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Contact:
Meg Cotter Mazzola
(202) 441-1287
mcotter@stanford.edu

CREDO at Stanford University Releases National Charter Management Organization Study

STANFORD, Calif. – Stanford University’s Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO), released today a comprehensive report titled Charter Management Organizations 2017. This report provides an update to CREDO’s [Volume II of the CGAR study](#) released in 2013 and includes new areas of analysis.

This report examines how different school management structures impact the academic growth of charter school students and identifies measures of effectiveness of scale and business practices across the charter sector in U.S. K-12 public education.

“On the whole, the findings in this study show that attending a charter school that is part of a larger network of schools is associated with improved educational outcomes for students. However, the management arrangements of the network provider influence the typical gains that students make,” said Dr. James Woodworth, Senior Quantitative Research Analyst for CREDO at Stanford University.

Key Findings

This study uses data from the 2011-12 to 2014-15 school years across 24 states, New York City and Washington D.C.

- **Charter school organizations have their strongest effects with traditionally underserved populations, such as black and Hispanic students.**
- **Charter school operators that hold non-profit status post significantly higher student academic gains than those with a for-profit orientation. For-profit operators have results that are at best equal to the comparison traditional public school students in reading or worse in math.**
- **Even after controlling for differences in student populations, the effectiveness of charter school organizations varies across states.**
- **Schools that contract with external vendors for much or all of the school operations post significantly lower results than network operators that maintain direct control over their operations.**
- **Online schools [continue](#) to present significantly weaker academic performance in reading and math compared with their counterparts in conventional schools.**

“As this study shows, there is still much work to be done in regulating and maintaining the pool of charter school networks. The effectiveness of charter school organizations varies across states and across networks, but the networks that are achieving significant and positive growth can serve as a model for best practices in these instances,” Dr. Woodworth said.

To download a copy of the full report, visit: <http://credo.stanford.edu>



About CREDO at Stanford University

CREDO at Stanford University produces rigorous, non-partisan research and evaluation to enhance the body of empirical evidence, driving education policy decisions toward improved education outcomes for all students.

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