



STARSHINE ACADEMY™



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StarShine Academy Celebrates National School Choice Week

Phoenix, AZ – January 24th marks the beginning of School Choice Week — an awareness effort to highlight the need for more high-quality school options for all students and families.

Trish McCarty, Founder and CEO of StarShine Academy Schools, released the following statement on National School Choice Week:

“This week, individuals, families, schools, and education organizations unite to celebrate and demand better school choice. During National School Choice Week, we recognize the growing number of families who have options for their children’s education and how that improves and

impacts our nations' future. We also commit ourselves to work smarter on behalf of the millions of students still waiting for that choice.

This year, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the passage of the first charter public school law. Arizona had one of the first charter laws in 1997, and has continued to be a national leader of school choices, including charters, district and private schools. We honor the hard work put forth by the countless teachers, school leaders, and parents that created opportunities for the nearly 3 million students in charter schools today.

Still, as a newly-released [state-by-state ranking of charter school laws](#) demonstrates, we have much more work to do to create enough opportunities for students nationwide.

About Charter Schools

Charter schools are independent, public, and tuition-free schools that are given the freedom to be more innovative while being held accountable for advancing student achievement. Since 2010, many research studies have found that students in charter schools do better in school than their traditional school peers. For example, one study by the Center for Research on Education Outcomes at Stanford University found that charter schools do a better job teaching low income students, minority students, and students who are still learning English than traditional schools. Separate studies by the Center on Reinventing Public Education and Mathematica Policy Research have found that charter school students are more likely to graduate from high school, go on to college, stay in college and have higher earnings in early adulthood.

About StarShine Academy Schools: A School; Different StarShine, opened in 2002 as one of the early charter schools, continues to be a leader in school reform, advocating teaching human skills in addition to academic skills as a necessity for the 21st Century, which include an emphasis on gardening, the environment, the arts, protocol, sports, self-respect, responsibility to others and civics. Mrs. McCarty and other leaders recently met with Pope Francis and at another meeting at Windsor Castle to discuss how to improve education for the future of all.

This week celebrations will include, Spring planting in the garden, essay contests and on Thursday, Jan. 26, the 15th Annual 100th Monkey Breakfast, Maker Space Ribbon Cutting For more information, please visit www.starshineacademy.org

<http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED491207.pdf>