

Paul E. Peterson on School Choice and Vouchers

Influence Index: 22

Selected Citations

- Peterson, P.E. (Ed.). (2003). *The Future of School Choice*. Stanford, CA: Hoover Institution Press.
- Peterson, P.E., Campbell, D.E., & West, M.R. (2002). Who Chooses? Who Uses? Participation in a National School Voucher Program. In Paul T. Hill, (Ed.), *Choice with Equity: An Assessment by the Koret Task Force on K-12 Education*. Stanford, CA: Hoover Institution Press.
- Peterson, P.E., & Campbell, D.E. (Eds.). (2001). *Charters, Vouchers, and Public Education*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press.
- Campbell, D., West, M., & Peterson, P. (2005). Participation in a national, means-tested voucher program. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 24, 523-541.
- Howell, W.G. & Peterson, P.E. (2002). *The Education Gap: Vouchers and Urban Schools*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press.

Description

Paul E. Peterson is widely recognized for a large body of research on school choice and voucher programs. His work grounds debates over school choice in the intellectual traditions of both communitarianism and market theory. Peterson's studies of voucher programs, including publicly-funded initiatives in Milwaukee and Cleveland, find that students who use vouchers see large academic gains compared to students who are not enrolled in such programs. In *The Education Gap: Vouchers and Urban Schools* (co-authored with William Howell), he finds evidence of substantial gains in test scores among African American voucher students.

Peterson's research also addresses the equality issue in the vouchers debate, rejecting the notion that voucher programs "skim" the best and brightest students away from public schools. His research has found that voucher recipients represent a cross-section of public school students, though some may come from somewhat more educated families. Peterson's numerous books, chapters, and articles have been cited frequently in the political arena, as school choice becomes an increasingly contentious issue.

Currently serving as the Henry Lee Shattuck professor of government and director of the Program on Education Policy and Governance at Harvard University, Peterson is also a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. In addition Peterson is the editor-in-chief of *Education Next*, a policy journal published by the Hoover Institution.

For More Information

More information about Peterson's research and publications can be found at online at www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~pepeters.