

I would like to congratulate the founders of the charter school movement, and those who keep it going.

It is simply great that Minnesota's Charter School Law is a winner of the "Innovations in American Government Award."

These new ideas have reformed the way we look at public education.

Charter schools are about choice.

But charter schools are also about accountability.

It's very simple.

If they work, fine.

If they don't work, if students don't learn, shut them down.

That's accountability.

Sometimes we have schools with good ideas about education, but they don't always know how to manage money.

Or how to manage and account for state tax dollars.

It's kind of like an actor running a theater – they might create great art – but they also need to learn the business of theater

I don't want to throw the baby out with the bathwater.

That's why my education budget includes money for technicians to help charter schools handle their finances.

Charter schools need to learn the business part of education.

We need accountability in accounting for how tax dollars are spent.

We need accountability in both learning and spending.

I would like to see that standard used on all public schools.

Charter schools encourage new ideas, they give students a new way to learn – and they tend to have a greater involvement of teachers and parents.

Governor Jesse Ventura
Charter School Award Recognition
State Capitol Rotunda
2:00 pm, February 8, 2001



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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Congratulations for helping to make Minnesota a state that leads the way.

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