



## Study of New Mexico's Oversubscribed Charter Schools

Abt Associates is evaluating New Mexico charter schools, with support from Arnold Ventures. Abt's partners in the study are [Public Charter Schools of New Mexico](#); [Dual Language Education New Mexico \(DLeNM\)](#); and Dr. Elizabeth R. Howard at the University of Connecticut. At Abt Associates, senior researcher Ms. Rachel McCormick, based in New Mexico, and Dr. Eleanor Harvill, a national leader in education research methodology, are leading the study. Once complete, in summer 2021, the study will provide rigorous evidence on a subject of growing interest to New Mexico parents and educators, as well as leaders at the local, state, and national levels.

The study will be investigating the effectiveness of New Mexico's oversubscribed elementary and secondary charters schools. Using historical lottery records, the study will compare outcomes for students who were randomly selected for admission to charters versus outcomes for students who were not offered admission. As is standard for all experiments that rely on student lotteries, only schools where more students applied than could be enrolled will be included in the study.

In addition to academic achievement and college enrollment specifically, the study will measure a comprehensive array of student outcomes including attendance, English learner status, graduation, and college persistence. It also will describe the charter school landscape in New Mexico.

The study will collect *student admission lottery records* from charter schools going back in time as far as records allow, expecting the earliest records to be from 2010. The study will then match all student lottery records with the NMPED's *longitudinal state administrative data* on student demographics and education outcomes, and with *National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) data* on college enrollment. Using these data, the study will estimate the effect on New Mexico's students of being offered admission to a charter school. In comparing two groups randomly assigned to one condition or another (that is, offered admission or not), this study will be the first to use a rigorous experimental design to evaluate charter schools in New Mexico.

The study will also collect data to describe how New Mexico's charter schools differ from its traditional public schools and from other schools attended by students who were not admitted to charter schools. The study team will survey principals in a subset of charter and non-charter comparison schools about school practices and the principals' perceptions. To describe how DLI is implemented in New Mexico's charter schools, the study also will conduct site visits in a small sample of schools that will include interviews and classroom observations.

For questions please contact the Project Director, Rachel McCormick at [Rachel\\_McCormick@abtassoc.com](mailto:Rachel_McCormick@abtassoc.com) or [NMCharterStudy@AbtAssoc.com](mailto:NMCharterStudy@AbtAssoc.com). For questions or concerns regarding the rights of study participants, please contact Abt's Institutional Review Board at 877-520-6835.