FRAMING AN ACCOUNTABILITY BLUEPRINT FOR VIRTUAL SCHOOLS IN TEXAS

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Organization of this presentation…

- Brief review of my research
- Policy Context…defining the policy problem linked to virtual schools
- Policy Recommendations…drawing a blueprint from empirical evidence and policy lessons
- Conclusions & Implications
Brief review of my research on virtual/cyber & homeschool charter schools


Policy Context...defining the policy problem linked to virtual schools

- **Assessing growth of full-time virtual schools**...15 states/16,000 students in 2004 to 30 states/250,000 students in 2012

- Are virtual schools more cost effective?

- Are virtual schools more efficient in meeting student performance targets?

- Could effective teachers be effective *virtual* school teachers?
Policy Recommendations...drawing an accountability blueprint using empirical evidence and policy lessons

- **Formulate Per-Pupil Funding Levels That Reflect Real Costs of Virtual Schooling**

- **Define Accountability Mechanisms for Student Performance and Program Quality at the State and Local Levels**

- **Recruit, Support and Retain Effective Teachers to Engage Students Through Online Instruction**
Conclusions & Implications