# CONTENTS

*List of Figures*  ix  
*List of Tables*  xi  
*Acknowledgments*  xiii  

**CHAPTER 1**  
Introduction  1  

**CHAPTER 2**  
The Evolution of Charter-School Choice  
in the District of Columbia  22  

**CHAPTER 3**  
The Panel Study  44  

**CHAPTER 4**  
Are Charter-School Students Harder to Educate than Those  
in the Traditional Public Schools?  77  

**CHAPTER 5**  
Shopping for Schools on the Internet Using DCSchoolSearch.com  98  

**CHAPTER 6**  
What Do Parents Want from Schools? It Depends on  
How You Ask  115  

**CHAPTER 7**  
School Choice and the Importance of Parental  
Information  134  

**CHAPTER 8**  
How Do Parents Access and Process Information  
about Schools?  151  

**CHAPTER 9**  
Satisfaction with Schools  170  

**CHAPTER 10**  
Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?  
Parental Satisfaction over Time  205
| CHAPTER 12 | Do Charter Schools Promote Citizenship among Students? | 245 |
| CHAPTER 13 | Charter Schools: Hype or Hope? | 267 |

**Notes** | 287 |
**References** | 305 |
**Index** | 335 |