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WWC **QUICK** Review

“Charter-School Management Organizations: Diverse Strategies and Diverse Student Impacts”

What is the study about?

The study examined the effect of non-profit charter-school management organizations (CMOs) on middle school academic achievement and rates of high school graduation and post-secondary enrollment. Within eight geographically diverse states, the authors matched each charter school student with similar students attending conventional public schools. The sample included nearly 14,000 students attending 68 middle schools operated by 22 CMOs and nearly 3,000 students who attended 13 high schools operated by six CMOs.

What did the study report?

The study reported that, on average, there were no statistically significant effects of attending a CMO-operated school on state assessments in math, reading, science, or social studies among middle school youth. There were also no statistically significant impacts on high school graduation and college enrollment rates. The study reported substantial variation in both the magnitude and level of statistical significance of the impacts across the participating CMOs.

How does the WWC rate this study?

The study is not a randomized controlled trial and, therefore, cannot receive the highest rating of *meets WWC evidence standards*. It used a quasi-experimental design, established that CMO and non-CMO students were similar on measured characteristics such as baseline test scores and demographics, and controlled for baseline characteristics of students in the analysis. A

The New Quick Review

In March 2012, the WWC began using a new format for quick reviews to allow for a faster release. When a more complete review is conducted for the study described here, this information will be updated.

Handy Definitions

- ▼ *quick review*
- ▼ *study rating*
- ▼ *meets evidence standards*
- ▼ *meets evidence standards with reservations*
- ▼ *does not meet evidence standards*

See the *full glossary* ►

more thorough review (forthcoming) will confirm whether the study *meets WWC evidence standards with reservations*.

Citation

Furgeson, J., Gill, B., Haimson, J., Killewald, A., McCullough, M., Nichols-Barrer, I., Teh, B.-r., Verbitsky-Savitz, N., Bowen, M., Demeritt, A., Hill, P., & Lake, R. (2012). *Charter-school management organizations: Diverse strategies and diverse student impacts*. Report prepared by Mathematica Policy Research and the University of Washington's Center on Reinventing Public Education. Princeton, NJ: Mathematica Policy Research. Retrieved from http://www.crpe.org/cs/crpe/download/csr_files/pub_cmofinal_Jan12.pdf.

Absence of conflict of interest: This study was conducted by staff from Mathematica Policy Research. Because Mathematica operates the WWC, this study was reviewed by staff from subcontractor organizations.

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