

# Robin J. Lake

Director, Center on Reinventing Public Education  
600 First Ave. Seattle, WA 98104 (206) 390-5698 [rlake6@asu.edu](mailto:rlake6@asu.edu)

## Career Brief

Robin Lake is Director of the Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE) and Professor of Practice, Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College, at Arizona State University. Lake is nationally recognized for her research and analysis of K-12 public school system reforms, including charter schools and charter management organizations, innovation and scale, portfolio school districts, school turnaround efforts, and performance-based accountability systems. Lake has authored numerous studies and provided expert testimony and technical assistance on charter schools and urban reform. She has provided invited testimony to the Education and Labor Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and many state legislatures. She presents regularly at conferences and summits around the United States and has advised on charter school implementation in South Africa and the United Kingdom. Lake serves as a board member or advisor to various organizations and is a 2016 Pahara-Aspen Fellow.

## Professional Experience

2012 – Present	Director, Center on Reinventing Public Education
2021– Present	Professor of Practice - Arizona State University
2014 – 2021	Affiliate Faculty, School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences - University of Washington Bothell
1998 – 2012	Associate Director, Center on Reinventing Public Education
1994 – 1998	Associate, Center on Reinventing Public Education
1992 – 1994	Legislative Aide, Washington State House of Representatives
1990 – 1992	Public Affairs Consultant, The Fisher/Hoyt Group

## Education

2003	MPA, Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs, Education and Urban Policy University of Washington
1990	BA, Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies University of Washington

## Professional Appointments, Associations, and Memberships

- PIE Network, Board Member
- National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools, Founding Board Member
- Progressive Policy Institute, Board Trustee
- National Association of Charter School Authorizers, Advisory Board Member
- National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, Policy Advisory Board Member
- Education Next, Editorial Advisory Board Member
- Referee: Smith Richardson Foundation, Journal of School Choice, Carnegie Foundation
- 2016 Pahara-Aspen Fellow (two-year program)

## Books and Edited Volumes

Lake, R., *The State of the American Student: A Guide to Pandemic Recovery and Reinvention*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, September 2022 - 2025 (annual publication).

Lake, R., *Thinking Forward: New Ideas for a New Era of Public Education*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, November 2018.

Lake, Robin, ed. *Hopes, Fears, & Reality: A Balanced Look at American Charter Schools*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, 2005–2013 (annual publication).

———. *Unique Schools Serving Unique Students: Charter Schools and Children with Special Needs*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, 2010.

Hill, Paul, Robin Lake, and Mary Beth Celio. *Charter Schools and Accountability in Public Education*. Washington, DC: Brookings Press, 2002.

## Selected Reports and Journal Articles

Rainey, Lydia, et al. *Running Fast but Not Getting Far: Five Years of Studying the Pandemic's Impact on Education the Evidence Project*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, March 2025.

Lake, Robin, et al. *Wicked Opportunities: Leveraging AI to Transform Education*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, August 2024.

Rainey, Lydia, et al. *Teaching Recovery? Three Years In, School System Leaders Report the Pandemic Weakened Instruction*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, July 2023.

Lake, Robin, et al. *Unlocking the Future: Toward a New Reform Agenda for K–12 Education*. Opportunity America, February 2023.

Pitts, Christine, et al. *Virtual Learning, Now and Beyond*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, January 2022.

Dusseault, Brianna, et al. *Recovery for U.S. Students in 2021: What Schools and Districts Can Do to Make Up for Lost Learning Time*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, September 2021.

Gross, Bethany, and Robin Lake. *How Has the Pandemic Affected Students' Social-Emotional Well-Being? A Review of the Evidence to Date*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, August 2021.

Chu, Lisa, and Robin Lake. *The Kids Are (Really) Not Alright: A Synthesis of COVID-19 Student Surveys*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, March 2021.

Lake, Robin. *Public Education Will Never Be the Same: How COVID-19 Forced School District Leaders to Innovate on the Fly*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, February 2021.

Lake, Robin, and Morgan Worthen. *State Accountability Systems in the COVID Era and Beyond*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, February 2021.

Lake, Robin. "When School Districts Let Families Choose." *Hoover Education Success Initiative*. Stanford University, 2020.

Lake, Robin. "The Hoosier Way: Good Choices for All in Indianapolis." *Education Next* 20, no. 2 (2020).

DeArmond, Michael, et al. *Seizing the Opportunity: Educating Students with Disabilities in Charter Schools*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, October 2019.

Lake, Robin, et al. *California Charter Schools: Costs, Benefits, and Impacts on School Districts*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, May 2019.

Lake, Robin, et al. *The Slowdown in Bay Area Charter Growth: Causes and Solutions*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, January 2018.

Campbell, Christine, et al. *Stepping Up: How Are American Cities Delivering on the Promise of Public School Choice?* Center on Reinventing Public Education, November 2018.

Lake, Robin, Sarah Yatsko, Sean Gill, and Alice Opalka. *Bridging the District-Charter Divide to Help More Students Succeed*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, January 2017.

Lake, Robin. *Encouraging Districts and Charters to Link Arms to Solve Problems. The State Education Standard*. National Association of State Boards of Education, January 2017.

DeArmond, Michael, et al. *Measuring Up: Educational Improvement and Opportunity in 50 Cities*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, October 2015.

Lake, Robin, and Larry Miller. *The Policy Framework for Online Charter Schools*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, October 2015.

Lake, Robin, and Thomas Maas. *A Blueprint for Effective and Adaptable School District Procurement*. New York City Department of Education, January 2015.

Lake, Robin, and Lisa Schnaiberg. *Special Education in New Orleans: Juggling Flexibility, Reinvention, and Accountability in the Nation's Most Decentralized School System*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, January 2015.

Jochim, Ashley, et al. *How Parents Experience Public School Choice*. Center on Reinventing Public

Education, December 2014.

Lake, Robin, et al. "Fixing Detroit's Broken School System." *Education Next* 15, no. 1 (November 2014).

DeArmond, Michael, et al. *Making School Choice Work*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, July 2014.

Lake, Robin. "Portfolio Management Addresses the New Realities of Public Education." *School Administrator Magazine*, June 2014.

Denice, Patrick, et al. *Assessing the Outcomes of Charter School Students with Special Needs: Research Design Brief*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, August 2013.

Lake, Robin, et al. *New York State Special Education Enrollment Analysis*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, November 2012.

Lake, Robin. Commentary on "Alternative Strategies for Identifying High-Performing Charter Schools in Texas." *Journal of Applied Research on Children: Informing Policy for Children at Risk* 3, no. 2 (October 2012).

Yatsko, Sarah, et al. *Tinkering Toward Transformation: A Look at Federal School Improvement Grant Implementation*. March 2012.

Lake, Robin, and Charles Miller. *Strengthening the Civic Mission of Charter Schools*. AEI Program on American Citizenship, January 2012.

Furgeson, Joshua, et al. *Charter-School Management Organizations: Diverse Strategies and Diverse Student Impacts. The National Study of Charter Management Organization (CMO) Effectiveness*, January 2012.

Lake, Robin, and Bethany Gross. *New York City's iZone*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, January 2011.

Lake, Robin, and Alexander Demeritt. *Paying for Scale: Results of a Symposium on CMO Finance*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, January 2011.

Lake, Robin, and Lisa Angel. "The State of State Charter School Research." In *Taking Measure of Charter Schools: Better Assessments, Better Policymaking, Better Schools*, edited by Julian Betts and Paul Hill. Rowman & Littlefield Education, 2010.

Lake, Robin, et al. *The National Study of Charter Management Organization (CMO) Effectiveness: Report on Interim Findings*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, June 2010.

Lake, Robin, and Paul Hill. "The Charter School Catch-22." *Journal of School Choice* 4, no. 2 (April 2010).

Lake, Robin. "In the Eye of the Beholder: Charter Schools and Innovation." *Journal of School Choice* 2, no. 2 (July 2008).

Lake, Robin. *Identifying and Replicating the 'DNA' of Successful Charter Schools: Lessons from the*

*Private Sector*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, May 2007.

Lake, Robin. *Holding Charter Authorizers Accountable: Why It Is Important and How It Might Be Done*. National Charter School Research Panel White Paper Series, no. 1. Center on Reinventing Public Education, 2006.

Lake, Robin, Paul Hill, Lawrence O'Toole, and Mary Beth Celio. *Making Standards Work: Active Voices, Focused Learning*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, 1999.

Hill, Paul, Anthony Bryk, et al. *Building Systems of Schools: A Cross-Site Analysis of School System Decentralization*. Center on Reinventing Public Education, 1997.

## **Select Articles, Book Reviews, and Op-Eds**

Lake, Robin and Paul Hill. "The Pandemic Was a Sputnik Moment for Rethinking American Education. We Blew It." *The 74 Million*, March 2025.

Lake, Robin. "The New NAEP Scores Are Alarming. Hope Is Not a Strategy for Fixing Them." *The 74 Million*, January 2025.

Lake, Robin. "America Risks Losing a Whole Generation of Kids. Today's Schools Can't Help Them." *The 74 Million*, September 2024.

Lake, Robin. "How California Can Help All Schools Harness AI, Avoid Its Pitfalls." *EdSource*, August 2024.

Lake, Robin. "Lessons for Closing Schools: Face the Challenge, Prioritize Students, Be Honest." *The 74 Million*, July 2024.

Lake, Robin J. "OPINION: Urban School Districts Must Make Dramatic Changes to Survive." The Hechinger Report, *The Hechinger Report*, July 2024.

Lake, Robin. "AI Is Coming to U.S. Classrooms, but Who Will Benefit?" *Center on Reinventing Public Education*, May 2024.

Lake, Robin. "Shockwaves & Innovations: How Nations Worldwide Are Dealing with AI in Education." *The 74 Million*, August 2023.

———. "'This Changes Everything:' AI Is About to Upend Teaching and Learning." *Center on Reinventing Public Education*, May 2023.

———. "New Frames for New Constituencies." *Center on Reinventing Public Education*, February 2023.

Lake, Robin, and Travis Pillow. "The Alarming State of the American Student in 2022." *The Brookings Institution*, November 2022.

Lake, Robin. “Oh, the Places You'll Go — or Not: Graduating Seniors May Be Unprepared for the Future.” *Center on Reinventing Public Education*, June 2022.

———. “The COVID Crisis Cracked Our Education System. A New Reform Coalition Must Come Together to Fix It in the Interest of Children.” *The 74 Million*, November 2021.

Lake, Robin, and Georgia Heyward. “In Thousands of Districts, 4-Day School Weeks Are Robbing Students of Learning Time for What Amounts to Hygiene Theater.” *Center on Reinventing Public Education*, April 2021.

Lake, Robin. “We Were About to Face Something Big. We Were Totally Unprepared — A Year Later, Looking Back at 10 Days in the Epicenter of the COVID-19 Education Crisis.” *The 74 Million*, March 2021.

———. “Flattening the Learning Loss Curve When School Reopens Will Take Federal Leadership, State and Local Buy-In and These 4 Steps.” *The 74 Million*, April 2020.

———. “As Coronavirus Forces Schools to Go Virtual, We Must Innovate — and Embrace Learning As We Go. How 1 Washington District at the Epicenter Is Doing Just That.” *The 74 Million*, March 2020.

———. “The Future of School Choice Isn't About Schools — It's About Learning Opportunities.” *The 74 Million*, January 2019.

———. “Don't Call Me an Education Reformer — I Don't Know What That Means Anymore.” *The 74 Million*, December 2018.

———. “On the 25th Anniversary of the Center on Reinventing Public Education, a Look at Lessons Learned & New Imperatives Ahead.” *The 74 Million*, November 2018.

———. “States Don't Need to Wait on a Congressional Investigation to Improve Online Charter School Oversight.” *The 74 Million*, October 2018.

Lake, Robin, and Bethany Gross. “Removing the Boundaries Between High School, College, and Career.” *The 74 Million*, July 2018.

Lake, Robin, and Paul Hill. “School Funds Should Follow Students, Not Protect Institutions.” *Brookings' Brown Center Chalkboard*, May 2018.

Lake, Robin. “Stop Searching for the Next Superhero—Hand Your Schools the Cape.” *LA School Report*, April 2018.

———. “L.A. Unified Needs a Plan, Not a Scapegoat.” *Los Angeles Daily News*, December 2017.

———. “For Public School Choice, Focus on Reality—Not Rhetoric.” *Brookings' Brown Center Chalkboard*, November 2017.

———. “The Charter Movement's Tipping Point Strategy Isn't Working. What's Next?” *Education Next*, September 2017.

———. “The Voucher Fight Isn’t Clear-Cut.” *U.S. News*, June 2017.

———. “Making School Choice Work Requires New Cross-Sector Investments.” *Philanthropy News Digest*, September 2014.

Lake, Robin, and Kelly Hall. “The \$500 Million Question.” *Education Next* 11, no. 1 (Winter 2011).

———. “Did Bush Hurt the Charter Movement by Trying to Help It?” *Education Gadfly*, January 2009.

———. “Marginal Impact: Time’s Too Short for One Kid at a Time – A Review of the Small Schools Literature.” *Education Next*, 2003.