huge gap between the best and worst state charter school laws,” said CER’s Founder and CEO Jeanne Allen. “Too many states and some advocates have forgotten the vision that built the original charter school movement: providing more opportunity for innovation, freedom and flexibility to enable better, more individualized schools for students, families and educators.”

“Too often, regulations and cookie-cutter accountability systems force charter schools to abandon their unique and individualized approaches,” added Allen.

Only two states, Arizona and Indiana, as well as the District of Columbia, earned an “A” grade in the 2018 Scorecard. At the bottom of the rankings are Alaska, Virginia, Kansas, Maryland and Iowa, all of which earned an “F.” Iowa has the dubious distinction of having the worst charter law in the country, and only three charter schools 22 years after passing its charter law. All the “F” states limit operations, funding and authorizers to local school districts.

Allen concluded, “When the latest national assessments are released on April 10, we know that even with modest progress, more than half of our children are lacking in critical competencies. We must stop the overreach into these critical innovations and once again allow innovation to thrive.”

The 2018 Essential Guide can be accessed and downloaded from the CER website by [using this link](#).

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Founded in 1993, [the Center for Education Reform](#) aims to expand educational opportunities that lead to improved economic outcomes for all Americans – particularly our youth – ensuring that conditions are ripe for innovation, freedom and flexibility throughout U.S. education.

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