

## Can Successful Programs Replicate? Scaling Up Boston's Charter School Sector

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### Abstract:

In a climate of school turnarounds, charter conversions, and new school openings, an important question is whether schools that boost student outcomes can replicate their success at new campuses. We study a policy reform that allowed effective charter schools in Boston, Massachusetts to replicate their school models at new locations. Estimates based on randomized admission lotteries show that replicate charter schools generate large achievement gains on par with those produced by their parent campuses. The overall effectiveness of Boston's charter middle school sector was unchanged by the reform despite a 200 percent increase in charter market share. These findings indicate that the success of Boston's high-performing charter schools is driven by factors that can feasibly be reproduced at scale.