

Selected Bibliography on School Choice, Voucher Programs, and Privatization

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Books

William Lowe Boyd and Herbert J. Walberg, Eds., *Choice in Education: Potential and Problems*. Berkeley, CA: McCutchan Publishing Company, 1990.

A useful anthology because of the range of political ideologies represented (from arch conservative to liberal left), as well as the scholarly analyses offered. But probably difficult to obtain except from university libraries.

John E. Coons and Stephen D. Sugarman, *Education by Choice: The Case for Family Control*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1978. Out of print, but available through Educators International Press, Troy, NY.

The "granddaddy" of the choice literature, and still an engaging and enlightening read. Although written more than two decades ago, this book still contains the most persuasive arguments for choice, perhaps in part because it was written before the issue of choice became so embroiled in political ideology.

Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, *School Choice*. Princeton, NJ: Author, 1992.

From the Foreword by Ernest L. Boyer, p. xvii: What we propose in this report is a strategy for school renewal on which all educators might agree. Let's acknowledge the importance of early education, empowered teachers, involved parents, an effective climate for learning, high academic standards, and continuous accountability. And let's consider the possibility of creating choices within schools, so that every school is a school worth choosing.

Peter W. Cookson, Jr., *School Choice: The Struggle for the Soul of American Education*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1994.

Cookson, a sociologist, aims to provide a balanced view of school choice. Along the way, he offers a brief history of choice proposals and programs, and examines many of the initiatives currently underway. Organization and writing are a delight.

Jeffrey R. Henig, *Rethinking School Choice: Limits of the Market Metaphor*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1994.

A careful rebuttal to the concept of market-driven educational reform as advocated by John Chubb and Terry Moe in their much-discussed book, *Politics, Markets, and America's Schools* (Brookings Institution, 1989). Henig favors limited implementation of choice, but not on the rationale of market capitalism.

Ernest R. House, *Schools for Sale: Why Free Market Policies Won't Improve America's Schools and What Will*. New York: Teachers College Press, 1998.

House writes in opposition to the view that economic productivity is an appropriate determinant of educational policy. Reviewed by David Stevenson in the *American Journal of Education*, 107(3), May, 1999, 244-247.

Myron Lieberman, *Public Education: An Autopsy*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1993.

A polemic in defense of market-driven schooling. Not well reasoned, but certainly passionate. Lieberman was at one time an articulate defender of public schooling. Here he reveals why he can no longer do that.

Marc Dean Millot, *What are Charter Schools? An Introduction to the Concept and the Statutes*. Seattle, WA: Institute for Public Policy and Management, University of Washington, nd. Published as a RAND Document.

A very clear, helpful exposition of critical concepts in the discussion of choice and charters. Unfortunately not readily available.

Joe Nathan, *Charter Schools: Creating Hope and Opportunity for American Education*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1996; new preface and appendices in 1999 paperback edition.

An enthusiastic advocate for charter schools makes his case, and offers abundant advice for those who would like to found their own charter school. Pitfalls and cautions are also examined, making this book a helpful guide for the favorably disposed, though still worthy and informative for the skeptics among us. Sarah Tantillo reviews *Charter Schools* in the Spring, 1998 (v. 99, no. 3) issue of *Teachers College Record* (pp. 605-607)

Federal Reports

Improving Schools and Empowering Parents: Choice in American Education (A Report based on the White House Workshop on Choice in Education, by Nancy Paulu). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, October, 1989.

Getting Started: How Choice Can Renew Your Public Schools (by the OERI Roundtable on Public School Choice). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, Programs for the Improvement of Practice, August, 1992.

Articles In Scholarly Journals

Henry J. Becker, Kathryn Nakagawa, & Ronald G. Corwin, Parental Involvement in California's Charter Schools: Strategy for Educational Improvement or Method of Exclusion? *Teachers College Record*, 98(3), Spring, 1997, 511-536.

Bruce D. Baker and Craig E. Richards, Equity through Vouchers: The Special Case of Gifted Children. *Educational Policy*, 12(4), July, 1998, 363-379.

Katrina Bulkley. Charter School Authorizers: A New Governance Mechanism? *Educational Policy* 13(5), November, 1999, 674-697.

An interesting and quite informative exploration of charter school development in Michigan (with special attention to the role of CMU) and Arizona. Clarifies several of the mysterious "loose ends" in the chartering process.

Sara Freedman, To Market, To Market: Privatizing Public Education, *Educational Policy*, 13(3), July, 1999, 440-454.

Reviews Joseph Murphy's *The Privatization of Schooling: Problems and Possibilities* (Corwin Press, 1996), and Paul Hill, Lawrence Pierce, & James Guthrie's *Reinventing Public Education: How Contracting Can Transform America's Schools* (University of Chicago Press, 1997).

Bruno V. Manno, Chester E. Finn, Jr., Louann E. Bierlein, & Gregg Vanourek, Charter Schools: Accomplishments and Dilemmas. *Teachers College Record*, 99(3), Spring, 1998, 537-558.

David C. Paris, Standards and Charters: Horace Mann Meets Tinker Bell. *Educational Policy*, 12(4), July, 1998, 380-396.

Jeanne M. Powers & Peter W. Cookson, Jr., The Politics of School Choice Research: Fact, Fiction, and Statistics. *Educational Policy*, 13(1), January and March, 1999, 104-122.

Amy Stuart Wells, Cynthia Grutzik, Sibyll Carnochan, Julie Slayton, & Ash Vasudeva, Underlying Policy Assumptions of Charter School Reform: The Multiple Meanings of a Movement. *Teachers College Record*, 100(3), Spring, 1999, 513-535.

Amy Stuart Wells, Alejandra Lopez, Janelle Scott, & Jennifer Jellison Holme, Charter Schools as Postmodern Paradox: Rethinking Social Stratification in an Age of School Choice. *Harvard Educational Review*, 69(2), Summer, 1999, 172-204.

John F. Witte, The Milwaukee Voucher Experiment. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 20(4), 229-251

John F. Witte and Christopher A. Thorn, Who Chooses? Voucher and Interdistrict Choice Programs in Milwaukee. *American Journal of Education*, 103(3), May, 1996, 186-217.

James Youniss and Jeffrey A. McLellan, Catholic Schools in Perspective: Religious Identity, Achievement, and Citizenship. *Phi Delta Kappan*, October, 1999, 81:2, 105-113.

Newspaper and Magazine Articles

The Atlantic Monthly, July, 1999: Matthew Miller, A Bold Experiment to Fix City Schools (A proposal for school vouchers on which Milton Friedman, Lamar Alexander, and Kweisi Mfume, the president of the NAACP, all agree), 15-31.

Phi Delta Kappan, September, 1999: Stanley M. Elam, Florida's Voucher Program: Legislating What Can't be Done by Referendum, pp. 81-88; Albert J. Menendez, Voters Versus Vouchers: An Analysis of Referendum Data, pp. 76-80; Kim E. Metclaf & Polly A. Tait, Free Market Policies and Public Education: What is the Cost of Choice?, pp. 65-75; John F. Witte, The Milwaukee Voucher Experiment: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly, pp. 59-64.

The New Republic, 4 October 1999: Paul E. Peterson, The Liberal Case for Vouchers: New Data Counters Old Fears, pp. 29-30; David Osborne, Healthy Competition: The Benefits of Charter Schools, pp. 31-33.

Education Week, 20 October 1999 (vol. 19, no.8) carries a feature article and several supplemental articles on the historical precedents for private education, pp 24-44.

Web Sites

<http://www.edweek.org> (Use the Search function for Choice or Vouchers)

<http://csr.syr.edu/> (Targeted site for School Choice and Vouchers)

<http://www.uscharterschools.org> (Excellent site for information on charter schools)

<http://www.tcrecord.org> (High quality journal on line, but will need to search for choice, privatization, and voucher information)

<http://hdc-www.harvard.edu/pepg/papers.htm> (papers on educational policy and governance from Harvard's J.F. Kennedy School of Governance)

<http://www.policy.com> (Use search routine to find information on school vouchers and charter schools)

<http://www.ncei.com> (National Center for Educational Information, private, non-partisan research organization based in Washington, D.C.)

<http://www.mde.state.mi.us/> (State of Michigan Department of Education)

<http://www.mde.state.mi.us/off> (Offices in the Michigan Department of Education, including offices that oversee charter schools and private academies)

<http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/kappan.htm> (*Phi Delta Kappan* monthly magazine covering educational issue and topics; use search routine to find relevant information)

<http://www.ecs.org> (Excellent web site to ascertain state-level educational policy)

The following sites are generally representative of more politically conservative viewpoints on educational issues pertaining to school choice and privatization:

<http://edexcellence.net/>

<http://www.edreform.com>

<http://www.childrenfirstamerica.org>

<http://www.heritage.org>

<http://www.aei.org>

<http://www.cato.org/research/edu-st.html>