School Choice and Privatization

TE 982 Section 004
Spring 2008
Michigan State University
Monday, 4:10 – 7:00pm
313 Ernst Bessey Hall
(last updated 2/22/08)

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Course Description

Cassie Guarino, an economist, and Rebecca Jacobsen, politics and education, will collaborate on this new seminar, which will be uniquely strengthened by their distinctive perspectives and prior research in school choice. The class will explore issues relating to school choice and privatization. It will discuss the market-based rationale underlying choice policies and the various forms that school choice can take. It will focus on the choice movement in the US, but will also address choice in the international context. Given the importance of the charter school movement in the US, the course will focus on charter schools in depth. Students will thoroughly understand school choice issues and policies as well as the empirical evidence regarding the effectiveness of choice-based reforms. Students will learn to understand and evaluate the methodologies used by researchers to judge choice programs.

In particular, the seminar will explore: market influences on education; historical forms of school choice; public versus private schools; the politics of choice, voucher programs; the charter school movement; choice and sorting - who attends charter schools; choice and governance - who organizes, oversees, and leads charter schools; choice and staffing - who teaches in charter schools; choice and democratic education; and the impact of choice on student outcomes.

There are no prerequisites for the class, but some background in statistics and the economic theory of markets will be helpful.

Requirements and Grading

Students are expected to prepare carefully for class and read all assigned papers. Readings will be assigned each week appropriate to the scheduled topic. Students will be asked to present structured summaries of a selection of assigned readings. Students will also be expected to lead a portion of the class discussion on more than one assigned paper during the term. When leading the discussion of a paper, students should prepare a short summary handout (1-2 pages) for the class. The format of the handout will be discussed in the first class meeting.

Students will be required to prepare a final presentation and paper evaluating an existing or proposed school choice policy along dimensions discussed in class. During the final two classes,

students are expected to make a full Power Point presentation on their topic and the paper will be due during Finals Week.

One-fourth of the grade will be based on the paper discussions each student leads. One-fourth will be based on the final presentation, and one-fourth on the final paper. The final fourth of the grade will be based on the quality of general contributions to class discussions of papers and projects.

Other Details

Students with disabilities: We will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Please feel free to speak with us if there are issues of which we should be aware.

Academic Honesty and Integrity: We assume that students are honest and that all course work represents the student's own work. Violations of the academic integrity policy such as cheating, plagiarism, selling course assignments or academic fraud are grounds for academic action and/or disciplinary sanction as described in the University's student conduct code.

Incidents of Plagiarism: They will be taken very seriously and will be pursued. Students are strongly cautioned not to copy any text verbatim without appropriate quotations and source citations.

For University regulations on academic dishonesty and plagiarism, please refer to:

http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/plagiarism.html

Notes

Syllabus is subject to change and will be updated throughout the course.

Instructors

Rebecca Jacobsen is an assistant professor of education policy who studies politics and education with a particular emphasis on public opinion and educational issues. She is a co-author on the book *The Charter School Dust Up: Examining the Evidence on Enrollment and Achievement*.

Cassie Guarino is an assistant professor of education policy and former RAND economist who studies teacher quality, teacher labor markets, school choice, and the connection between health and education. Her work on school choice has included the study of the charter school movement in California and charter schools in the nation of Qatar. In a RAND evaluation of charters schools in California sponsored by the State Legislative Analyst's Office, she led the investigations of staffing and special education policies in charter schools. She also led a follow-on study of non-classroom based charter schools in California. For the government of Qatar, she led an evaluation of the school finance system supporting the charter school reform.

Week 1 (January 7) – Introduction

Types of Choice in History

- Private Schools
- Open Enrollment Programs
- Magnet Schools
- Vouchers
- Charters
- Controlled Choice (NCLB – failing schools)

Overview of charter schools

Week 2 (January 14) – Theories of School Choice

Friedman, M. 1962. The role of government in education. In *Capitalism and Freedom.* (pp. 85-107). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Hirschman, A. O. 1970. *Exit, voice and loyalty: responses to decline in firms, organizations, and states.* Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Chapters 1-4

Chubb, J. and Moe, T. 1990. The root of the problem. An institutional perspective on schools. In *Politics, Markets and America's Schools.* (pp. 1-69).

Levin , HM. 1991. The economics of educational choice. *Economic of Education Review*, 10, 137-158.

Week 3 (January 28) - Early Forms of Choice

Public vs. Private

Coleman, J., Hoffer, T., Kilgore, S. (1982) Cognitive outcomes in public and private schools, *Sociology of Education*, 55(2), 65-76.

Goldhaber, D. (1996) Public and private high schools: Is school choice an answer to the productivity problem? *Economics of Education Review*, 15(2), 93-109.

Residential sorting

Jellison Holme, Jennifer. (2002). Buying homes, buying schools: school choice and the social construction of school quality. *Harvard Educational Review*. 72 (2) 177-205.

Week 4 & 5 – (Feb 4 and 11) Politics of Choice (2 weeks)

PART 1 – WEEK 4

Chapters 1, 2, 4, 8 and 9

Henig, J. (1995). *Rethinking school choice: Limits on the market metaphor.* Princeton: Princeton University Press.

PART 2 – WEEK 5

Abernathy, S. (2005). *School choice and the future of American democracy.* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Mettler, S. & Soss, J. (2004). The consequences of public policy for democratic citizenship: Bridging policy studies and mass politics. *Perspectives on Politics*. 2(1): 55-73.

Week 6 – (February 18) Choice in Michigan

Arsen, D., Plank, D., and Sykes, G. (1999) *School Choice Policies in Michigan: The Rules Matter* Education Policy Center at Michigan State University

Plank, D. & Sykes, G. (2000) *The School Choice Debate: Framing the Issues* Education Policy Center at Michigan State University

Chapters 3 (The Charter School Reform in Michigan) and Chapter 4 (Charter School Finance) Myron, G. & Nelson, C. (2002). *What's public about charter schools? Lessons learned about choice and accountability.* Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, Inc.

Yi, Yongme (Working Paper http://www.ncspe.org/publications_files/OP145.pdf) The Impact of Charter Schools on the Efficiency of Traditional Public Schools: Evidence from Michigan

Hoxby, C. (2002) How School Choice Affects the Achievement of *Public* School Students

Bettinger (2005) The effect of charter schools on charter students and public schools. *Economics of Education Review* 24, 133–147.

Week 7 – (February 25) Voucher Programs
Chapter 1 – The Politics of Vouchers (pp. 15-42).
Moe, T. (2001). *Schools, vouchers and the American public.* Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press.

Witte, J. F. (1998). The Milwaukee Voucher Experiment. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis.* 20(4): 229-251.

Ladd, H, (2002). School vouchers: A critical view. *The Journal of Economic Perspectives.* 16(4): 3-24.

Howell, W., P. Wolf, D. Campbell, & P. Peterson. (2002). School vouchers and academic performance: Results from three randomized field trials. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management.* 21(2): 191-217.

Wolf, Gutmann, Puma, Rizzo, Eissa & Silverberg (2007) Evaluation of the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program: Summary of Experimental Impacts After One Year *(unpublished draft)*

OPTIONAL:
Carnoy, M. (2001). Do school vouchers improve student performance? *The American Prospect*. January.

Levin, H. M. (1998). Educational Vouchers: Effectiveness, Choice, and Costs**.**
Journal of Policy Analysis and Management. 17(3): 373-392.

Week 8 – (March 10) Charter Schools – Types of charters and governance

Henig, J., Holyoke, T., Brown, H. & Lacireno-Paquet, N. (2005). Influence of founder type on charter school structures and operations. *American Journal of Education*. 111: 487-582.

Huerta, L., Fernanda Gonzalez, M., and d'Entremont, C. (2006). Cyber and Home School Charter Schools: Adopting Policy to New Forms of Public Schooling. *Peabody Journal of Education*. 81(1): 103-139.

Brown, Henig, Lacerino-Paquet and Holyoke. (2004). Scale of operations and locus of control in market- versus mission-oriented charter schools. *Social Science Quarterly*. 85(5): 1035-1051.

Palmer, L. B. & Gau, R. (2005). Charter school authorizing: Policy implications from a national study. *Phi Delta Kappan*. January.

Week 9 – (March 17) Charter Schools - Student and Family Sorting

Schneider, M. & Buckley, J. (2002). What do parents want from schools? Evidence from the internet. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis.* 24(2): 133–144.

Frankenberg, E. & C. Lee. (2003). Charter schools and race: A lost opportunity for integrated education. *Education Policy Analysis Archives.* 11(32):

Lacireno-Paquet, N., T. Holyoke, M. Moster & J. Henig. (2002). Creaming versus cropping: Charter school enrollment practices in response to market incentives. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Anlaysis*. 24(2): 145-158.

Booker, K., R. Zimmer & R. Buddin. (2005). *The effect of charter schools on school peer composition.* Rand Education

Wells, A.S. (1996). African-American students' view of school choice. In *Who Chooses? Who Loses.* Fuller, B. & Elmore, R. (Eds). New York: Teachers College Press.

Week 10 – (March 24 – WILL BE RESCHEDULED DUE TO AREA) Charter Schools Staffing

Guarino, C. (2003) Staffing in Charter and Conventional Public Schools, Chapter VII in Zimmer et al. *Charter School Operations and Performance: Evidence from California*, MR-1700-EDU, RAND, Santa Monica, CA.

Burian-Fitzgerald, M., Luekens, M. T. & Strizek, G. A. (2004), Less red tape or more green teachers: Charter school autonomy and teacher qualifications. In *Taking account of charter schools: What's happened and what' next?* Bulkley, K. E. & Wohlstetter, P. (Eds.). New York: Teachers College Press.

Week 11 – (March 31) Charter Schools – Achievement
This class and the following will discuss studies aimed at finding a "charter school effect" on student achievement both through a direct effect on charter school students and through an indirect—or "competitive" effect—on traditional public school students.

Sass, T. (2006) Charter School and Student Achievement in Florida, *Education Finance and Policy*, 1(1), 91-122

Hoxby, C. & Rockoff, J. (2004) The Impact of Charter Schools on Student Achievement

Cullen, J.B., Jacob, B., Levitt, S. (2005) The Impact of School Choice on Student Outcomes: An Analysis of the Chicago Public Schools, *Journal of Public Economic*s, 89(5-6), 729-760.

Booker, Kevin, Scott M. Gilpatric, Timothy Gronberg, and Dennis Jansen. (2004) Charter school performance in Texas. Unpublished paper, Texas A&M University.

Booker, Kevin, Scott M. Gilpatric, Timothy Gronberg, and Dennis Jansen. (2004). The effect of charter competition on traditional public school students in Texas. Unpublished paper, Texas A&M University.

Week 12 – (April 7) Charter Schools – Achievement Continued

Bifulco, R. & Ladd, H. (2006) The Impacts of Charter Schools on Student Achievement: Evidence from North Carolina

Solman, Lewis, Kern Paark, and David Garcia. 2001. Does charter school attendance improve test scores? The Arizona results. Phoenix, AZ: The Goldwater Institute.

Buddin, R. & Zimmer, R. (2005) Student Achievement in Charter Schools: A Complex Picture. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management.* 24(2) 351-371.

Week 13 (April 14) International Choice and Privatization

McEwan, P. & Carnoy, M. (2000) The Effectiveness and Efficiency of Private Schools in Chile's Voucher System. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, Vol. 22, No. 3, 213-239.

Brewer, D., Augustine, C., Zellman, G., Ryan, G., Goldman, C., Stasz, C., Constant, L. (2007) Education for a New Era: Design and Implementation of K-12 Education Reform in Qatar (**http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG548/**) Selected chapters

Week 14 – (April 21) Student Presentations