



PAR: Traditional schools can use charters' ideas

March 09, 2010

A government watchdog group is calling on Louisiana's education department to analyze the state's independently run public charter schools with an eye toward having traditional public schools replicate successful practices.

"The problem is that information about these practices tends to be exchanged primarily among those in the charter school community. At the same time, local school districts generally are suspicious of, if not hostile toward, charter schools," the Public Affairs Research Council says in a report released today.

PAR says the Department of Education should create an advisory council that first analyzes best practices in Louisiana charter schools that traditional public schools might adopt or adapt, and then helps develop guidelines for implementing those practices.

The report also lists a variety of "best practices" identified by PAR in its own research. Those practices include establishment of clearly defined academic and behavioral expectations for students; incentives for good conduct and initiatives to get parents involved in their children's school; structures for assessing student progress and using the data from those assessments to develop instruction plans; Saturday programs, summer programs and extended school days and school years. To download a copy of the report, click [here](#).