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Charter Schools' Response to the Pandemic in California, New York and Washington State

*CREDO at Stanford University Releases New Survey Research on Charter School
Leaders Response to COVID*

STANFORD, Calif. February 15, 2022- Stanford University's Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO) released new research illuminating the experiences of charter school leaders in California, New York, and Washington State from the start of the pandemic in March 2020 through the end of the school year 2020–21.

"This report not only tells the story of how charter school leaders approached the challenge of a lifetime. It also reveals a larger story of how education policy at large can contribute in positive ways to strengthening outcomes for public school students. The legal and regulatory parameters that undergird charter school policy in California, New York, and Washington are due to some of the credit for the schools' response. When the need for action arose, charter schools already had the capacity and permission to respond. Essentially, these teams were pre-approved for change." said Margaret Raymond, Director, CREDO at Stanford University.

Key Findings

Schools in the study:

- reported 40 percent of students experienced learning loss, with 20 percent experiencing considerable learning loss.
- saw 35 percent of students experiencing COVID themselves or in their immediate families. Fifteen percent of students lost a family member to COVID.
- secured devices and internet connection for nearly 100 percent of students and teachers by the end of the spring 2020 semester.
- stated their highest priorities were transitioning the instructional model, establishing communications, and providing services.
- reorganized curriculum and prioritized essential learning standards in a systematic way.
- saw teachers place increased emphasis on communications with all stakeholders and online platforms.
- recognized the impact of remote learning on student well-being and made extensive efforts to support students and families directly

In multiple states and under varying conditions, the majority of charter schools we surveyed demonstrated resilience and creativity in responding to the physical and social challenges presented by COVID. They reacted strongly and acted quickly to shift to remote instruction. Communication was elevated as a priority. They assessed student and teacher needs for technology and mobilized resources and contacts to distribute technology and subsidize internet access.

[LINK TO FULL RESULTS](#)

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.