

# Robin J. Lake

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## Career Brief

Robin Lake is Director of the Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE) and Affiliate Faculty, School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, at the University of Washington Bothell. She is recognized for her research and analysis of U.S. 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 U.S. House of Representatives Education and Labor Committee as well as various 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

2014 – Present	Affiliate Faculty, School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences - University of Washington Bothell
2012 – Present	Director, Center on Reinventing Public Education
1998 – 2012	Associate Director, Center on Reinventing Public Education
1994 – 1998	Research 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	M.P.A., Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs, Education and Urban Policy, University of Washington
1990	B.A., 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 (2-year program)

## Books and Edited Volumes

*Hopes, Fears, & Reality: A Balanced Look at American Charter Schools*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, annually 2005-2013. Editor.

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

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

## Selected Reports and Journal Articles

Chu, L., Lake, R., *The Kids Are (Really) Not Alright: A synthesis of COVID-19 student surveys*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, March 2021.

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

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

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

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

Lake, R., McKittrick, L., *It Takes a City: How the Portfolio Strategy Can Bring Schools, Districts, and Communities Together to Transform Special Education*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, September 2019

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

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

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

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

Lake, R., Yatsko, S., Gill, S., Opalka, A., *Bridging the District-Charter Divide to Help More Students Succeed*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, January 2017.

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

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

Lake, R., Miller, L. *The Policy Framework for Online Charter Schools*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, October 2015.

Lake, R., Hill, P., Maas, T. *Next Generation School Districts: What Capacities Do Districts Need to Create and Sustain Schools That Are Ready to Deliver on Common Core?*, April 2015.

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

Lake, R., Schnaiberg, L., *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, A., et. al., *How Parents Experience Public School Choice*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, December 2014.

Lake, R., et. al. "Fixing Detroit's Broken School System," *EducationNext*, Vol. 15, No.1, November 2014.

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

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

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

Lake, R., Maas, T., *Common Core; Will Charters Lead or Lag?*, American Enterprise Institute, March 2013

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

Lake, R., Commentary on "Alternative Strategies for Identifying High-Performing Charter Schools in Texas," *Journal of Applied Research on Children: Informing Policy for Children at Risk*, Vol. 3, Iss. 2, October 2012

Lake, R., Maas, T., Gross, B., *The U.S. Charter Sector, Lessons for South Africa*, Centre for Development and Enterprise. September, 2012

Lake, R., Dusseault, B., Eide, C., *Turnaround Models in New Orleans: Initial findings from a study of the Recovery School District*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, presented at the American Education Research Association conference, 2012.

Lake, R., et al., *Learning from Charter School Management Organizations: Strategies for Student Behavior and Teacher Coaching*, Center on Reinventing Public Education and Mathematica Policy Research, March 2012.

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

Lake, R., Miller, C., *Strengthening the Civic Mission of Charter Schools*, AEI Program on American Citizenship, January 2012.

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

Lake, R., Gross, B., *New York City's iZone*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, January 2011.

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

Lake, R., Angel, L., "The State of State Charter School Research," in *Taking Measure of Charter Schools: Better Assessments, Better Policymaking, Better Schools*, ed. J. Betts and P. Hill, Rowman & Littlefield Education, 2010.

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

Lake, R., Hill P., "The Charter School Catch-22," *Journal of School Choice*, Volume 4, Issue 2, April 2010.

Lake, R., "In the Eye of the Beholder: Charter Schools and Innovation," *Journal of School Choice*, Vol. 2, No. 2, July 2008.

Lake, R., *Identifying and Replicating the 'DNA' of Successful Charter Schools: Lessons from the Private Sector*, Center on Reinventing Public Education. May 2007.

Lake, R., *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, R., Hill, P., O'Toole, L., Celio, M., *Making Standards Work: Active Voices, Focused Learning*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, 1999.

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

## **Select Presentations and Testimony**

Invited testimony on COVID-19 district response. U.S. House of Representatives Education and Labor Committee. June 2020.

“No Excuses Schools: What can South Africa learn from other countries and what will work here? Centre for development and Enterprise, February 2013.

Invited testimony on “All Students Achieving through Reform Act of 2009,” U.S. House of Representatives Education and Labor Committee, February 2010.

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

Lake, R. “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 Seventy Four*, March 2021

Lake, R., “Flattening the Learning Loss Curve When School Reopens Will Take Federal Leadership, State and Local Buy-in and These 4 Steps” *The Seventy Four*, April 2020

Lake, R., “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” March 2020

Lake, R., “The Future of School Choice Isn't About Schools — It's About Learning Opportunities,” *The Seventy Four*, January 2019.

Lake, R., “Don't Call Me an Education Reformer — I Don't Know What That Means Anymore,” *The Seventy Four*, December 2018.

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

Lake, R., “States Don't Need to Wait on a Congressional Investigation to Improve Online Charter School Oversight,” *The Seventy Four*, October 2018.

Lake, R., Gross, B., “Removing the Boundaries Between High School, College, and Career,” *The Seventy Four*, July 2018.

Lake, R., Hill, P., “School funds should follow students, not protect institutions,” *Brookings’ Brown Center Chalkboard*, May 2018.

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

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

Lake, R. “For Public School Choice, Focus on Reality—not Rhetoric,” *Brookings’ Brown Center Chalkboard*, November 2017.

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

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

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

Lake, R., Hall, K., “The \$500 Million Question,” *Education Next* Vol. 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.