

“A man may die, nations may rise
and fall, but an idea lives on.”

— PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

ABOUT THE LIBRARY

The Founders Library is a special initiative of the National Charter Schools Institute. The Institute is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to inspiring and democratizing excellence in education. We work across the country inspiring, equipping and supporting people and organizations to achieve breakthrough performance.

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John Engler
Michigan Governor (1991-2003)



Michigan Capitol

IDEAS IN ACTION!

CHARTERING = TRANSFORMING EDUCATION

Influenced by the ideas and writings of Ted Kolderie, early charter school advocates saw chartering as a viable strategy for transforming education. These visionaries saw chartering as a way to challenge the givens of the system, withdraw the exclusive franchise given to school districts, and create the conditions for trying new and better ways to design, deliver and revitalize public education.

Minnesota's historic passage of the nation's first charter school law, in 1991, birthed the charter schools movement. This landmark legislation blazed a trail and paved the way for others to follow. Now, 44 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam are home to charter public schools.

Even with this rapid growth, charters and chartering are often mischaracterized or misunderstood. That's why the work of the Founders Library is essential – to preserve, protect and share the truth about the origins and evolution of chartering.

The history and lessons learned from chartering are profound. Our children and our nation have benefited from the courageous action taken by the early pioneers. By capturing this vibrant history, and making the stories and insights of the founders accessible, we can learn from the past and chart an even brighter course for our children's future.

WHY A NATIONAL FOUNDERS LIBRARY?

In its earliest form, a library served as an archive of records to benefit the common good and ensure information was publicly available to all. Building on this tradition, the Founders Library will harness the power of the internet to ensure the historical records and the oral histories of the charter founders are free and publicly accessible for all.

THE LIBRARY WILL:

- ✓ Collect, digitize and preserve the history of chartering
- ✓ Serve as a resource to policymakers, researchers and media
- ✓ Share the origins, insights and lessons learned from chartering
- ✓ Tell the story of how leaders overcame obstacles and put ideas into action
- ✓ Inspire future generations to learn from the past as they strive to improve the future



Ted Kolderie
Author and Founding Partner, Education Evolving



Ember Reichgott Junge
Minnesota State Senator (1983-2001)

Bill Owens
Colorado Governor (1999-2007)



California Capitol

SUPPORT THE FOUNDERS LIBRARY

Each state has its own unique story about how chartering came to be. The Founders Library needs your help identifying the key players, historical records, and stories associated with the founding and evolution of chartering in your state.

Serving as the digital home for primary source materials from around the country, the Founders Library is collecting things like: groundbreaking legislative and regulatory action, court cases, seminal speeches, white papers, personal notes and papers from early pioneers, along with historic media coverage and more.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please help us propel the Founders Library and ensure your state's unique story gets told by:



Identifying and connecting us with early pioneers and historical records



Telling others and linking to the Founders Library at www.CharterInstitute.org/Library



Making a tax-deductible donation