
Thank you for your request to our REL Reference Desk regarding charter school leadership and governing board practices. Ask A REL is a collaborative reference desk service provided by the ten regional educational laboratories (REL) that, by design, functions much in the same way as a technical reference library. It provides references, referrals, and brief responses in the form of citations on research based education questions.

The information below represents the most rigorous research available. Researchers consider the type of methodology and give priority to research reports that employ well described and thorough methods. The resources were also selected based on the date of the publication with a preference for research from the last ten years. Additional criteria for inclusion include the source and funder of the resource.

Question: *What are the best practices of charter school leaders and charter school governing boards?*

Search Process

Key words and search strings used in the search: *charter schools AND leadership OR governing board OR administration.* These terms were sometimes paired with *best practices AND director OR principal.*

Search databases and websites:

1. ERIC, <http://www.eric.ed.gov/>;
2. EBSCO Host, Academic Search Complete, <http://www.ebscohost.com/academic/academic-search-complete>;
3. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>; and
4. Google Scholar, <http://scholar.google.com>.

Sample Citations Retrieved:

- .Bickmore, D. L., & Dowell, M. (2011). Concerns, use of time, and the intersections of leadership: Case study of two charter school principals. *Research in the Schools, 18*(1), 44-61. Retrieved from http://www.msera.org/download/RITS_18_1_Complete.pdf
- Boyd, D. (2001) Charter school leadership. *Education and Urban Society, 22*, 170-185. doi: 10.1177/0013124501332006
- Butler, E. A., Smith, J., & Wohlstetter, P. (2008). *A guide for state policymakers: Creating and sustaining high-quality charter school governing boards*. Los Angeles, CA: National Resource Center on Charter School Finance and Governance. Retrieved from <http://www.usc.edu/dept/education/cegov/focus/charter-schools/publications/policy/Creating%20and%20Sustaining%20High-Quality%20Charter%20School%20Governin.pdf>

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- Goff, P., Mavrogordato, M., & Goldring, E. (2012). Instructional leadership in charter schools: Is there an organizational effect or are leadership practices the result of faculty characteristics and preferences? *Leadership and Policy in Schools*, 11(1), 1-25. doi: 10.1080/15700763.2011.611923
- Grubb, W.N. & Flessa, J.J. (2006). "A job too big for one": Multiple principals and other nontraditional approaches to school leadership. *Educational Administration Quarterly*, 42, 518-550. doi: 10.1177/0013161X06290641
- Sloan, K., & Pereira-Leon, M. (2010, September). An Evaluation of the EPIC Professional Learning Model: Investigating the impact of EPIC professional development on Perspectives Charter School principals, evaluation brief. San Francisco, CA: New Leaders For New Schools, Inc. Retrieved from <http://www.newleaders.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Investigating-the-Impact-of-EPIC-PD-on-Perspectives-Charter-School-Principals.pdf>

Referrals

Organizations:

- American Association of School Administrators, <http://www.aasa.org/>;
- Center for Educational Reform, <http://edreform.com>;
- National Association of Elementary School Principals, <http://www.naesp.org/>
- National Association of Secondary School Principals, <http://principals.org/>
- National Charter School Resource Center; <http://www.charterschoolcenter.org/resource/effect-charter-schools-student-achievement-meta-analysis-literature>; and
- National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, <http://www.publiccharters.org/>

Federally Funded Resources:

- **Institute of Education Sciences Resources (IES)**, <http://ies.ed.gov>
- Publication search engine available at: <http://ies.ed.gov/pubsearch/>Center on Building State Capacity and Productivity, <http://www.bscpcenter.org/default.aspx>;
- The Center on Innovation and Improvement, <http://www.centerii.org/>;
- Assessment and Accountability Comprehensive Center, <http://www.wested.org/cs/we/view/pj/448>;
- National Charter School Resource Center, <http://www.charterschoolcenter.org/> and;
- What Works Clearinghouse, <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>.

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