



## NEWS RELEASE

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*U.S. Department of Education's General Counsel Charlie Rose listens to Renton High School teachers during a national Listening and Learning tour, which is part of a national discussion on education reform.*

## **Renton High School teachers, parents have their voices heard on education reform**

***Obama administration sends Dept. of Education staff on 'Listening and Learning' tour to hear directly from teachers, families***

October 16, 2009—Renton High School teachers and parents this week told representatives from President Barack Obama's Education Department about the changes they would make to the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), which was signed into law in January 2002 by then-President George W. Bush.

The legislation is up for renewal, and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, along with senior-level staff, is making the rounds to cities throughout the U.S. in a series of "Listening and Learning: A Conversation About Education Reform" tours to hear directly from those on the front lines of education before starting work with Congress to address the law's problems.

Renton High School was chosen because of the school's great progress in increasing student achievement and the work to prepare students for success after high school.

### **Renton High staff, parents show passion for students, devotion to teaching**

The Renton High team told the official in attendance, General Counsel Charlie Rose, about their students' successes and the progress of the school's reform efforts. They told how they've become a family of educators who work as a team to address individual student academic needs.

The group told Rose that NCLB puts too much emphasis on standardized tests, unfairly labels schools as failures, and doesn't account for a student's academic growth in its accountability system.

Renton High School students are prepared for success after high school, the team told Rose. Which for most means college; but, for others it could mean other schooling to allow students to learn a trade. The group asked that any rewriting of the law also place value on technical education for students that choose to enter the workforce. The group also made a plea that the law places value on the importance the arts play in the intellectual growth of a student.

### **Renton's voice to be heard in education reform**

Rose was impressed with the teachers, saying he was moved by their passion and conviction, and their clear understanding and ability to provide for the needs of their students.

Rose will take what he learned at Renton High back to Washington D.C. and include the contributions and ideas for education reform in a report to be offered to Secretary Duncan as he begins work at the federal level to revamp the No Child Left Behind Act.



*U.S. Dept. of Ed.'s General Counsel Charlie Rose listens to Renton High School mathematics teacher Stacey Snyder*