

Education Policy Research Papers and Presentations

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1.0 Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide to the interested reader links to things I've done in the broad research area of k-12 education policy research for various audiences.

Additionally, in the course of examining data I constructed a web site which enables the user to examine and rank building student level test scores, by socioeconomic group for every building in Pennsylvania; the web site also analyzes teacher test scores by teacher preparation institution and placement results. See

www.paeducationquality.net

The organization of what follows is by audience.

2.0 Monographs for the Pa. State Board of Education

3.0 Journal Articles

4.0 School Safety: Current Research

5.0 Book Chapters

6.0 Congressional Testimony

7.0 Conference Paper Presentations

8.0 Podcast Interviews by Dr. David Hardy of the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Foundation in 2024

The titles of the papers and presentations are generally explanatory. A brief synopsis can be found in brackets after the hyper link.

2.0 Monographs for the Pa. State Board of Education

2.1 1993 Final Report [analyzes implications of student demography for teacher recruitment and curricula delivery]

["Who Should Teach in Pennsylvania's Public Schools?"](#)
[Modeling Teacher Supply and Demand, Curricula, &](#)
[High School Seniors' Post-Secondary Plans"](#)

2.2 1998 Final Report [compares PA teacher certification rules to comparison states and uses student demographic projections and district surveys to identify future teaching needs]

Teacher Preparation and Selection in Pennsylvania

Robert P. Strauss

A Research Report to the Pennsylvania State Board of Education

Pennsylvania State Board of Education: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

3.0 Journal Articles

"Some New Evidence on Teacher and Student Competency," with Elizabeth A. Sawyer, Economics of Education Review, 5, 1 (January, 1986), 41-48. [how teacher test scores improve test scores of their students, especially those most at risk]

"Improving Access to Science and Math Education," with Ashok Srinivasan, Interfaces, 29, 4 (July-August, 1999), 82-95. [measurement of access to science and math courses in small, poor school districts, and recommendations of how to improve access through inter-district cooperation]

"Improving Teacher Preparation and Selection: Lessons from the Pennsylvania Experience," with Lori Bowes, Mindy Marks, Mark Plesko, Economics of Education Review, 19, 4 (July, 2000), 387-415. [overview paper summarizing several studies of PA State Board of Education]

4.0 School Safety: Current Research

Student Misconduct in Pennsylvania Public Schools: Evidence from 24 Years of Administrative Records 1999/2000 through 2022/2023

5.0 Book Chapters

"Who Gets Hired to Teach? The Case of Pennsylvania," in Marci Kanstoroom and Chester E. Finn, Jr. [editors]. Better Teachers, Better Schools. Fordham Foundation Press, 1999, 103-130. [careful examination of hiring procedures of PA school districts based on various surveys]

6.0 Congressional Testimony

A Reverse Engineering Approach to Improving Teacher Quality: The Hiring Decision and State Laws Governing

School Board Conduct and Ethics

*Testimony before the Committee on Education and the Workforce
Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, Training, and Life-Long Learning
U.S. House of Representatives, May 13, 1999*
<http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/rs9f/housed99.pdf>

[some extremely blunt testimony on how variable teacher content knowledge is of employed teachers and by PA teacher preparation institution]

7.0 Conference Paper Presentations

"Improving Public Education through Strengthened Local Control"
with Roger T. Severino,

*Updated Version of Paper Presented and Published in the Proceedings of the
Conference on Education and Economic Development
Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland
Cleveland, Ohio November 18-19, 2005* [comparison of how publicly traded corporations are governed to school districts; summary of each state ethics laws per school districts]

Two bills introduced (but not enacted) that would raise ethical standards of Pa. school districts:

PA. Senate Bill 1234 (2014):
Amending the Pa. School Code to Reform Oath of Office for:
Elected School Board Members, Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents
Principals, Assistant Principals and Business Managers

Pa. Senate Bill 1258 (2014)
Public Education Judgment Rules, Public Disclosure of Learning Outcomes,
School Safety, Planned and Actual Uses of Monies

"Should Teachers Know or Know How to Teach?"
with William B. Vogt

*4/18/06 Revised Version of March 22, 2002 Paper
American Educational Finance Association
Annual Research Conference
Cincinnati, Ohio*

http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/rs9f/sv_4_18_06.pdf

[Technical paper demonstrating that a 1% improvement in General Knowledge NTE scores raises mid 1990's student test scores by 10%

Classroom Teacher Hiring Practices in Pennsylvania: 1997 and 2006

Robert P. Strauss, Celeste M. Strauss, Annie Gorman and Jinxiang Liu
American Education Finance Association
2008 Annual Research Conference, Denver, Colorado

[Comparison across time of teacher hiring practices and relationship to student learning outcomes]

"Patterns of Teacher and Administrator Voluntary and Involuntary Withdrawals in Pennsylvania: 1990-2005"

Robert P. Strauss, Ying Chen, and Jinxiang Liu
Revised Version of March, 2007 American Education Finance Association
Annual Research Conference Paper, Baltimore, MD

8.0 Podcast Interviews by Dr. David Hardy of the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Foundation in 2024

March 4, 2024, 41 minutes

Podcast Interview on PA k-12 School Safety Issues
School Choice, David Hardy, Commonwealth Foundation of PA
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wP8a2VYqPcQ>

June 3, 2024

Podcast Interview regarding Supply and Demand for PA Classroom Teachers, School Choice Report Podcase, David Hardy, Commonwealth Foundation of Pennsylvania.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0TZtN2c7XU>

8.0 Miscellaneous Papers and Presentations

The Market for Substitute Classroom Teachers in South West Pennsylvania

Robert P. Strauss, and David A. Strauss
July, 2003 [Pittsburgh Foundation empirical study of substitute teachers market with original data collection]

"Achievement, Post-Secondary Educational Aspirations, and Peer Pressure in Three Urban School Districts."

with John Bishop, Susan McElroy, and Alicia Powers
Outline and Tables of Paper Presented at
25'th Annual Conference
American Education Finance Association
Austin-Marriott
Austin, Texas
March 10, 2000