



NATIONAL  
CHARTER SCHOOL  
RESOURCE CENTER  
AT SAFAL PARTNERS

## SEA Webinar: The State Role in Supporting Charter Innovation



September 5, 2017

# About the National Charter School Resource Center

[www.charterschoolcenter.ed.gov](http://www.charterschoolcenter.ed.gov)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the National Charter School Resource Center. At the top left is the logo with the text 'NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL RESOURCE CENTER AT SAFAL PARTNERS'. To the right is a search bar and social media icons for a book, Twitter, and Facebook. Below this is a teal navigation bar with menu items: FOCUS AREAS, AUDIENCE, PUBLICATIONS, VIDEOS, FUNDING, EVENTS, and FAQs. On the right side of this bar are links for LOGIN, CMO, CSO, and SEA. Below the navigation bar is a search prompt: 'What would you like to know about Charter Schools?' followed by a 'Select Your Topic' dropdown menu and a 'BEGIN YOUR SEARCH' button. The main content area features a large image of diverse children with a semi-transparent overlay box containing the text: 'Report: Charter School Discipline: Examples of Policies and School Climate Efforts from the Field'. Below this text is a button that says 'Click here to access this report' with a right-pointing arrow. At the bottom of the page, there are three circular icons in teal: a house, a folder, and a briefcase. Below each icon is a heading and a short paragraph of text.

**What Are Charter Schools?**  
Charter schools are in 42 states, nearly 25 years old, and over 7% of k-12 students in the US are enrolled in one. Here is an explanation of this important trend

**State Resources for Charters**  
Need help finding information about charter schools in your state? Click above for a map that will guide you to resources and contact information for each state

**Most Popular Charter Resources**  
Click above for a list of our top resources. These resources include everything from reports on special education to documentaries on successful charters

- Funded through the **U.S. Department of Education**
- Makes accessible **high-quality resources to support the charter school sector**

# Agenda (1)

- **Introductions and Logistics**

- *Data on Innovation and School Variety*

- *A Philanthropic Perspective*

- *Response: Considering State and Federal Roles*

- *Discussion and Q&A*

# Moderator and Presenters



**Alex Medler**  
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# Webinar Logistics

- Use the chat feature for technical questions and assistance
- Use the Q&A box to ask questions or provide input on the webinar content
- Questions will be answered during audience Q&A
- The webinar recording will be available on the NCSRC website by 12/27
- We will ask you to fill out a survey after the webinar concludes

## Agenda (2)

- ✓ Introductions and Logistics
- **Data on Innovation and School Variety**
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# Why variety matters?

- We don't know what model works best, so we should try several approaches
- Children thrive in different learning environments
- We need different options so that students can find their optimal educational fit

# School variety across three categories

<b>CURRICULUM (what schools teach)</b>	<b>INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH (how schools teach)</b>	<b>ENRICHMENT (including electives and extracurriculars)</b>
Character or SEL	Alternative education	Academics
College prep	Technology enhanced	Visual and Theatrical Arts
Humanities/cultural or international focus	Project-based learning	Sports (any offered)
STEM	Internships	Music
Arts	Mentorships	JROTC
IB	Immersion/dual language program	Character or social-emotional development
Literacy	Bilingual education	Other
JROTC	Progressive models	Service (community service, service learning)

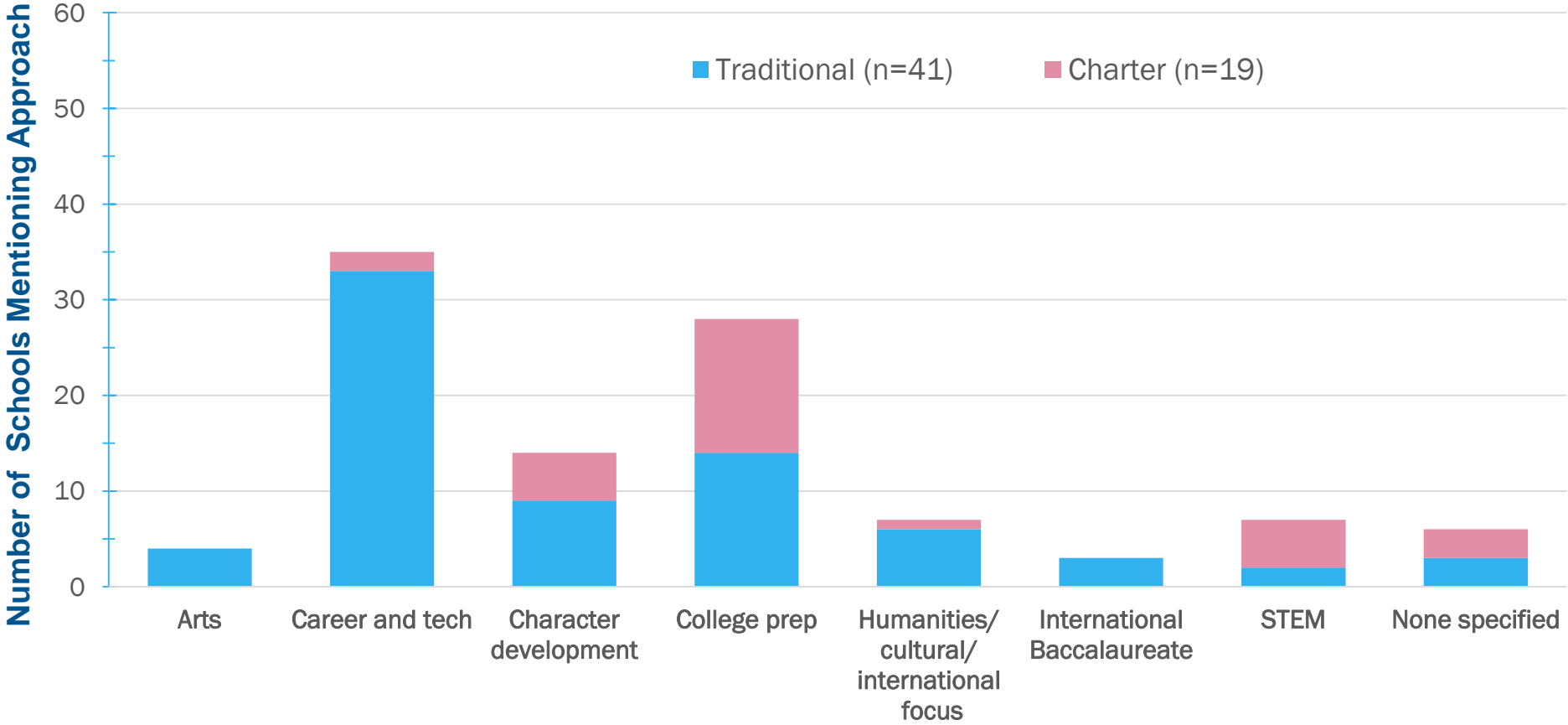


# Are city schools monolithic?

- Major finding: There is more variety across school options than people think
  - Are City Schools Becoming Monolithic? Analyzing the Diversity of Options in Denver, New Orleans, and Washington, D.C.
  - <https://www.crpe.org/publications/diversity-options>

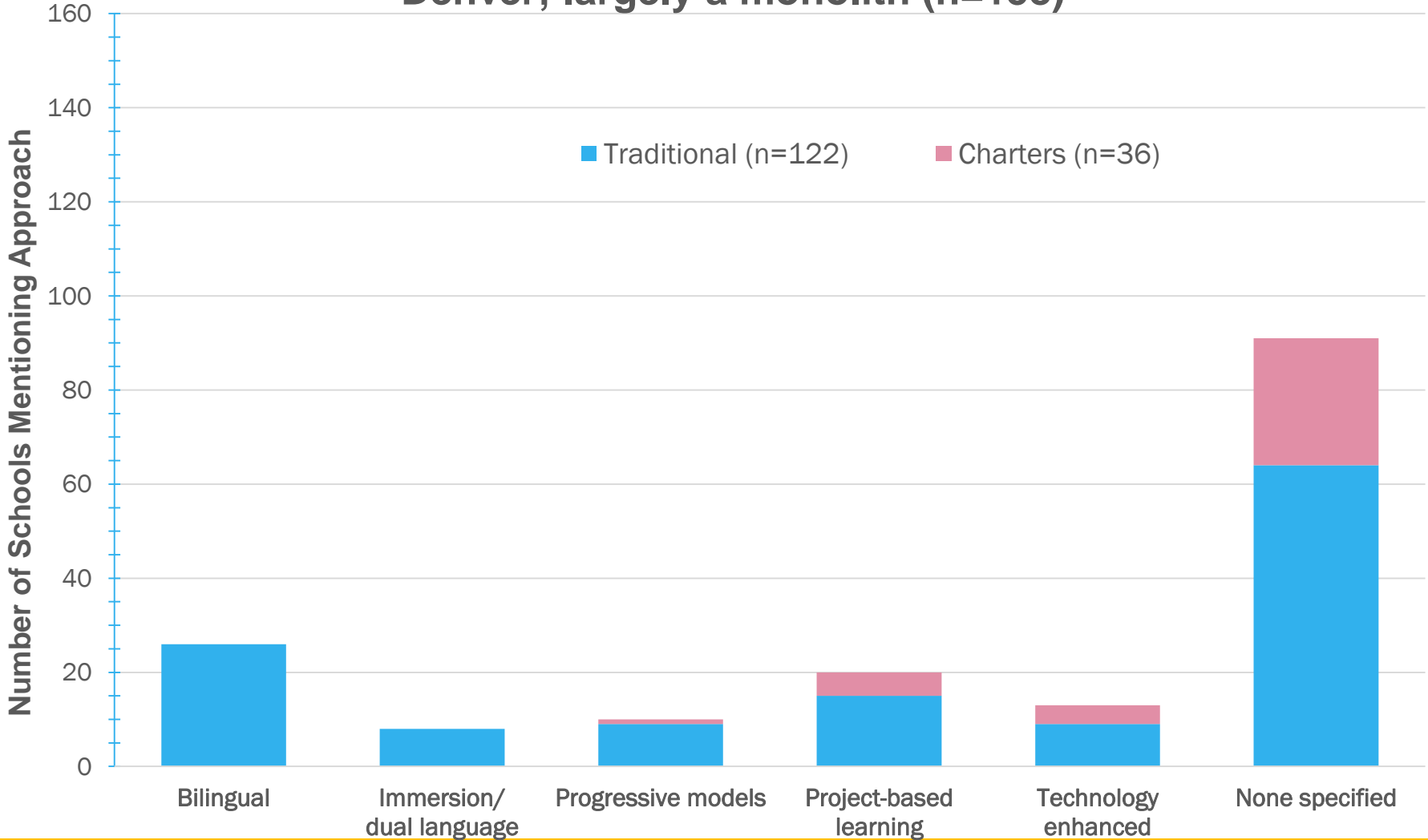
# Curricular Approach

Curriculum: About the same number of college prep high schools as career & tech high schools in Denver (n=60)



# Instructional Approach

Instruction: Variety concentrated in only a few K-8 schools in Denver; largely a monolith (n=158)



# Recommendation 1 of 4: Figure out what people want

- Survey the community about which programs matter
  - What do educators think would best serve their students?
  - What programs reflect the interests and aspirations of parents?
  - What experiences do students want?
  - What do future job markets suggest?
- Look at school demand data to complement surveys
  - Waitlists, transfers

## Recommendation 2 of 4: Figure out what you have

- Figure out what's missing in parts of a geographic area

## Recommendation 3 of 4: Tell people about it

- Fix parent guides to:
  - Be user friendly
  - Reflect their interests (outcomes and programmatic offerings, yes, but also what happens in schools – e.g., safety, discipline, culture, and special features)

## Recommendation 4 of 4: Make adjustments

- Schedule a supply update cycle for evolving needs and preferences

# Agenda (3)

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# Parents as consumers of K-12 education

- 16 parent focus groups in four communities: D.C., Grand Rapids, Denver, Oakland
- Nationwide survey of 2,800 parents and voters underway
- UNDERSTANDING:
  - Parent aspirations for children's ideal development
  - Parent expectations of K-12 education
  - Parents' consumer experience with available K-12 options
  - Parent perspectives on the value of diverse approaches to education

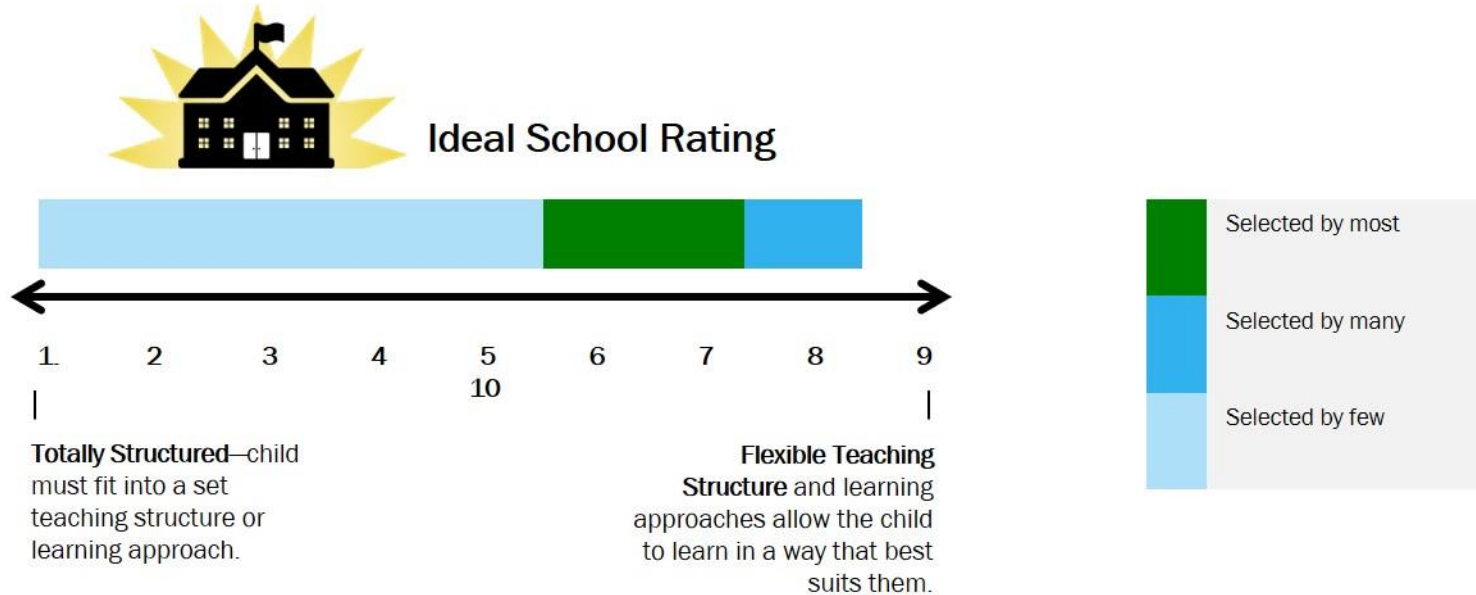


## Key finding: Education should fit the child

- Education should fit the student rather than the student fitting into one approach to education
- Strong agreement that each child learns differently – and there should be a choice of different education approaches to suit different learners



# Parent ideal: Instructional Model Diversity



*“My son is creative. I don’t want him to be boxed in.... Schools should encourage his imagination.”* Denver parent, PK - 1

*“I don’t want my child just sitting at a desk like a robot. [Children] need to grow their brains and work a variety of skills.”* D.C. parent, PK - 1

*“Schools should teach to each child’s style—not use a blanket approach.”* Oakland parent, 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> grade



## Key finding: Capabilities over content (1)

- How students learn, rather than what they learn, matters more – parents and voters see a growing disconnect between what schools teach and what creates real-world success
- Social and emotional development is more valuable to parents than academic skills and knowledge – schools should build valued social and emotional characteristics as they teach academic content



## Key finding: Capabilities over content (2)

- A balanced approach is highly valued but missing:
  - Mix of instructional approaches to fit different learning styles throughout the K-12 experience
  - Social, emotional, and academic in every approach
  - Appropriate integration of teacher, school, family, and community



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# Agenda (5)

- ✓ Introductions and Logistics
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- ✓ Response: Considering State and Federal Roles
- **Discussion and Q&A**

# Discussion

- Is there a problem requiring a fix? If so, what is it?
- What can or should the federal or state governments do?
- Is it necessary to choose between content or capability?
- Are quality and variety of options compatible?
- Are there immediate things SEAs can do to support and expand innovation?
- What cautions or concerns come to mind?





# Questions & Answers

- Please submit any questions in the Q&A box.
- Please complete the survey at the end of the webinar.

# Contact

## Contact Us

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# NCSRC Resources (1 of 3)

## Webinars

- [General Webinar: I Just Joined a Charter School Board...Now What?](#)
- [General Webinar: Rural Charter Schools – Building Bridges](#)
- [General Webinar: Using Data to Create Positive School Climates and Discipline Practices in Charter Schools](#)
- [General Webinar: Charter Schools and Food Services: Options, Planning, and Decision-Making](#)
- [General Webinar: Supporting Students with Disabilities](#)
- [General Webinar: Serving English Language Learners and Families](#)
- [SEA Webinar: The Role of States and Charter School Authorizers in Overseeing Student Discipline in Charter Schools](#)
- [SEA Webinar: Overview of CSP's Recently Released Dear Colleague Letter and of the NCSRC](#)
- [SEA Webinar: Use of Funds](#)
- [SEA Webinar: Annual Independent Audits](#)
- [SEA Webinar: Early Childhood Learning in Charter Schools](#)
- [SEA Webinar: Data Management Tools for Risk Based Monitoring](#)
- [SEA Webinar: Weighted Lotteries](#)
- [SEA Webinar: Charter School Closure](#)
- [SEA Webinar: Measuring Authorizer Quality](#)
- [SEA Webinar: Financial Management and Fiscal Controls](#)
- [Credit Enhancement Webinar: Evaluating Charter School Performance](#)
- [Credit Enhancement Webinar: Evaluating Charter School Performance During the Transition to Common Core](#)
- [Credit Enhancement Webinar: Recent Developments in CSP Guidance](#)
- [Credit Enhancement Webinar: Authorizer Collaboration](#)
- [Credit Enhancement Webinar: Collaboration to Enhance Facility Financing](#)

# NCSRC Resources (2 of 3)

## White Papers and Reports

- [A User's Guide to Fiscal Oversight for Charter School Governing Boards and Authorizers](#)
- [Charter School Discipline: Examples of Policies and School Climate Efforts from the Field](#)
- [Charter School Discipline Toolkit: A Toolkit for Charter School Leaders](#)
- [Authorizer Evaluation Summary: An Analysis of Evaluations of Authorizer Quality](#)
- [District-Charter Collaboration: A User's Guide](#)
- [Student Achievement in Charter Schools: What the Research Shows](#)
- [An Analysis of the Charter School Facility Landscape](#)
- [Finding Space: Charters in District Facilities](#)
- [Charter Schools and Military Communities: A Toolkit](#)
- [Legal Guidelines for Educating English Learners in Charter Schools](#)
- [Engaging English Learner Families in Charter Schools](#)

## Case Studies

- [Student Discipline and School Climate in Charter Schools](#)
- [AppleTree \(Early Learning\)](#)
- [DC Public Charter School Board \(Authorizer\)](#)
- [Camino Nuevo's Kayne Siart Campus](#)
- [Indianapolis Mayor's Office \(Authorizer\)](#)
- [Cornerstone Prep \(Turnaround\)](#)
- [Yes Prep/Houston \(District-Charter Collaboration\)](#)
- [Two Rivers Public Charter School \(SWD\)](#)
- [Folk Arts Cultural Treasures Charter School \(EL\)](#)
- [Alma del Mar \(EL\)](#)
- [El Sol \(EL\)](#)
- [Brooke Roslindale Charter \(SWD\)](#)

# NCSRC Resources (3 of 3)

## CSO Master Classes

- [Communications](#)
- [School Leadership Development](#)
- [New School Development](#)
- [Emerging Legal Issues](#)
- [Federal Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Legal Issues Impacting the Public Charter Sector Webinar: Student Discipline – Policy & Practices in Public Charter Schools](#)
- [Closing Low-Performing Public Charter Schools - State Level Strategies](#)
- [Parent & School Engagement for CSOs](#)
- [Board Development and Governance](#)

## Newsletters

- [Discipline Resources](#)
- [Rural Charter Schools Report](#)
- [Aldine ISD and YES Prep District-Charter Collaboration Case Study](#)
- [District-Charter Collaboration: A User's Guide](#)
- [Student Achievement in Charter Schools: What the Research Shows](#)
- [Serving English Language Learners and Families](#)
- [Charter Schools Serving Military Families](#)
- [English Learners in Charter Schools: Key Opportunities for Engagement and Integration](#)
- [Finding Space: Analyzing Charter School Facilities](#)