



Webinar: Examining the Public Funding of Religious Schools



Should religious schools be publicly funded? And what are the implications when they are?

These questions have become increasingly relevant in the United States in the wake of *Es-pinoza v. Montana* (2020) and *Carson v. Makin* (2022), two U.S. Supreme Court cases that forced states, under certain circumstances, to provide public funding to private religious schools. But questions raised by such public funding are not unique to our nation. In fact, many of the issues currently confronting the United States have already been wrestled with in other countries around the world.

On September 26th, [two back-to-back webinars](#) will explore these trends and issues, with an eye to helping parents, teachers, administrators, scholars, advocates, journalists, and other education stakeholders better understand the history and impact of state-funded religious education in the U.S. and abroad.

The webinars, which are free to [register](#) for and attend, feature the authors of articles in a new [special issue](#) of the *Peabody Journal of Education*, a peer-refereed publication. This special issue on publicly funded religious schools considers research findings around equity, segregation, and discrimination as they relate to state-funded religious education. Studies presented in the special issue were conducted in Canada, Spain, and the U.S., and they examine how state-funded religious education has shifted over time as a result of factors such as legal rulings, politics, demographic changes, global migration, and education privatization.

The webinars are sponsored by NEPC, which invites the public to attend either or both.

Law and Public Discourse is the title of the first webinar in the series, which runs from noon to 1 pm Eastern Time.

[Kathleen Sellers](#) of Duke University will moderate. Panelists are [Sue Winton](#) of York University in Canada and NEPC Fellows [Bruce Baker](#) of the University of Miami, [Suzanne Eckes](#) of the University of Wisconsin, [Preston Green](#) of the University of Connecticut, and [Kevin Welner](#) of the University of Colorado.

The second webinar, **Catholic Culture and Market Concerns**, will be held right after the first one, from 1 to 2 pm Eastern on September 26th.

[Joel Malin](#) of Miami University will moderate. Panelists will be [James Coviello](#), [Stephen Kotok](#), and [Catherine DiMartino](#), all of St. John's University, [Clara Fontdevila](#) of the University of Glasgow in Scotland, [Adrián Zancajo](#) and [Antoni Verger](#) of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain, and [Ee-Seul Yoon](#) of the University of Manitoba, Canada.

Click [here](#) now to register for one or both of these two webinars.

For those interested in reading the underlying articles in the *Peabody* journal, they're available (although some are behind a paywall) as follows:

Fontdevila, C., Zancajo, A., & Verger, A. (2024). *Catholic Schools in the Marketplace: Changing and Enduring Religious Identities*

Green, P., Baker, B., & Eckes, S. (2024). *The Potential for Race Discrimination in Voucher Programs in a Post-Carson World*

Kotok, S., DiMartino, C.C., & Coviello, J. (2024). *New York City Catholic Schools Operating in the Public Space in a Post-Makin World*

Welner, K. (2024). *Charting the Path to the Outsourcing of Discrimination Through School Choice*

Winton, S. (2024). *Same Arguments, Different Outcomes: Struggles Over Private School Funding in Alberta and Ontario, Canada*

Yoon, E.S. (2024). *Unequal City and Inequitable Choice: The Neoliberal State's Development of School Choice and Marketization in the Publicly Funded Catholic School Board in Toronto, Canada*

Yoon, E.S., Malin, J.R., Sellers, K.M., & Welner, K.G. (2024). *Should Religious Schools Be Publicly Funded? Issues of Religion, Discrimination, and Equity*

NEPC Resources on School Choice

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