



Charter School Research Collaborative: Research Agenda

- 1. What are the long-term effects of charter schools?**
 - a. How does attending a charter school affect post-secondary outcomes, including college enrollment, type of college(s) attended, persistence, degree completion, and major?
 - b. How does attending a charter school affect labor market trajectories, including employment, earnings, and industry of employment?
 - c. What short-term measures accurately predict long-term success?
- 2. What is the effect of charters on non-test score outcomes? How do these effects relate to test score effects?**
 - a. How does attending a charter school affect:
 - i. school climate and student behavior?
 - ii. teenage and early adult childbearing?
 - iii. health outcomes?
 - iv. civic participation?
 - v. criminal justice system involvement?
 - b. Which non-test score measures accurately predict long-term success?
- 3. Are charter schools adopting innovative practices in ways that differ from traditional public school settings?**
 - a. How do the programs and practices of effective charters — e.g., extended school days, more instructional time, data-driven instruction, and emphasis on discipline — impact student performance, relative to traditional public schools? What other mechanisms drive the differential impacts of charters relative to traditional public schools?
 - i. *Note: We are not interested in projects that explore programs or practices that happen to take place in a charter school – rather, we wish to support projects that investigate the drivers of charter effectiveness and dig into the “black box” of charter quality.*
 - b. Are charters integrating AI in the classroom in innovative ways? What does this take-up look like relative to traditional public schools, and how is it affecting students, teachers, and administrators?
- 4. How does charter performance vary across different contexts?**
 - a. How has school performance evolved over time?
 - b. Does school performance vary across geographic regions and school models?
 - c. How does charter performance and enrollment vary in settings with school voucher programs?
- 5. How do charter school effects vary with demographic characteristics, family background, and for students receiving language and special education services?**
- 6. How do system-level factors impact charter school performance?**
 - a. How do different authorizing practices and performance frameworks impact student performance? (e.g., CMO and non-CMO charters, authorizer renewal criteria)



- b. How do charter school admissions processes affect student access to schools? How do families decide where to send their children?
 - c. What are the impacts of charter unionization on teachers and students?
 - d. What are the impacts of charters on nearby district schools and the broader educational ecosystem? What mechanisms drive these effects?
 - e. What are the impacts of charter mergers and acquisitions? What factors contribute to success?
- 7. How have charter sector conditions changed over time relative to traditional public schools? What factors have contributed to those changes?**
- a. How have charter school enrollment, staffing, leadership, and/or funding changed over time relative to traditional public schools? Where changes have occurred, what has contributed to those changes?