

# THE CREP REPORT

The Center for Research in Educational Policy (CREP) at the UofM is a State of Tennessee Center of Excellence, committed to improving education by informing policy and practice through rigorous, high-quality, evidence-based research. As a nonprofit University-based research center affiliated with the College of Education, CREP takes pride in serving as a valuable resource in educational research, evaluation and consultation.

## PROJECT BRIEF

### Impact of Unified Enrollment in Shelby County Schools Project Brief

The Tennessee Charter School Center has requested the Center for Research in Educational Policy (CREP) conduct a formal study of the impact of developing a unified enrollment system in large urban school districts. The CREP evaluation team is comprised of research faculty members Dr. Todd Zoblotzky, Dr. Carolyn Kaldon, and Dr. Brenda Gallagher, graduate assistant Martha Burke, and CREP associate director Dan Strahl.

#### Background

School choice is often difficult and confusing. To simplify the process, many school districts have implemented unified enrollment programs. This allows a family to fill out one application for enrollment in any school, district or charter. The goal of proponents of unified enrollment is to make school choice easier and transparent for families.

#### Project Goals

The overarching questions to be answered are:

- How does unified enrollment impact
  - o Families
  - o Students
  - o Charter Schools
  - o Traditional/Non-Charter Schools
  - o The Community at Large
  - o Best Practices

To put it simply, what do districts that implement unified enrollment look like?

#### Scope of Work

CREP will seek to determine the impact of unified enrollment by:

- a. Conducting a thorough literature review on the use of unified enrollment
- b. Examination of current literature to identify the theory of change that drives the model
- c. Documenting what changes would be needed if a district adopted a unified enrollment process

The project began in August, and a final report will be produced by June 1, 2020.