

*You Are Cordially Invited to join
The Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy
For our Annual
Education Policy Luncheon
Featuring A Discussion of*

What Makes a Quality Charter School?

With

Sara Mead

*Senior Research Fellow, New America Foundation
Board Member, Democrats for Education Reform*

Don Soifer

*Member, District of Columbia Public Charter School Board
Executive Vice President, The Lexington Institute*

Diona McLucas

*Program Manager, BAEO-Gates Small High School Project
Former Educator with KIPP DC KEY Academy*

The Williamsburg Inn

*136 East Francis Street
Williamsburg, VA 23185*

**Wednesday, November 18, 2009
11:30 am**

*Sponsored by
Verizon Foundation*

\$25.00 per person

Recent reports from Boston, New York, and Washington, DC demonstrate that a quality charter school can make a dramatic difference in the education and the lives of at-risk children. In DC, *The Washington Post* showed that of the top 10 middle schools in math proficiency, seven were public charter schools. In New York, Harvard researchers found that disadvantaged students in charter schools like Harlem's Democracy Prep scored almost as well as students in the affluent Scarsdale suburban school district. And in Boston, researchers demonstrated that charter schools do significantly better than semi-autonomous "pilot" schools.

Every state, and most communities, have student populations that could benefit from the rigorous instruction offered by a quality charter school. But in Virginia, too many of those who want to organize a charter don't have the skills and background to develop an educational program and assessment measures that

achieve academic excellence. And too many charter authorizers misunderstand the role of charters, or their role as authorizers.

This panel discussion will examine the characteristics of quality charter schools that improve the lives of children. And it will explore what authorizers must do to ensure educational achievement.

The **DC Charter School Board** is a separate entity designed specifically to review charter applications. The **New America Foundation** is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy emphasizing work that is responsive to the changing conditions and problems of our 21st Century information-age economy. The **Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO)** focuses on the placement of successful, quality charter schools within the black community.

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✓ **YES! I plan to attend the November 18 luncheon in Williamsburg.** Please reserve me _____ seat(s) at the luncheon. I have enclosed \$25.00 per person in payment of the lunch.

To RSVP:

- By Mail:** Send a check, payable to "Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy" to the address above.
- By Fax:** Fax this form to 703-455-1531.
- By Phone:** Call (703) 922-6768 to place your reservation.
- By Email:** Email c.braunlich@att.net to place your reservation.

Name _____

Title/Position _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____