NEW REPORT FOCUSES ON HOW PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAVE PROMOTED THE COMMON GOOD IN THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON — January 25, 2007 – Public education plays a vital role in America’s democratic society, and the public spirited missions of public schools remain essential today, according to a new report by the Washington-D.C. based Center on Education Policy. The report, Why We Still Need Public Schools: Public Education for the Common Good, highlights the history and importance of public education in the United States, dating back to its establishment as a necessary institution for the young republic and Horace Mann’s efforts to promote a common school for all. The report focuses on:

- How and why the U.S. system of public education came into being;
- The six core public missions that public schools have been expected to fulfill, such as unifying a diverse population, preparing people for democratic citizenship, and ensuring equal opportunities for all children; and
- Why these missions are relevant today and why the nation must maintain them while pursuing reforms to help all schools live up to these core ideals.

The report is available on the Web at www.cep-dc.org, and is part of the Center’s ongoing efforts to help Americans better understand the role of public education in a democracy and the need to improve the academic quality of public schools.

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