

## **Georgia No. 4 in Ranking of State Charter School Laws**

**WASHINGTON, DC** -- According to a report released Wednesday by the **National Alliance for Public Charter Schools** entitled "*How State Charter Laws Rank Against the New Model Public Charter School Law*," Georgia ranks fourth when evaluated on its commitment to the full range of values in the public charter school movement: quality and accountability, funding equity, facilities support, autonomy, and growth and choice.

The report is the first-ever ranking of all state charter school laws that is based on the full range of values in the public charter school movement. It assesses the strengths of each state's charter school law against the 20 essential components of a strong law contained in the new model public charter school law released by the Alliance in June 2009. Grading each state law against each component -- a total of 800 separate ratings -- the Alliance ranks each law from strongest to weakest.

Here are comments from three leaders in Georgia's charter school movement:

**Tony Roberts, Ph. D., CEO of the Georgia Charter Schools Association:** "Our Association has worked diligently with state legislators, the Department of Education, and parents across the state to enact laws which would make it possible for quality charter schools to be developed across the State. We extend appreciation to all who have lead or supported these new initiatives."

**Jan Jones (R-Milton), Georgia House Speaker Pro Tem:** "I am delighted to hear the great news about Georgia's high ranking among states with the best charter school laws. We have recently enacted several important charter-related policies, and we hope to continue this effort to provide results for and meet the needs of Georgia's students and parents."

**Andrew Broy, Associate Superintendent Policy, External Affairs and Charter Schools:** "I am particularly impressed with the depth of the analysis conducted by the Alliance study, which touches on critical components of charter authorization, renewal, governance, and accountability. In Georgia, we view charter schools as a school improvement initiative that can impact public education statewide, both within existing schools and by creating new schools to serve the diverse needs of our students."