Leveraging Research and Policy to Improve K-12 Education in Massachusetts

Organized by
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
MIT School Effectiveness and Inequality Initiative

December 7, 2015

Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
Connolly Center, Fourth Floor
600 Atlantic Ave #100
Boston, MA 02210

PROGRAM

8:00 am  Breakfast
A continental breakfast will be available in the New England Room, adjacent to the Connolly Center.

8:40 am  Welcome remarks
Robert Triest, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
Sanjay Sarma, MIT Dean of Digital Learning

9:00 am  Alternative School Models

Short Presentations of: Lawrence Public Schools Turnaround
Beth Schueler, Harvard Graduate School of Education
Joshua Goodman, Harvard Kennedy School
David Deming, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Charters Without Lotteries: Testing Takeovers in New Orleans and Boston
Atila Abdulkadiroğlu, Duke University
Joshua Angrist, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and NBER
Peter Hull, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Parag A. Pathak, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and NBER

Panel Discussion
Christopher Gabrieli, CEO, Empower Schools; Chairman, Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, Chair
Richard Stutman, President, Boston Teachers Union
Ryan Knight, Director of Strategy and Evaluation, UP Education Network
10:05 am  Schools and Neighborhoods

Short Presentation of: The Effect of Foreclosure on Boston Public School Student Academic Performance and Within-School Spillover Effects of Foreclosures and Student Mobility on Student Academic Performance
Katharine Bradbury, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
Mary A. Burke, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
Robert K. Triest, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

Panel Discussion
Alice Peisch, Massachusetts House Chair, Joint Committee on Education, Chair
Mary Bourque, Superintendent, Chelsea Public Schools
Jessica Andors, Executive Director, Lawrence Community Works

10:45 am  Break

11:00 am  Accountability and Value-Added

Short Presentation of: Validating Teacher Effect Estimates Using Changes in Teacher Assignments
Andrew Bacher-Hicks, Harvard University
Thomas J. Kane, Harvard University and NBER
Douglas O. Staiger, Dartmouth College and NBER

Leveraging Lotteries for School Value-Added: Testing and Estimation
Joshua Angrist, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and NBER
Peter Hull, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Parag A. Pathak, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and NBER
Christopher Walters, University of California, Berkeley and NBER

Panel Discussion
Kevin Lang, Professor of Economics, Boston University, Chair
Carrie Conaway, Associate Commissioner of Planning, Research, and Delivery Systems, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Nicole Wagner, Executive Director of Data and Accountability, Boston Public Schools

12:05 pm  Lunch and Keynote
A buffet luncheon will be served in the New England Room prior to the keynote address.

Keynote address: What Have We Learned from the Last Decade of Education Research
Roland Fryer, Harvard University and EdLabs
1:05 pm  School Admissions Policy

Short presentations of: The Demand for Effective Charter Schools
Christopher Walters, University of California, Berkeley and NBER

Overview of Unified Enrollment in American Cities
Parag A. Pathak, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and NBER

Panel Discussion
Neil Dorosin, Executive Director, The Institute for Innovation in Public School Choice, Chair
Rahn Dorsey, Chief of Education, City of Boston
Hardin Coleman, Dean of Boston University’s School of Education, Boston School Committee

2:10 pm  Break

2:25 pm  Access and Equity

Short presentations of: English Language Learners and Special Education Students in Charter Schools:
Classification and Effectiveness
Elizabeth Setren, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

The Long Run Impacts of Tracking High-Achieving Students: Evidence from Boston’s Advanced Work Class
Sarah Cohodes, Teachers College, Columbia University

Panel Discussion
Elizabeth Pauley, Senior Director, Education to Career, The Boston Foundation, Chair
Cliff Chuang, Associate Commissioner for Educational Redesign, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Kim Janey, Senior Project Director, Massachusetts Advocates for Children
Erica Brown, Special Advisor to the Executive Director, City on a Hill Charter Public Schools; Founding Charter-District Steering Committee Member, Boston Compact; Chair of Teaching and Learning, Boston Charter Alliance

3:30 pm  Closing Remarks

Making Research More Useful for Policy
Carrie Conaway, Associate Commissioner of Planning, Research, and Delivery Systems, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Chair
Tommy Chang, Superintendent, Boston Public Schools
Jim Peyser, Massachusetts Secretary of Education

4:30 pm Reception
Harborview Dining Room (31st floor)
Refreshments and open bar