

**\*\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\*\***

**Education Policy Studies Laboratory at Arizona State University**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**STUDY BY LEADING SCHOLARS OFFERS ROAD MAP  
FOR MAKING PUBLIC SCHOOLS MORE EFFECTIVE**

TEMPE, Ariz.—Money spent wisely on thoughtful strategies leads to better schools and higher achievement, particularly among children living in poverty, according to the research findings of 12 leading scholars brought together by the Education Policy Studies Laboratory at Arizona State University.

The findings are contained in a 300-page report entitled “School Reform Proposals: The Research Evidence,” which examined 13 areas of school reform including class-size reduction, vouchers, privatization, teachers’ unions, early childhood education and teacher characteristics.

According to Professor Alex Molnar, Director of the Education Policy Studies Laboratory and editor of the report, “the widespread and intense scrutiny of public school performance” during the past decade has increased pressure on state legislators to act quickly on reform measures, “even as it has made it more important than ever for them to carefully weigh the benefits and costs of competing reform proposals.”

“Unfortunately the research evidence available to policy makers is often non-existent, incomplete or appears to be contradictory,” said Molnar. “This report should prove invaluable to policy makers and citizens as they consider how best to move forward with reform efforts.”

Professors from the Rutgers University Center for Early Education, State University of New York at Buffalo, the University of Colorado, Indiana University, the University of Illinois, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Arizona State University contributed to the report. A common thread through their 13 essays was the idea that resources need to be spent thoughtfully in the pursuit of reform with due consideration given to what works and what doesn’t.

“These reports offer to policy makers and citizens a road map for making public schools more effective,” says Molnar. “It is our hope that they will help people gain a clearer understanding of what works, and what we still need to know.”

<p>The Education Policy Studies Laboratory (EPSL) at ASU offers high quality analyses of national education policy issues and provides an analytical resource for educators, journalists and citizens. It includes the Education Policy Research Unit (EPRU), which examines public school reform issues and proposals, and the Commercialism in Education Research Unit (CERU), which examines the prevalence and impact of commercialism in schools. The EPSL and two of its research units are directed by ASU Professor Alex Molnar.</p>
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Visit the EPSL on the Web at: <http://www.edpolicylab.org>

The full text of “School Reform Proposals: The Research Evidence” can be found on the web at: <http://www.edpolicylab.org> and at <http://www.educationanalysis.org>. Click on NEWS button.