



For Immediate Release

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CREDO At Stanford University Releases First In-Depth Examination Of Charter School Impacts In South Carolina

STANFORD, Calif. November 19, 2019 – Stanford University’s Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO) found that in a year, the typical charter school student in South Carolina experienced similar learning gains in reading and weaker growth in math compared to their traditional school peers. The disadvantage in math for charter students is as if the students obtained 53 fewer days of learning in a typical 180-day school year.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to work with the South Carolina Department of Education to conduct our first analysis of the performance of South Carolina charter schools," said Margaret Raymond, Director of CREDO at Stanford University. "The sector's twenty-year history makes it of special interest. The findings of our study suggest that the charter schools' goal of educational improvement is unevenly met. However, we do see shares of schools showing high growth and high achievement, particularly in reading. Those schools present an opportunity to serve as valuable models for all South Carolina schools to emulate".

Key Findings

- Attendance in online South Carolina charter schools reveals remarkably weaker growth in both reading and math relative to both the average traditional school peer and peer students attending brick-and-mortar charter students.
- The poor performance of online charter schools wipes out the positive impact of brick-and-mortar charter schools in reading.
- The learning gains associated with charter school attendance by grade span shows that students in South Carolina charter elementary and high schools exhibit similar growth in reading and math compared to their traditional school peers.
- Charter middle school students show similar progress in reading, while they gain an edge over their traditional school peers in math.
- Students in multi-level charter schools experience weaker growth in both reading and math compared to their traditional school peers.

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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