

Office of the Governor

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
609-777-2600
Roger Shatzkin(L&PS;)
609-292-4971

RELEASE: January 28, 1999

Governor Whitman Announces 15 New Charter Schools

Governor Christie Whitman today announced the approval of 15 new charter schools. Thirteen of the schools are scheduled to open in the 1999-2000 school year with the remaining two schools set to open in 2000-2001.

The 13 new schools scheduled to open in the fall will be accompanying nine schools that were approved last year, but have not yet opened. With today's announcement, 54 charter schools have been approved. This fall, there will be a total of 52 charter schools in operation with more than 10,000 students.

"I am extremely pleased to welcome fifteen new founders into our charter school community," said Governor Whitman. "I have always believed that parents should have as many options as possible when it comes to the education of their children. In fact, it is the parents who should be the ones to choose the best education program for their children."

Charter schools will operate in 15 counties throughout the state in the 1999-2000 school year. Further, charter schools provide an option for parents in public education in over 75 towns throughout New Jersey.

New Jersey's charter schools offer many innovative and exciting educational programs. For example, there are charter schools that specialize in music, art and technology. There are charter schools offering a longer school year or longer school day, while others base their educational approach on small class sizes and low student-to-teacher ratios.

Studies have shown that parents are extremely pleased with the charter schools in their communities. In fact, some of the charter schools receive so many applications from prospective students that they must have lotteries. "Charter schools are clearly becoming an important part of the state's public education system," said Gov. Whitman

Charter schools, an initiative of Governor Whitman's, were established by law in 1995. Under the law, charter schools are required to seek the enrollment of a cross section of the community and cannot discriminate on any basis that would be considered illegal if used by a school district. Charter schools are also guided by the state's academic standards and must participate, when applicable to the grade levels served by the charter schools, in the Statewide Assessment Program.

The fifteen new charter schools are:

- Oceanside Charter School, Atlantic City

- Regional Experiential Academic Charter High School, Atlantic City, Egg Harbor Township, Greater Egg Harbor Regional and Pleasantville
- Gray Charter School, Newark
- Jack Ewing Academy for Health Science and Technology Charter School, Newark
- Maria L. Varisco-Rogers Alternative Charter School, Newark
- Newark Charter School, Newark
- New Horizons Community Charter School, Newark
- Simon Bolivar Charter School, Newark
- Community Charter School, Jersey City
- Schomburg Charter School, Jersey City
- Granville Charter Middle School, Trenton
- PACE Charter School of Hamilton, Hamilton Twp. (Mercer County)
- Alexander Hamilton Charter School, Paterson
- Paterson Charter School for Urban Leadership, Paterson
- Queen City Academy Charter School, Plainfield