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MEDIA RELEASE

STUDY SUGGESTS HOW OHIO MIGHT IMPROVE CHARTER SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Today, the Center for Research and Education Outcomes (CREDO) at Stanford University concluded that students in charter schools in six states, including Ohio, often didn't fare as well as charter school students in Denver, Chicago, Arkansas, Missouri, and Louisiana. The study's findings include:

- Students in poverty, English Language Learners, and special education students do as well or better in charters than traditional public schools.
- Elementary and middle school students do as well or better in charters than in traditional public schools.
- States with caps on charters, particularly states who are at or above 90% of the cap have lower performing charter schools.
- On average, states with multiple authorizers have lower performing charters.

Ron Adler, President of the Ohio Coalition for Quality Education sees the report as an opportunity to build on the progress made by Ohio community schools.

"Last week, KidsOhio.org released a report that finds when student progress, as measured by value-added assessment, shows that Ohio charters are moved to the middle of the state in terms of performance ranking. We've also seen an improvement of approximately 30% in the number of community school tenth grade students passing all five sections of the Ohio Graduation Test. We are heartened by the progress of students in Ohio community schools, but fully support the notion of continuous improvement."

The Ohio Coalition for Quality Education recommends the following policy initiatives:

- *Remove all caps on opening new community schools and allow existing sponsors with a strong record of performance and qualified new sponsors to open additional schools.*
- *Assist sponsors to more closely monitor fiscally struggling community schools by the creation of a "risk-based" fiscal assessment.*
- *Create a sponsor performance "report card."*

Adler said, "Current law is sufficient with regards to closing community schools who fail to improve academically. Our recommendations focus on improving the accountability and transparency of the system and providing tools that allow closer monitoring of schools' fiscal condition."

"This is not just a community school issue -- who only represent 4% of Ohio's public education system. We need to have students in all public schools perform at the highest levels".

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