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NEPC POLICY MEMO

JANUARY, 2012

RESEARCHERS AS RESOURCES: A LIST OF EXPERTS WHO CAN SPEAK TO THE OVERALL KNOWLEDGE BASE ON IMPORTANT EDUCATION ISSUES

This NEPC Policy Memo offers a list of experts who can speak to the overall knowledge base – to the weight of scholarly thought and research evidence in a given education policy area.

On October 13, 2011, Rick Hess, the director of education policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute, published a [list on his blog](#) of “about two dozen Republican and/or conservative (and/or libertarian) edu-thinkers that enterprising reporters might tap for expertise when writing about GOP policy proposals or the GOP Presidential field and education.” Hess’s primary impetus was what he called “the ed press’s disconcerting habit of relying almost entirely on professional Democrats or Democratic-leaning academics to provide commentary on Republican education proposals when it comes to the Presidential contest and federal policy.” His list is composed of people who have “held public office, worked for or advised public officials, or play prominent roles at organizations where they champion policies regarded as ‘conservative.’”

The list from Rick Hess may be of assistance to reporters and others looking for comments about education policy proposals from the conservative perspective. But it's important to note the obvious: his list of sources is focused on the ideology of the people on it, not their knowledge of the research evidence that may or may not underlie a particular proposal. Only a half-dozen of the names on his list of 34 "thinkers" make their living as researchers.

With that as background we would like to offer assistance in overcoming another "disconcerting habit" of the media coverage of education policy: the elevation of pundits over experts.

The following list of experts can speak to the overall knowledge base – to the weight of scholarly thought and research evidence – in a given k-12 education policy area. Our list is weighted toward those we've worked with in the past at the National Education Policy Center. It is certainly not comprehensive, neither in terms of topics nor in terms of experts (although we do offer more names in connection with topics that are currently of great policy interest). We at the NEPC, as well as organizations such as the National Academy of Education and the American Educational Research Association, could point interested members of the media to many other researchers who could serve as experts. Individual universities and reputable research organizations such as the RAND Corporation could be called upon to do the same.

The National Education Policy Center has 100 Fellows nationwide, and has long maintained a [list of their areas of expertise](#); some of the NEPC fellows are included in the list below – marked with an asterisk.

The distinction we draw here between Hess's list and this one is not meant as a criticism. He wrote the list, after all, in the context of reporting on the statements of political candidates. Our list is, in contrast, for reporters who are seeking information about the quality of the research evidence relevant to a given policy. This does not mean that researchers do not have what Hess often calls "priors" (the values and beliefs that everyone brings to meaningful issues). The experts on our list no doubt do have such "priors," but first and foremost they speak to evidence and have the social scientific knowledge necessary to interpret it. They can all point to high-quality research to explain and support their conclusions. We believe public discussions of policy will greatly benefit when that becomes standard practice.

Cost Issues: Costs, Cost-Benefit, Cost-Effectiveness, and Cost Efficiency

Expert	Other Areas of Expertise
Clive Belfield City University of New York, Queens College	Privatization and vouchers
Hank Levin Teachers College, Columbia University	Privatization and vouchers
Patrick McEwan Wellesley College	Vouchers

Graduation Rates and Dropout Issues

Expert	Other Areas of Expertise
<u>Robert Balfanz</u> Johns Hopkins	
<u>Russ Rumberger</u> UCSB	Student mobility, high school reform, and English learners
<u>Sherman Dorn*</u> University of South Florida	History, demography, and high-stakes accountability

Early Childhood Education

Expert	Other Areas of Expertise
<u>Steve Barnett*</u> Rutgers University	
<u>David Dickinsen</u> Vanderbilt University	

English Learners

Expert	Other Areas of Expertise
<u>Diane August</u> Center for Applied Linguistics	
<u>Patricia Gándara*</u> UCLA	
<u>Kenji Hakuta</u> Stanford University	

Grade Retention and Social Promotion

Expert	Other Areas of Expertise
<u>Melissa Roderick</u> University of Chicago	
<u>Lorrie Shepard*</u> CU Boulder	Testing/assessment and high-stakes accountability

High-Stakes Accountability

Expert	Other Areas of Expertise
<u>Bruce Fuller*</u> UC Berkeley	
<u>Jennifer King Rice</u> University of Maryland	School finance and cost-effectiveness analyses
<u>William Mathis*</u> CU Boulder	Assessment and school finance

Legal Issues in Education

Expert	Other Areas of Expertise
<u>Stuart Biegel</u> UCLA	
<u>Preston Green*</u> Penn State	School choice
<u>William Koski*</u> Stanford University	

LGBTQ Issues

Expert	Other Areas of Expertise
<u>Kevin Kumashiro</u> University of Illinois, Chicago	Politics and education, teacher education, and curriculum
<u>Catherine Lugg*</u> Rutgers University	Politics and education

Portfolio School Reform

Expert	Other Areas of Expertise
<u>Katrina Bulkley*</u> Montclair State University	Privatization
<u>Jeffrey Henig</u> Teachers College, Columbia University	Politics and education

Poverty and Schooling

Expert	Other Areas of Expertise
<u>David Berliner*</u> Arizona State University	Teacher education
<u>Richard Rothstein</u> Economic Policy Institute	High-stakes accountability

Private Schools, Privatization, and Commercialization

Expert	Other Areas of Expertise
<u>Martin Carnoy*</u> Stanford University	Vouchers
<u>Alex Molnar*</u> CU Boulder	Education/charter management organizations

Rural Education and School/District Consolidation

Expert	Other Areas of Expertise
<u>Craig Howley</u> Ohio University	

School Choice: Charter Schools and Education/Charter Management Organizations

Expert	Other Areas of Expertise
<u>Gary Miron*</u> Western Michigan University	Privatization and virtual schools
<u>David Garcia*</u> Arizona State University	
<u>Janelle Scott*</u> UC Berkeley	Privatization and the politics of education

School Discipline

Expert	Other Areas of Expertise
<u>Daniel Losen*</u> Civil Rights Project at UCLA	Legal issues, graduation/dropout issues, and special education
<u>Russ Skiba</u> Indiana University	

School Funding and Spending

Expert	Other Areas of Expertise
<u>Bruce Baker*</u> Rutgers University	
<u>Thomas Downes</u> Tufts	
<u>Helen Ladd</u> Duke University	High-stakes accountability and teacher labor markets

School Segregation and Integration

Expert	Other Areas of Expertise
<u>Erica Frankenberg</u> Penn State University	
<u>Gary Orfield*</u> UCLA	
<u>William Trent*</u> University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	School reform
<u>Amy Stuart Wells*</u> Teachers College, Columbia University	School choice and tracking and ability grouping

Special Education

Expert	Other Areas of Expertise
<u>Alfredo Artiles*</u> Arizona State University	Teacher learning, policy and equity
<u>Janette Klingner*</u> CU Boulder	Culturally responsive teaching
<u>Margaret McLaughlin</u> University of Maryland	Special education policy

Teachers: Supply, Preparation, and Evaluation of High-quality Teachers

Expert	Other Areas of Expertise
<u>Sean P. Corcoran*</u> NYU	Value-added models
<u>Linda Darling-Hammond</u> Stanford University	Testing/assessment and high-stakes accountability
<u>Richard Ingersoll</u> University of Pennsylvania	
<u>Susan Moore Johnson</u> Harvard University	
<u>Gloria Ladson-Billings*</u> University of Wisconsin	Culturally responsive teaching
<u>Arturo Pacheco</u> UTEP	

Testing/Assessment

Expert	Other Areas of Expertise
<u>Henry Braun</u> Boston College	Value-added assessment and high-stakes accountability
<u>Edward Haertel</u> Stanford University	Value-added assessment and high-stakes accountability

Value-Added Assessment & Models

Expert	Other Areas of Expertise
<u>Derek Briggs*</u> CU Boulder	Research methods
<u>Doug Harris*</u> University of Wisconsin-Madison	Cost issues and analyses
<u>Jesse Rothstein</u> UC Berkeley	School funding, teacher supply, and high-stakes assessment

Virtual Schools

Expert	Other Areas of Expertise
<u>Norm Friesen</u> Thompson Rivers University (Canada)	
<u>Gene Glass*</u> CU Boulder	Research and evaluation methods
<u>Luis Huerta*</u> Teachers College, Columbia University	Privatization, school choice, and tuition tax credit policies
<u>Mark Warschauer</u> UC Irvine	

Vouchers and Tuition Tax Credit Policies

Expert	Other Areas of Expertise
<u>Christopher Lubienski*</u> University of Illinois	Charter schools
<u>Kevin Welner*</u> CU Boulder* (also an expert on)	Legal issues, tuition tax credit policies, and ability grouping

Broader Perspectives on School Reform

Expert	Other Areas of Expertise
<u>Larry Cuban</u> Stanford University	
<u>Michael Fullan</u> Special Advisor to the Premier and Minister of Education in Ontario, Canada	The teaching profession and high-quality teaching
<u>Andy Hargreaves</u> Boston College	The teaching profession and high-quality teaching
<u>Pasi Sahlberg</u> Director General of the Centre for International Mobility and Cooperation (Finland)	International education, teacher development, and school improvement