



GREAT LAKES CENTER
FOR EDUCATION RESEARCH & PRACTICE

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To: NEA Board of Directors

From: Great Lakes Center for Education Research and Practice

RE: An Update from the Center- February, 2006

Think Tank Monitoring Project

The Center, in conjunction with the University of Colorado and Arizona State University, has undertaken a year-long pilot project to monitor and respond to a variety of publications put out by an identified group of national and regional conservative, "market oriented" think tanks. Twelve think tanks will be monitored daily including the Mackinac Center, the Buckeye Institute, the Heritage Foundation and the CATO Institute. The purpose of the project is to provide the press, public and policy makers with timely, academically sound reviews of the merits of specific publications by these groups. The reviews will be written by academic experts and will be academically sound, concise and written for a popular audience. In addition, visit www.greatlakescenter.org for a weekly update on publications from these think tanks.

Charter School Research

The Center will be undertaking a major research project focused on charter schools. Various research proposals are being considered and a decision on the direction for research will be made within the next month. Topics under consideration include: the role of charter schools in the resegregation of public schools; attrition of teachers in charter schools; student achievement in charter schools; and business and education practices in successful charter schools.

Policy Briefs on Education Issues

The Center is funding a series of policy briefs on the following topics:

- Poverty and its impact on student achievement
- Impact of NCLB language policies on students and families
- Cost of meeting NCLB requirements
- Alternatives to high stakes testing

Other topics are under consideration. Each policy brief will summarize existing research available on a specific topic and will include policy recommendations. Publication of the first of these briefs is expected in the spring of 2006.

This may be the last paper update you receive from the Great Lakes Center!

In an effort to better communicate with all who are interested and/or impacted by the work of the Great Lakes Center, a list serve is being created to enable Center news, research, projects and information on education issues to be communicated more regularly and efficiently. If you would like to become a part of this list serve, just send an e-mail to tbattaglieri@mea.org.