

# Robin J. Lake

Director, Center on Reinventing Public Education

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## Career Brief

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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

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2014 – Present	Affiliate Faculty, School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences - University of Washington Bothell
2012 – Present	Director, Center on Reinventing Public Education
2004 – Present	Executive Director, National Charter School Research Project
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

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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

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PIE Network, Board Member  
National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools, Founding Board Member  
Journal of School Choice, Board Member  
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  
Educate 78, Board Member  
Referee: Smith Richardson Foundation, Journal of School Choice, Carnegie Foundation  
2016 Pahara-Aspen Fellow (2-year program)  
Untapped Potential Project, Founding Chair

## Books and Edited Volumes

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

*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

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Lake, R., Jochim, A., Hill, P., Tuchman, S., *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.

Maas, T., Lake, R., *Passing Notes: Learning from Efforts to Share Instructional Practices Across District-Charter Lines*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, February 2018.

Lake, R., Cobb, T., Sharma, R., Opalka, A., *The Slowdown in Bay Area Charter Growth: Causes and Solutions*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, January 2018.

Campbell, C., Heyward, G., Gross, B., Lake, R., *Stepping Up: How Are American Cities Delivering on the Promise of Public School Choice?*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, November 2018.

Posamentier, J., Lake, R., Hill, P., *How States Can Promote Local Innovation, Options, and Problem-Solving in Public Education*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, April 2017.

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.

Lake, R., Posamentier, J., Denice, P., Hill, P., *Sticking Points: How School Districts Experience Implementing the Portfolio Strategy*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, October 2016.

Gill, S., Yatsko, S., Lake, R., *Herding Cats: Managing Diverse Charter School Interests in Collaboration Efforts*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, August 2016.

Miller, L., Gross, B., Maas, T., Hernandez, J., Lu, A., Lake, R., *Financing Personalized Learning: What Can We Learn from First-Generation Adopters?*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, April 2016.

DeArmond, M., Denice, P., Gross, B., Hernandez, J., Jochim, A., Lake, R. *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.

DeArmond, M., Gross, B., Jochim, A., Lake, R., *How Parents Experience Public School Choice*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, December 2014.

DeArmond, M., Jochim, A., Lake, R., "Fixing Detroit's Broken School System," *EducationNext*, Vol. 15, No.1, November 2014.

DeArmond, M., Jochim, A., Lake, R., *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., Lake, R., Gross, B., *Assessing the Outcomes of Charter School Students with Special Needs: Research Design Brief*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, August 2013.

Yatsko, S., Nelson, E. Cooley, Lake, R., *District-Charter Collaboration Compact: Interim Report*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, June 2013.

Lake, R., "Overview – Will the Charter Movement Rest its Laurels or Innovate and Expand?," in *Hopes, Fears, & Reality: A Balanced Look at American Charter Schools in 2012*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, May 2013.

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

Lake, R., Gross, B., Denice, P., *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

DeArmond, M., Gross, B., Bowen, M., Demeritt, A., Lake, R., *Managing Talent for School Coherence: Learning from Charter School Management Organizations*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, May 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., Bowen, M., Demeritt, A., McCullough, M., Haimson, J., Gill, B., *Learning from Charter School Management Organizations: Strategies for Student Behavior and Teacher Coaching*, Center on Reinventing Public Education and Mathematica Policy Research, March 2012.

Lake, R., Yatsko, S., Bowen, M., Cooley Nelson, E., *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.

Lake, R., Bowen, M., Furgeson, J., Gill, Brian., Haimson, J., Killewald, A., McCullough, M., Nichols-Barrer, I., Teh, B., Verbitsky-Savitz, N., *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., Hall, K., "The \$500 Million Question," *Education Next* Vol. 11, No. 1 October 2011.

Lake, R., Gross, B., *Reforming Districts Through Choice, Autonomy, Equity, and Accountability: An Overview of the Voluntary Public School Choice Directors Meeting*, Center on Reinventing Public Education's Portfolio School Districts Project, May 2011.

Lake, R., DeArmond, M., Sepe, C., *Will Seniority-Based Layoffs Undermine School Improvement Efforts in Washington State?*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, March 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., Dusseault, B., Bowen, M., Demeritt, A., Hill, P., *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., "Achieving the Ripple Effect: How Can Charters Prompt District Improvement?" in *Hopes, Fears, & Reality: A Balanced Look at American Charter Schools in 2009*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, 2010.

Lake R., Hill P., *Performance Management in Portfolio School Districts*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, 2009.

Lake, R., Jacobs, J., "New Options for Serving Special-Needs Students," in *Hopes, Fears, & Reality: A Balanced Look at American Charter Schools in 2008*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, 2008.

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., *Building Excellence in Charter School Authorizing: Critical Design Issues and Illustrations*, National Association of Charter School Authorizers, 2004.

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

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"Innovation in Special Education - Where is it most needed and how do we catalyze it?" National Coalition of Special Education in Charter Schools Equity Coalition Meeting, March 2018

"Turning the Tide: Tools to Promote Charter Sector Growth," National Summit on Education Reform, November 2017.

"Empowerment Zones as a Tool for Systemic Change," Camp Philos, November 2017.

"Reflecting on the 25th Anniversary of the California Charter Schools Act and Preserving the Mega Waiver," California Charter Schools Association Legislative Symposium, November 2017.

"Exploring the Options: School Choice Policy and the Fiscal and Academic Impacts" and "Delivering on the Promise of Public Education," PIE Network Summit, October 2017.

“Components of a Changing Education Policy Agenda,” National Association of State Boards of Education Legislative Conference, March 2017.

“Special Education Financing,” Association for Education Finance Policy Annual Conference, March 2017.

“What’s Next for Virtual Charter Schools?,” National Charter Schools Conference, June 2016.

“The Research Evidence on Charter School Effects, Academic and Otherwise,” Brookings Panel on Examining Charter Schools in America, April 2016.

“Authorizing and Closing Charter Schools: Governance in a Portfolio Model,” and “Special Education and English Language Learning,” Education Research Alliance for New Orleans Conference, June 2015

“Next Generation Authorizing: What Does the Future Hold,” National Association of Charter School Authorizers Leadership Conference, October 2014.

“From Recovery to Achievement,” National Charter Schools Conference, July 2014.

“Reflections on Portfolio Model as Urban District Reform,” and “Implementing the Common Core: Challenges and Opportunities,” American Educational Research Association Annual Conference, April 2014.

“Lessons from School Closure: A District-Level Perspective of Impact and Strategies,” Yale Education Leadership Conference, April 2014.

“Understanding Replication, Scale, and Effectiveness in Charter Management Organizations,” University of Arkansas Education Reform Lecture Series, February 2014.

“Opt-Out or Cop-Out? A Debate on ‘New’ Accountability Systems,” Thomas B. Fordham Institute, July 2013.

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

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

“Teaching America – How Charter Schools can Help Close the Civic Achievement Gap,” AEI Program on American Citizenship in conjunction with the Civic Education Initiative, September 2011.

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

“Teaching America – How Charter Schools can Help Close the Civic Achievement Gap,” AEI Program on American Citizenship in conjunction with the Civic Education Initiative, September 2011.

"Interim Report Findings on National Evaluation of CMOs," and "Charter School Scale Up," National Charter Schools Conference, June 2010.

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

"School Choice and School Improvement: Research in State, District, and Community Contexts," National Center on School Choice, Vanderbilt University, October 2009

## **Popular Articles, Book Reviews, Blog Posts, and Op-Eds**

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Lake, R., "It's wrong to blame charter schools for LAUSD's mess," *Los Angeles Daily News*, January 2019.

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., "We Need a More Productive Debate About School Accountability, Not Tired Arguments Over Testing," *Fordham's Flypaper blog*, November 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., "San Antonio ISD's Innovations Offer National Lessons," *The Seventy Four*, October 2018.

Lake, R., "What Do the Lessons From 2 Innovative Learning Environments Imply for System Change in Education?" *The Seventy Four*, August 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., "4 Ways a Big New Study on School Districts, Finances & Charter Schools Is Misleading California Parents & Communities," *The Seventy Four*, May 2018.

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

Lake, R., Hill, P., "Proposal: The Future of the Charter School Movement Requires a New Political Strategy," *The Seventy Four*, January 2018.

Lake, R., "Denver's Storied Portfolio District Is Starting to Act Like Just Another City School System," *The Seventy Four*, January 2018.

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

Lake, R. "In a Deeply Flawed 'Analysis,' the Associated Press Blames Public Charter Schools for America's Segregated Cities," *The Seventy Four*, 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., Tuchman, S., "Disability Rights Activists Are Fighting the Wrong Fight on School Choice," *The Seventy Four*, August 2017.

Lake, R., "The Voucher Fight Isn't Clear-Cut," *U.S. News*, June 2017.

Lake, R., "Why Personalized Learning Will Live or Die on Its Ability to Manage Change," *The Seventy Four*, May 2017.

Lake, R., "At Last, A Court Says Kids (Like Mine) With IEPs Deserve a Top Education. But More Fights Loom Ahead," *The Seventy Four*, March 2017.

Lake, R., "As Charter School Growth Slows, Time to Re-Examine Bureaucratic, Funding, and Political Hurdles," *The Seventy Four*, March 2017.

Lake, R., "Schools and Communities Need More Autonomy," *The New York Times*, September 2016.

Lake, R., "Time for Detroit Charter Schools to Lead – Not Just Fight to Protect Turf", *Fordham Institute*, June 2016.

Lake, R., "It's Time to Move Forward on Charter Schools," *Seattle Times*, April 2016.

Lake, R., "Shameful Claim to Fame: Will WA Become First State to Shutter Successful Schools?", *The Seventy Four*, February 2016.

Lake, R., "Make the most of McCleary funding," *The News Tribune*, December 2015.

Lake, R., "NCLB Opinion: As Congress Shifts Power to States, Time to Realize the Fight for Better Schools Is Now Up to Us," *The Seventy Four*, December 2015.

Lake, R., "Wanted: A new breed of bureaucrat in Nevada," *Fordham Institute*, June 2015.

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

Lake, R., "Making School Choice Work Requires Leadership," *Education Week*, August 2014.

Lake, R., Miron, G., Noguera, P., "The Key Is Innovation, Not Regulation," as part of forum "Should Charter Schools Enroll More Special Education Students," *Education Next*, Vol. 14, No. 4, June 2014.



Lake, R., "New charter school commission can learn from other states," *Tacoma News Tribune*, March 2013.

Lake, R., Medler, A., "Do Charter Schools Serve Special-Needs Students?," *Education Week*, Vol. 32, No. 27, April 2012.

"CRPE's Robin Lake on 'Better Choices'," *Thomas B. Fordham Institute's Choice Words*, December 2011.

"Innovate Washington state's K-12 schools, don't cut the school year," *Seattle Times*, November 2011.

Lake, R., Hall, K., "The \$500 Million Question," *Education Next* Vol. 11, No. 1 Winter 2011.

Lake, R., *What have we learned in 15 years about getting high-quality charter schools? Lessons for Washington State*, Center on Reinventing Public Education, January 2011.

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

Lake, R., Roza, Marguerite., "Schools: Look for ways to get better results for less money," *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, November 2008.

Campbell C., Gross B., Lake R., "The High-Wire Job of Charter School Leadership," *Education Week*, September 2008.

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