How are we doing?
Talk to the Answer: An award-winning radio show and podcast, sponsored by the Josephson Institute of Ethics, is reaching parents and grandparents across the nation; conversations with school leaders, education policy experts; and advice and resources for families. www.charactercounts.org
For more information, visit www.charactercounts.org or call 202-456-6708.

Ohio Charter School Surmounts

Ohio’s charter schools have emerged as centers for educating “high-need” students, particularly students from low-income families. They have demonstrated that they can improve student achievement, even outperforming traditional public schools. The most recent data available showed that students at Ohio’s charter schools were learning at two to three times the rate of students at traditional public schools.

For more information, visit www.charter-schools.org.
2. With her child just graduating from college and her former husband working full-time, Morgan was in search of a stable career path. In March of that year, she was accepted into the space shuttle program on the advice of a friend who worked for the Johnson Space Center in Houston. Morgan was offered a position in the crew of the space shuttle mission STS-103, which she initially declined due to a lack of funds. However, after her former husband's retirement from the space shuttle program, Morgan was offered the position again and accepted it.

3. Morgan had been working as a mission specialist for several years, and she was keenly aware of the importance of education. She had earned a degree in education from the University of Maryland and had worked as a classroom teacher for several years. In addition to her professional experience, Morgan had a deep personal commitment to education and believed that every child should have access to a quality education. She had been actively involved in several education initiatives, including the establishment of a new charter school in her hometown. Morgan was passionate about the importance of education and believed that it was a key factor in improving the quality of life for all Americans.

4. Morgan was selected to participate in the space shuttle program in 1998, and she quickly became a leader in the program. She was known for her intelligence, her dedication, and her hard work, and she quickly gained the respect of her colleagues. Morgan was an excellent communicator, and she was able to work well with others, even in high-pressure situations. She was also known for her attention to detail, and she was always prepared for any eventuality.

5. Morgan was a role model for many young women, and she was known for her dedication to education. She believed that education was the key to improving the lives of all Americans, and she worked tirelessly to ensure that every child had access to a quality education. Morgan was a true leader, and she will be remembered as a beacon of hope and inspiration for generations to come.
continued from page 1

naut, she also is helping NASA develop new ways to connect space exploration to the operating the robot arm in support of mission objectives. As an educator astron-
To kick off the back-to-school season, Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings will embark on a three-day tour, Sept. 19–21. Spellings will visit several schools along with the city's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Dayton Art Institute and Mount Carmel hospitals. Among her travels this summer was a visit to Atlanta, where she and his wife Amy are photographed with professional golfer Phil Mickelson (with whom their students to pursue careers in math and science). Secretary Spellings will launch a three-day bus tour, Sept. 19–21, to the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Tour. Secretary Spellings will visit Title I schools to hear from educators who make progress in raising student achievement. She will also travel to Cincinnati before completing her tour in Philadelphia. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings will visit several schools along with the city's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Dayton Art Institute and Mount Carmel hospitals. Among her travels this summer was a visit to Atlanta, where she and his wife Amy are photographed with professional golfer Phil Mickelson (with whom their students to pursue careers in math and science). Secretary Spellings will launch a three-day bus tour, Sept. 19–21, to the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Tour. Secretary Spellings will visit Title I schools to hear from educators who make progress in raising student achievement. She will also travel to Cincinnati before completing her tour in Philadelphia.

Georgia—Starting this school year, Georgia is expanding options for parents with students who have disabilities through the Georgia Special Education Scholarship Program. Parents of students need special education services in Georgia public schools who had an active Individualized Education Program (IEP) in the 2006–07 school year may transfer their child to another public school with capacity to or a participating private school. Scholarship toward private school tuition costs are based on the amount of state funding the public school receives for the individual. By age 24, 75 percent of students who graduate from high school will work in the STEM fields. The proposal also puts a greater emphasis on the STEM fields in our nation's schools. The Intergenerational School, which seeks to reward students with grants, fund society, work study jobs in local businesses, and may have the same teacher for more than one year, which is usually at the trimester of assessments. It seemed, therefore, ideal to locate the school in the city's center. A nonprofit organization of seniors—led by Mayor Weir_bg—and the Intergenerational School, which seeks to reward students with grants, fund society, work study jobs in local businesses, and may have the same teacher for more than one year, which is usually at the trimester of assessments. It seemed, therefore, ideal to locate the school in the city's center. A nonprofit organization of seniors—led by Mayor Weir_bg—and the Intergenerational School, which seeks to reward students with grants, fund society, work study jobs in local businesses, and may have the same teacher for more than one year, which is usually at the trimester of assessments. It seemed, therefore, ideal to locate the school in the city's center. A nonprofit organization of seniors—led by Mayor Weir_bg—and the Intergenerational School, which seeks to reward students with grants, fund society, work study jobs in local businesses, and may have the same teacher for more than one year, which is usually at the trimester of assessments. It seemed, therefore, ideal to locate the school in the city's center. A nonprofit organization of seniors—led by Mayor Weir_bg—and the Intergenerational School, which seeks to reward students with grants, fund society, work study jobs in local businesses, and may have the same teacher for more than one year, which is usually at the trimester of assessments. It seemed, therefore, ideal to locate the school in the city's center. A nonprofit organization of seniors—led by Mayor Weir_bg—and the Intergenerational School, which seeks to reward students with grants, fund society, work study jobs in local businesses, and may have the same teacher for more than one year, which is usually at the trimester of assessments.

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News Show Highlights Empowered Parents

As children return to school (see box, “The ways in which parents and schools are working together under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) to ensure a high-quality education for all our students”), the Department has launched a new online resource to help parents and educators stay informed about the law’s requirements and measures that already have made a difference, such as the story of one high-poverty, urban high school, where the achievement gap was considerably reduced by 30 percent of parents passing the title exams in algebra and geometry only by 12 months to 24 points in six years later.

To see an advance order for a free copy of the school box, call 1-877-4ED-PUBS. For an online copy, visit http://www.ed.gov and select “Parents,” then “Empowering Parents School Box.”

In light of the vital role parents play in their children’s lives as their first and most important teacher, the U.S. Department of Education will release this fall a new resource to help parents with the information needed to support their children’s education. The Empowering Parents School Box is a resource that can be used at schools or home, as well as provided by teachers, schools, and school districts from across the country, consisting of school officials, parents and education experts, and educators. To view the entire 2007-08 school season as well as learn about making excellent options, visit http://www.ed.gov and click on “Parents,” then “New NCLB Parents Can Use,” or click 1-800-LEARN.
Schools with high concentrations of children from low-income families receive a label called “Title I,” support federal funding to help children in Title I schools half as much as a typical public school. To receive Title I support, schools must meet certain requirements set forth in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, including: a) providing a high-quality education; b) measuring student success; and c) making sure all students are making steady progress (APY) for three or more years. The law requires schools with the highest percentage of students from low-income families to make the report cards easy to understand and available to parents. The Department of Education’s monthly television program, “Empowering Parents,” promotes this opportunity.

### News Show Highlights Empowered Parents

As children return to school this fall, parents are working together under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) to ensure a high-quality education for their children. The Department’s web site highlights the ways in which parents and schools are working together under the No Child Left Behind Act to narrow the achievement gap. The site also will highlight the Department’s summer and preschool initiatives to help low-income families and educationally disadvantaged children.

### Empowering Parents School Box

The Achiever contains news and information for parents and community leaders about accountability for the Department of Education. Each month, it features a featured school and its experience with the No Child Left Behind Act. The featured school is chosen by the Department of Education. To order a free copy of the school box, call 1-800-USA-LEARN or 1-800-USA-LEARN (TTY), or send a request to:

**Empowering Parents School Box**

Office of Outreach, U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave. S.W.
Washington, DC 20200-5700

### Inside

- **Spotlight** | Back to School
- **Teacher’s First Flight Into Preschool**
- **More Than Just a Teaching Job**
- **Parents’ Postcards**
- **Empowering Parents**

### Address changes or subscriptions? Contact 1-800-USA-LEARN (TTY), or education@custhelp.com.

### Calendar

- **Sept. 17** | Constitution and Citizenship Day, an observance of the U.S. Constitution, which became officially the national day of citizenship on Sept. 17, 1787. The Federal Reserve System was established on Sept. 17, 1913. **http://www.federalreserve.gov**
- **Oct. 18** | Lights On Afterschool, a nationwide event saluting after-school programs, sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance, more than 1,500 communities, 2,400 partners, 4,000 events. **http://www.afterschoolalliance.org**
- **Oct. 21-27** | National Character Counts Week, an annual event promoting the importance of developing character in America’s youth. **http://www.charactercounts.org**

### Are We Making Progress?

To view the entire 2007-08 school year schedule as well as learn about upcoming options, including websites, visit NewsWeb and click on “Parents,” then “Newsmakers Can Use,” or call 1-800-USA-LEARN.

### How are we doing?

Talk to us! The Achiever is a news outlet striving to serve its readers. Please complete a short customer survey by Sept. 15 at http://www.ed.gov (select “No Child Left Behind,” then “Outreach,” then “Empowering Parents School Box.”)

### Our News Show

“Have you ever been in a meeting and thought, ‘I wish that to happen to Jason,’” she said. “I did not want that to happen to Jason.”

“Often don’t catch up and become off-track” and “The achievement gap” is a problem, fix it before it’s too late, President George W. Bush said at the American Legislative Exchange Council meeting in July, referring to the Department’s work over the summer and previewing Sec- tion News Parents Can Use: the story of Cheryl McArthur, a high-poverty, urban high school, where the achievement gap was considerably greater than the AP of 0 percent of parents passing the title exam in algebra and geometry. The school is not only 25 years later, but it has the same teachers, the same students, the same parents, the same students’ parents, the same school choice-NGCP has sent a message that results can be improved longer term, and that parents and teachers will work together for the benefit of their students. Parents can use these options as well: provide tips for parents on how to stay informed, getting involved and helping their children succeed, and also on how to help their children succeed, and also on how to help parents and schools are working together under the No Child Left Behind

### Spellings’ Back-to-School Speech

President seeks to build on Law’s Results

President Bush talked about the effect of the law and its results in his September 2007 State of the Union address. Bush said: “I’m asking people to make sure that education is a top priority on their to-do lists this fall, and their annual personal budgets. They should ask themselves if they’re doing what they can to help their children succeed. And they should ask their community leaders what they are doing to provide opportunities for American kids to stay in school and get the education they need.”

### Ohio Charter School Surmounts Low-Income Families

“Cincinnati is a city that has problems with violence, drug abuse, mental health issues, and unemployment,” said Jennifer Pizzolato, a teacher at the Achievement Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, last fall. “I’m going to take the time to place the bar on four things: drugs, alcohol, girls read, girls read and sit still more. They feel they’re behind in high school, they do not have a lot of opportunities, they need to do better in high school, and they do not have a lot of opportunities. The least place to start is to do something. And when you see students that do not have a high school education, they’re not going to get a good job, they’re not going to get a good job.”

### Contact us

To request more information, visit the Department’s web site at: **http://www.ed.gov** or call 1-877-4ED-PUBS (1-877-433-7827). Address changes and subscriptions? Contact 1-800-USA-LEARN, or education@custhelp.com.

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