



## The Nevada Policy Research Institute

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### **NPRI study reveals need for more charter schools**

A more robust charter school system in Nevada would most likely boost the overall quality of K-12 education in the state, suggests a new research paper released today by the Nevada Policy Research Institute.

The study, authored by Dr. Matthew Ladner of the Goldwater Institute in Phoenix, is titled "Quality & Quantity: Nevada's Educational Challenges" and is available online at [http://npri.org/docLib/20080507\\_Quality\\_Quantity.pdf](http://npri.org/docLib/20080507_Quality_Quantity.pdf).

More charter school options, Ladner writes, would create a win-win scenario in which Nevada could improve the performance of its public schools while simultaneously providing significant savings to taxpayers.

Ladner identifies two major challenges facing Silver State education that are certain to grow even more daunting in coming years: a rapidly growing student population, and a need to improve educational quality. The study shows how demographically similar Arizona successfully met those same challenges by significantly opening up more educational options to parents, most notably through a strong charter school system that as of 2007 numbered 482 schools. By contrast, Nevada, which imposes many institutional roadblocks to educational freedom, has less than five percent of that total.

"Because Arizona boldly embraced a strong charter school law in 1994, it has been greatly rewarded with high-quality schools," writes Ladner, who provides evidence that charter schools make up nine of the 10 best high schools in the greater Phoenix area.

By removing the obstacles to more charter choices, Ladner concludes, "Nevada can enjoy the same benefits from charter schools as do Arizona and other states."

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