

Chester E. Finn, Jr.

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Date of Birth August 3, 1944

Education Harvard University: B.A., 1965; M.A., 1967; Ph.D., 1970

Current Position President, Thomas B. Fordham Foundation



Career Highlights

- ❑ President, Thomas B. Fordham Foundation and Thomas B. Fordham Institute
- ❑ Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution
- ❑ Chairman, Koret Task Force on K–12 Education
- ❑ Senior Editor, Education Next
- ❑ Fellow, International Academy of Education
- ❑ Adjunct Fellow, Hudson Institute
- ❑ John M. Olin Fellow, Manhattan Institute (1999-2002)
- ❑ Professor of Education and Public Policy, Vanderbilt University (1981-2002)
- ❑ Senior Partner and Founder, Edison Project (1992-1994)
- ❑ Assistant Secretary for Research and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education (1985-1988)

Accomplishments

- ❑ Founder of *Education Gadfly*
- ❑ Recipient of awards from the Educational Press Association of America, Choice magazine, the Education Writers Association, and the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge
- ❑ Books include *Leaving No Child Behind: Options for Kids in Failing Schools* (2004) and *Charter Schools in Action: Renewing Public Education* (2001)

Biographical Sketch

Dr. Chester E. (“Checker”) Finn currently holds several positions and affiliations, serving as President of the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation and Thomas B. Fordham Institute and Senior Fellow at Stanford’s Hoover Institution. The primary focus of his work is the reform of elementary and secondary schooling.

Finn serves on a number of boards including those of K12, the National Council on Teacher Quality, the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, the Philanthropy Roundtable, and Keys to Improving Dayton’s Schools, Inc. Is also an advisor for the National Association of Scholars and the Center of the American Experiment. From 1988 to 1996, Finn was a member of the National Assessment Governing Board, a term that included two years as NAGB’s chairman.

Senior editor of the journal *Education Next*, Finn also writes a weekly column in the Fordham Foundation’s *Education Gadfly*. His work on education reform has been recognized by awards from the Educational Press Association of America, *Choice* magazine, the Education Writers Association, and the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

Checker Finn on the goals of education

America’s future hinges on having lots of people who know a lot—and are clever at figuring things out and creating new and better ways of doing things. That means having a serious (and well-rounded) education, not just passing math and reading tests.

From: *The Education Gadfly*. December 22, 2005

Notes

Information collected from the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation website at www.edexcellence.net, the Hoover Institution website at www.hoover.org, and the Hudson Institute website at www.hudson.org.