

Remarks of Gov. Bill Owens
Charter School Art Expo
May 3, 2004

This is a special day all across America. This is the first day of National Charter School Week. Throughout the country, charter school students – and their parents and teachers – are celebrating. They are celebrating the success of the charter school movement.

There are more than 3,000 charter schools in the United States, with over 735,000 students. And those numbers are growing every year.

For more than a decade, Colorado has been a leader in giving parents a choice when it comes to their children's schooling. It hasn't always been easy. We've had some ups and downs along the way. But that hasn't stopped us from doing the right thing. We've opened the door to thousands of children and parents who sought an alternative.

In the early '90s, when the school-choice movement was just starting, I was honored to write the Charter School Bill that brought school choice to Colorado. We were among the first states to bring this reform to the education system. And I am so proud of what we have been able to accomplish.

Here in Colorado, we have nearly 100 public charter schools, serving more than 31,000 students. And those schools are at the forefront of public education.

Today, we're joining the rest of the country in marking the achievements of charter schools by proclaiming this as Charter School Week in Colorado. And art is a great way to celebrate.

Inside, we have over 125 pieces of art produced by charter school students from all over Colorado. Throughout the week, the thousands of people who visit our Capitol will have a chance to enjoy your work.

Thanks to the Colorado League of Charter Schools for organizing this Art Expo. But more importantly, thanks for your work in supporting charter schools.

Because of your efforts, more children have a choice when it comes to their schooling, and as a result, more children now have a chance.

(NOTE: As part of ceremony, Governor will unveil piece of student art to officially open the art show.)

