Selected Bibliography on School Choice,
Voucher Programs, and Privatization

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Books

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.


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


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**


**Articles In Scholarly Journals**


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 charting process.


**Newspaper and Magazine Articles**


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