



# International School Choice and Reform Conference

**2025 PROGRAM**

**JANUARY 17-20, 2025**

**FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA**

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## Welcome!

Please join us for the thirteenth annual meeting of the International School Choice and Reform Conference (ISCRC), a global academic conference that gathers scholars who study various forms of school choice, systemic reform, and educational innovation. This includes scholarship on how school choice is enacted, the mechanisms that structure school choice programs, and both the direct and systemic effects of school choice and reform programs and initiatives.

ISCRC invites researchers with multiple perspectives on these issues to attend our 2025 meeting, which will take place in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, on January 17-20, 2025.

Some of the research presented and discussed at this conference might be supportive of various forms of school choice, while other research presented at the conference will have a more critical stance. Some participants favor one form of choice while opposing other forms of choice. Conference participants are connected by the goal of using high-quality research to shed light on how school choice and reform policies play out when implemented.

From the graduate student to the senior scholar level, the ISCRC offers a unique opportunity for school choice researchers to gather in small groups. We accomplish this by including in the registration fee multiple meal and reception opportunities for participants to spend time together.

The ISCRC has grown into an important forum for the examination of diverse forms of education, including alternatives and reforms to district-run, traditional public schools. Its primary goal is to act as a means whereby scholars and practitioners can come together in small groups to debate and discover unanswered questions about school choice and reform and to identify areas of possible collaboration.

We are looking forward to connecting with you in Florida!

**ANGELA DILLS**

Conference Chair

**ERIC WEARNE**

Conference Co-Chair

**FRIDAY**

**JANUARY 17**

**DAY 1**

**5:00 PM**

**Registration Opens**

*Impressions Foyer*

**6:00 PM**

**Welcome Reception**

*Infinity Ballroom*

**SATURDAY**

**JANUARY 18**

**DAY 2**

**8:00 AM**

**Breakfast**

*Infinity Ballroom*

**9:00 AM**

**Concurrent Session 1 Choices**

**Horizon I: The History of the School Choice Movement (Part 1)**

**Chair:**

James V. Shuls (Florida State University)

**Presenters:**

Neal McCluskey (Cato Institute) — Where Did Choice Go? 1880s to 1950s

Ron Matus (Step Up for Students) — The Progressive Push for School Choice

Matthew H. Lee (Kennesaw State University) — What Brought Choice Back?

**Discussant:**

David T. Marshall (Auburn University)

**Horizon II: Critical Conversation – Breaking Through Lines: The Impact of School Choice Assignment and Zoning on Education Opportunity**

**Organizer and Moderator:**

Lynn Swanson (yes. every kid. foundation.)

**Participants:**

Jon England (Libertas Institute), Halli Faulkner (yes. every kid.), Nicole Stewart-Jones (National Association of Black Microschool Leaders)

**Horizon III: Critical Conversation – School System Reform: Cross-Country Insights on Drivers of Student Achievement**

**Organizer and Moderator:**

Carlos X. Lastra-Anadón (IE University), John Merrifield (Institute for Objective Policy Assessment)

**Participants:**

David Hunt (Aristotle Foundation), Sebastián Carpentier (Universidad de Chile)

## **Silver, Ground Floor: Identities, Ethics, and Rights**

### **Chair:**

John M. Kristof (EdChoice)

### **Presenters:**

John M. Kristof (EdChoice) — The Secret Identities of Choice Students: Uncovering Demographic Data of Private School Choice Program Participants

Alexandre Moreira (KU Leuven; European Law Association) — How to Defend School Choice in Education Using the Human Rights Framework

Connor K. Kianpour (Rhodes College) — Reconceiving Education: Applied Ethics and Educating Children

## **Royal, Ground Floor: Rural and High School Charters**

### **Chair:**

Christy Wolfe (National Alliance of Public Charter Schools)

### **Presenters:**

Dennis W. Jansen (Texas A&M University), Heidi H. Erickson (Brigham Young University) — Small Schools: Rural versus Charters

Nathan Marshall (Brigham Young University) — Selective Factors Impacting Charter High School Enrollment

Justin Luu (American Institutes for Research), Sherrie Reed (University of California, Davis), Heather Rose (University of California, Davis) — Charter School Attendance and College Going Rates in California

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**10:45 AM**

## **Concurrent Session 2 Choices**

### **Horizon I: Critical Conversation – Education Freedom Tax Credits**

#### **Organizer and Moderator:**

William Mattox (James Madison Institute)

#### **Participants:**

Matthew Ladner (Heritage Foundation), Craig DiSesa (Virginia Education Opportunity Alliance), Joel Grewe (Home School Legal Defense Association)

### **Horizon II: Critical Conversation – Imagining a Free Market in Education: Concepts, Accountability, and Barriers**

#### **Organizer:**

Lynn Swanson (yes. every kid. foundation.)

#### **Moderator:**

Corey A. DeAngelis (American Culture Project)

#### **Participants:**

Benjamin Scafidi (Kennesaw State University), Michael Q. McShane (EdChoice)

### **Horizon III: Teachers and School Choice**

**Chair:**

Eric Wearne (Kennesaw State University)

**Presenters:**

Sharon Masinelli (Valdosta State University) — Student Academic Outcomes in Accredited Georgia Hybrid Schools with a Focus on Hybrid School Characteristics

David T. Marshall (Auburn University), Matthew H. Lee (Kennesaw State University), John Thompson (Kennesaw State University), Eric Wearne (Kennesaw State University) — Understanding the Experiences of Former Traditional Public School Teachers Who Work in Micro and Hybrid Schools

Wajiha Saqib (University of Texas at Austin), Ashli Duncan (University of Texas at Austin) — Charter Schools and Teacher Retention: A Case Study

### **Silver, Ground Floor: Success and Quality in Virtual Schools**

**Chair:**

Robert Maranto (University of Arkansas)

**Presenters:**

Ian Kingsbury (Education Freedom Institute), David T. Marshall (Auburn University) — Virtual School Parents' Perceptions of Public School Accountability

Robert Maranto (University of Arkansas), Dennis Beck (University of Arkansas), Martha Bradley-Dorsey (Center for K12 Captivity Studies), Nathaniel Bork (University of Arkansas) — Do Cisgender Boys Still Fall Behind in Cyber Schools? Evidence from a Large CMO

Gaetano Francesco Coppeta (Politecnico di Milano), Tommaso Agasisti (Politecnico di Milano) — Productivity vs Quality: A Comparative Analysis of Public, Private, and Online Learning Universities in Italy

### **Royal, Ground Floor: Charter School Authorizations and Access**

**Chair:**

Timothy Weekes (San Francisco State University)

**Presenters:**

Matthew Missias (Grand Valley State University), Courtney Stahl (Grand Valley State University), Jeff Maxwell (Grand Valley State University) — Authorizing with Whole System Regulatory Supports: Identifying and Supporting Charter Schools' Unique Needs in Meeting Contract Goals

Timothy Weekes (San Francisco State University) — A Legislative View of California Charter School History and Growth

Jamison White (National Alliance for Public Charter Schools), Sean Woytek (Basis Schools), Robert Maranto (University of Arkansas) — Academically Intensive Charter Schools: What We Know and What We Need to Know

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**12:15 PM**

**Lunch**

*Infinity Ballroom*

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1:45 PM

## Concurrent Session 3 Choices

### ***Infinity Ballroom: What Does It Mean to "Homeschool"? A Policy and Practice Discussion***

**Chair:**

Carlos Valiente (Oklahoma State University)

**Presenters:**

Albert Cheng (University of Arkansas) — The Year-by-Year Primary and Secondary Education Histories of Homeschooled Individuals and the Implications for Empirical Homeschooling Research

Angela R. Watson (Johns Hopkins University) — The Spectrum of "Homeschool" Choice: Policy Convergence or Divergence?

Brian Ray (National Home Education Research Institute) — Defining Homeschooling and Why It Matters

Christy Batts (North Carolina State University), John M. Kristof (EdChoice), Kelsie Yohe (North Carolina State University) — That Percentage Safer: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of Homeschool Parents' Perspectives of School Safety

### ***Horizon I: The Parent Revolution***

**Chair:**

Patrick J. Wolf (University of Arkansas)

**Presenter:**

Corey A. DeAngelis (American Culture Project)

### ***Horizon II: The Fiscal Effects of School Choice***

**Chair:**

Jonathan Butcher (Heritage Foundation)

**Presenters:**

Martin F. Lueken (EdChoice) — The Fiscal Effects of School Choice

Benjamin Scafidi (Kennesaw State University) — The Fiscal Effects of Public School Enrollment Declines

Jonathan Butcher (Heritage Foundation), Benjamin Scafidi (Kennesaw State University) — The Fiscal Effects of Expanding Mississippi's Education Savings Accounts

### **Horizon III: COVID and the Evolving School Choice Landscape**

**Chair:**

David T. Marshall (Auburn University)

**Presenters:**

Colyn Ritter (EdChoice), Alli Aldis (EdChoice), John M. Kristof (EdChoice) — A Deep Dive into *The ABC's of School Choice*

Eric Wearne (Kennesaw State University) — 2024 National Hybrid Schools Survey

Anna J. Egalite (North Carolina State University), Daniel H. Bowen (Texas A&M University), Brian Kisida (University of Missouri) — The Changing Faces of the School Choice Movement: How Applicants to North Carolina's Opportunity Scholarship Program Changed During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic

Daion Daniels (University of Arkansas), Patrick J. Wolf (University of Arkansas) — Education Freedom and COVID Learning Loss: Evidence from the NAEP

### **Silver, Ground Floor: School Safety and School Ethics**

**Chair:**

Colleen Hroncich (Cato Institute)

**Presenters:**

Joseph Bouchard (Carleton University), Garion Frankel (Texas A&M University) — Education Insecurity and School Choice in Bahia, Brazil

Martha Bradley-Dorsey (Center for K12 Captivity Studies) — Do We Need Policing in Schools, or Do We Need to Rethink School Captivity?

Joanna DeJong VanHof (Cardus) — Can We Call Them Credit Mills? Assessing the Legitimacy of Some Independent Schools in Ontario

### **Royal, Ground Floor: Critical Conversation – Small is Scalable: How Small Schools and Spaces Are Making a Big Impact**

**Organizer and Moderator:**

Kerry McDonald (Foundation for Economic Freedom)

**Participants:**

Shiren Rattigan (Colossal Academy), Toni Frallicciardi (Surf Skate Science), Iman Alleyne (Kind Academy), Tobin Slaven (Acton Academy, Fort Lauderdale)

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**3:30 PM**

## **Concurrent Session 4 Choices**

### **Infinity Ballroom: Critical Conversation – Regulating Private Educational Choice**

**Organizer and Moderator:**

Patrick J. Wolf (University of Arkansas)

**Participants:**

Patrick J. Wolf (University of Arkansas), Corey A. DeAngelis (American Culture Project), Nicole Stelle Garnett (University of Notre Dame), Harry A. Patrinos (University of Arkansas), Michael J. Petrilli (Thomas B. Fordham Institute), Robert Enlow (EdChoice)



### **Horizon I: Critical Conversation – Will Ending 'Education Redlining' Help Revitalize 'Fragile Neighborhoods'?**

**Organizer and Moderator:**

William Mattox (James Madison Institute)

**Participants:**

Todd Hester (Yorktown Foundation for Public Policy), Bartley R. Danielsen (North Carolina State University), Tim DeRoche (No More Lines Coalition)

### **Horizon II: Critical Conversation – Freedom of Education Index 2023: A Quantitative Analysis of Educational Pluralism Worldwide**

**Organizer and Moderator:**

Josyane Zingg (OIDEI)

**Presenters:**

Josyane Zingg (OIDEI), Christy Wolfe (National Alliance for Public Charter Schools), Leslie Hiner (EdChoice)

### **Horizon III: Critical Conversation – The Importance of Empowering Our Children from a Homeschool Perspective**

**Organizers and Moderators:**

Christal Gamble Banks (@mamasweetbaby), De-Shaun Silas (@littlelearnerandmom)

**Participants:**

Shawn Jordan (@littlelearnerandmom), Vincent Banks (@mamasweetbaby), Jaidyn Jordan (@littlelearnerandmom), Cash Banks (@mamasweetbaby)

### **Silver, Ground Floor: Critical Conversation – School Choice Victories: Woohoos and Whoopsies**

**Organizer and Moderator:**

Colleen Hroncich (Cato Institute)

**Participants:**

Matthew Ladner (Heritage Foundation), Michael Bindas (Institute for Justice), Katherine Bathgate (SchoolForward)

### **Royal, Ground Floor: Critical Conversation – A Taste of A La Carte Learning: Perspectives from Parents and Providers on Unbundled Education**

**Organizer and Moderator:**

Ron Matus (Step Up for Students)

**Participants:**

Joelle Smith (The Living School), Nyemi Lane Mignocchi (Eye of a Scientist), Stephanie Busin (Hendry County School Board)

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**5:00 PM –  
6:00 PM**

**Break**

**6:00 PM**

**Reception**  
*Impressions Foyer*

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**6:30 PM**

**Dinner**  
*Infinity Ballroom*

**Keynote – Agency and School Choice: FREE(d) by Education**

**Keynote Presenter:**  
Ian Rowe (American Enterprise Institute)

**Moderator:**  
Michael Q. McShane (EdChoice)

**SUNDAY**

**JANUARY 19**

**DAY 3**

**8:00 AM**

**Breakfast**  
*Infinity Ballroom*

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**9:00 AM**

**Concurrent Session 5 Choices**

**Infinity Ballroom: Market Research on School Choice**

**Chair:**  
Paul DiPerna (EdChoice)

**Presenters:**  
Keisha Jordan (Children’s Scholarship Fund of Philadelphia) — Demonstrating Program Outcomes to Influence the Movement

Christian Lehr (Tyton Partners), Adam Newman (Tyton Partners) — Choose to Learn 2024: K–12 Parents Poised to Explore New Educational Options

Alli Aldis (EdChoice), Colyn Ritter (EdChoice), John M. Kristof (EdChoice) — Public Favorability and Awareness of Educational Choice Programs in the U.S.

**Horizon I: Critical Conversation – Charter Schools & The Culture War**

**Chair:**  
Matthew Nielsen (CharterOne)

**Participants:**  
Christy Wolfe (National Alliance for Public Charter Schools), Ian Kingsbury (Education Freedom Institute), Jay P. Greene (Heritage Foundation)

## **Horizon II: The History of the School Choice Movement (Part 2)**

**Chair:**

Neal McCluskey (Cato Institute)

**Presenters:**

James V. Shuls (Florida State University) — Virgil Blum and the Rise of Citizens for Educational Freedom

Nicole Stelle Garnett (University of Notre Dame) — The Legal Arc to School Choice

Jason Bedrick (Heritage Foundation) — The 2023 Universal Choice Explosion

**Discussant:**

Aaron Saiger (Fordham Law)

## **Horizon III: Individual Needs and Identities**

**Chair:**

Jenny Clark (Love Your School)

**Presenters:**

Amber Bryant (The Forest School), Caleb Collier (Institute for Self-Directed Learning), Tyler Thigpen (Institute for Self-Directed Learning), Brittney Toles (The Forest School) — The Playbook for Self-Directed Learning

Jenny Clark (Love Your School), Michael Clark (First Day) — Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Education Savings Account Programs Working Together: An Arizona Case Study

Jonathan Plucker (Johns Hopkins University), Jennifer Madsen (New Jersey Association for Gifted Children), Alli Aldis (EdChoice), Paul DiPerna (EdChoice) — School Choice and Advanced Education

## **Silver, Ground Floor: Multiple Contexts for Homeschooling**

**Chair:**

Kevin Boden (Homeschool Legal Defense Association)

**Presenters:**

Caitlin Albrechtsen (Arizona State University) — Public-Private Partnership in Homeschooling: A Case Study of a Public School Program for Homeschooling Families

Rosenrot Mireille Schülpe (Clonlara School) — “Worldschool-Hub Andalusia” Preliminary Findings From the First Phase of a Qualitative Research Project into the Worldschooling-Hotspot, La Herradura/Spain (2022-2024)

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**10:45 AM**

## **Concurrent Session 6 Choices**

### **Horizon I: Critical Conversation – Thinking Small: How Public Charter Schools Operate in the Microschool Space**

**Organizer and Moderator:**

Michael Chartier (ExcelinEd)

**Participants:**

Christy Wolfe (National Alliance of Public Charter Schools), Paula Jackson (Charter Schools USA), Amy McGrath (ASU Prep Academy)

## **Horizon II: Critical Conversation – Collaboration Throughout Implementation**

**Organizer and Moderator:**

Lauren May (Step Up for Students)

**Participants:**

Bruce Hermie (American Federation for Children), Jenny Clark (Love Your School), Nasiyah Isra-UI (Homeschool Empower ED)

## **Horizon III: Critical Conversation – School Choice and The Culture War: What Comes Next?**

**Organizer and Moderator:**

Jason Bedrick (Heritage Foundation)

**Participants:**

Rachel Alexander Cambre (Heritage Foundation), Neal McCluskey (Cato Institute), Derrell Bradford (50CAN), Matthew Ladner (Heritage Foundation)

## **Silver, Ground Floor: Admissions, Instruction, and Funding in International Schools of Choice**

**Chair:**

Tommaso Agasisti (Politecnico di Milano)

**Presenters:**

Marya Bekova (Nazarbayev University) — A Mixed-Methods Study on the Rationales Behind Parents' Language of Instruction Choices in Kazakhstan's State Schools

Kaire Põder (Estonian Business School), Triin Lauri (Tallinn University), Andre Veski (Estonian Business School) — School (Head) Preferences in a Decentralised Admissions Process: Willingness to Pay for a Good Student

Kevin Jan Zuchanek (Wuppertal Research Institute for the Economics of Education) — Multilingual Information Intervention in School Choice - Evidence from Immediate Acceptance in Bremen

Carlos X. Lastra-Anadón (IE University) — Education Investments, Achievement, and Political Attitudes: The Case of the European Union's Regional Funds

## **Royal, Ground Floor: Legal and Regulatory Developments in Homeschooling**

**Chair:**

Kevin Boden (Homeschool Legal Defense Association)

**Presenters:**

Caitlin Albrechtsen (Arizona State University) — Homeschooling Population Trends: Looking Back, Looking Ahead

Enya Costa (University of São Paulo) — Homeschooling in Brazil: Legal Analysis and Regulatory Perspectives

Sílvia Cópio (Aberta University, Global Center Research Studies), Brian Ray (National Home Education Research Institute), Jacinto Jardim (Aberta University) — Home Education in Europe – The Case of Portugal in Comparison with the Political Tendencies in the European Situation: Family Motivations and Methods in a History of Freedom and Restrictions

**12:15 PM**

## Lunch

*Infinity Ballroom*

### **Keynote Panel – Questioning Authority: School Choice and the Decline of Institutional Legitimacy**

**Keynote Panelists:**

Denisha Allen (American Federation for Children), Robert Enlow (EdChoice), Andrew Campanella (National School Choice Awareness Foundation)

**Moderator:**

Robert Maranto (University of Arkansas)

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**1:45 PM**

## Concurrent Session 7 Choices

### ***Infinity Ballroom:* Implementing and Measuring Private School Choice**

**Chair:**

Lisa Snell (Stand Together Trust)

**Presenters:**

John Merrifield (Institute for Objective Policy Assessment) — A Price Theory Analysis of the First Wave of Universal School Choice Expansions

Michael Q. McShane (EdChoice), John M. Kristof (EdChoice) — Implementing Education Savings Account Programs

Misty Gallo (University of Arkansas), Patrick J. Wolf (University of Arkansas), Colyn Ritter (EdChoice) — If You Build It Like This, Will They Come? Design Features of Private School Choice Programs That Encourage Student Participation

Benjamin Scafidi (Kennesaw State University) — A New Index to Measure How Much Private Choice Families Really Have in Each State

### ***Horizon I:* Critical Conversation – ESAs: Strengthening This Ever-Growing Option**

**Organizer and Moderator:**

Laura Mazyck (ExcelinEd)

**Participants:**

Doug Tuthill (Step Up for Students), Albert Cheng (University of Arkansas), Senator Patricia Rucker (West Virginia Senate), Jenny Clark (Love Your School)

## **Horizon II: New Frontiers in School Choice Research: Novel Methods and Data for Emerging Models**

### **Chair:**

Angela R. Watson (Johns Hopkins University)

### **Presenters:**

Daniel Hamlin (University of Oklahoma) — Contemporary Homeschooling, Persistent Debates, and the Pressing Need for a New Generation of Research

John Thompson (Kennesaw State University) — Experimental Survey Methods in a Choice Context

Carlos Valiente (Oklahoma State University), Tracy Spinrad (Arizona State University), Nancy Eisenberg (Arizona State University), Brian Ray (National Home Education Research Institute) — A Heuristic Model to Guide the Study of Homeschool Children's Academic Functioning

Alanna Bjorklund-Young (Johns Hopkins University), Angela R. Watson (Johns Hopkins University), Genevieve Smith (Johns Hopkins University) — The Promise of Pulse and PEP: New Data for School Choice Research

### **Discussant:**

Harry A. Patrinos (University of Arkansas)

## **Horizon III: Critical Conversation – Empowering Student Wellness Through Policy and Practice: Navigating School Choice, Mental Health, and Education Reform**

### **Organizer and Moderator:**

Kirianne Suriano (Charter Schools USA)

### **Participants:**

Meredith Ross (Charter Schools USA), Renee Jefferson (The Citadel), Paula Jackson (Charter Schools USA)

## **Silver, Ground Floor: Critical Conversation – Data and Beyond: Exploring Florida's Choice Program Participants and the Unseen Struggles of Families**

### **Organizer and Moderator:**

Martin F. Lueken (EdChoice)

### **Participants:**

Travis Pillow (Step Up for Students), Aimee Uriarte (ESA Parent), Ayden O'Brien (K-12 Student)

## **Royal, Ground Floor: Charter School Accountability and ROI**

### **Chair:**

Matthew Nielsen (CharterOne)

### **Presenters:**

Christopher White (Central Michigan University), Gregg Dionne (Central Michigan University), William Sullivan (Solomon Research & Analytics), Joe Marr (Solomon Research & Analytics) — Quality Instruction Matters: The Connection Between Student Engagement Antecedents and Assessment Outcomes

Martha Bradley-Dorsey (Center for K12 Captivity Studies), David Dorsey (Bradley-Dorsey & Associates) — Welcome to the Machine: North Carolina Charter Schools Help Reveal the Missing Accountability in School District Facilities Funding Policies

David T. Marshall (Auburn University), Andrew Pendola (Auburn University) — The Return on Investment for Charter Schools in Alabama

Matthew Missias (Grand Valley State University), Kiel McQueen (Basis Policy Research), Jeff Maxwell (Grand Valley State University) — Charter School Targeted Support Initiatives: A Case Study in Authorizer Practices to Improve Pedagogy and Outcomes in Charter Schools

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**3:30 PM**

## **Concurrent Session 8 Choices**

### **Infinity Ballroom: School Choice Programs, Achievement Inequalities, and Learning Outcomes**

#### **Chair and Discussant:**

Tommaso Agasisti (Politecnico di Milano School of Management)

#### **Presenters:**

M. Danish Shakeel (University of Buckingham), Misty Gallo (University of Arkansas), Patrick J. Wolf (University of Arkansas),— The Nation's Achievement Inequality Report Card: An Assessment of Traditional Public, Charter, Department of Defense, and Catholic Schools

Harry A. Patrinos (University of Arkansas), Diego Angel-Urdinola (World Bank), Maurice Kugler (George Mason University), Narae Lee (World Bank), Angelo Santos (World Bank), Olzhas Zhorayev (World Bank) — Systematic Review of School Choice Programs: Cost-Effectiveness and Political Economy

Andreea Dogar (University of Buckingham), M. Danish Shakeel (University of Buckingham), James Tooley (University of Buckingham) — School Choice and Learning Outcomes in Two States in North Nigeria

Matthew H. Lee (Kennesaw State University), M. Danish Shakeel (University of Buckingham), Andreea Dogar (University of Buckingham), James Tooley (University of Buckingham) — Low-Cost Private Schools in the United States

## **Horizon I: Panel — Growing an Infrastructure for Schools of Choice: New Accreditors, Educators of Educators and Content Developers**

### **Organizer and Moderator:**

Robert Maranto (University of Arkansas)

### **Participants:**

Erin Valdez (University of Austin), Eric Cook (Society for Classical Learning), David Randall (National Association of Scholars), Robert Manzer (American Academy of Liberal Accreditation), Michael Q. McShane (EdChoice), Cassidy Klutts (Hillsdale College)

## **Horizon II: Perspectives on Race and Choice: Myths, Identity, and School Community**

### **Chair:**

Angela Dills (Western Carolina University)

### **Presenters:**

Gary W. Ritter (St. Louis University), Brian Kisida (University of Missouri), Heidi H. Erickson (Brigham Young University), Matthew H. Lee (Kennesaw State University), Jennifer Gontram (Saint Louis University), J. Cameron Anglum (Lehigh University), Darnell Leatherwood (Saint Louis University) — Critically Examining Claims of Critical Race Theory

Michael Bindas (Institute for Justice) — School Choice is Racist (and Other Myths)

Angela Dills (Western Carolina University) — Private Schools and Cross-Class Friendships

Daniel Hamlin (University of Oklahoma) — Individual Identities or Common Purpose? Perceived School Climate in Catholic Schools by Racial Background

## **Horizon III: Navigating Educational Markets: Family Decisions, Satisfaction, and Self-Determination**

### **Chair:**

Colyn Ritter (EdChoice)

### **Presenters:**

Abby Menter (South Dakota Education Equity Coalition) — Epistemologies and Enactments of Self-Determination in South Dakota

Dillon McGill (Vanderbilt University) — How Family Preferences Structure Educational (Sub)Markets: A Network Approach

Natalie Neugebauer Schoettler (Auburn University), David T. Marshall (Auburn University) — Parent Enrollment Decision-Making, Satisfaction, and Special Education in Alabama Charter Schools

Colyn Ritter (EdChoice), Alli Aldis (EdChoice), John M. Kristof (EdChoice) — How Do Parents Feel? Examining Polling Data to Better Understand the Attitudes and Experiences of School Parents



## **Silver, Ground Floor: Classical Schools, Testing, and Opting Out**

**Chair:**

David Hunt (Aristotle Foundation)

**Presenters:**

Noah Tyler (Classic Learning Test), Eren Asena (Classic Learning Test) — The Relationship Between Demographic Background, School Choice, and Standardized Test Performance: Results from the Classic Learning Test (CLT)

Michael Ford (University of Wisconsin—Oshkosh), Douglas Ihrke (University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee) — Who Opts Out of Standardized Testing in Mature School Choice Programs?

Eric Wearne (Kennesaw State University) — A Survey of Classical Hybrid Schools

## **Royal, Ground Floor: Learning Anywhere**

**Organizer and Chair:**

Shiren Rattigan (Innovative Educators Network)

**Participants:**

Priscilla Yull (Casa Ranch), Candice Lehenbauer (Tapestry Academy), Kristen Hoss (YEA Frog), Toni Frallicciardi (Surf Skate Science)

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**5:00 PM**

**Conclusion of Regular Programming for the Day**

**Dinner on your own**

**MONDAY**

**JANUARY 20**

**DAY 4**

**8:00 AM**

**Breakfast**

*Infinity Ballroom*

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**9:00 AM**

**Concurrent Session 9 Choices**

**Infinity Ballroom: Control, Voice, and Exit**

**Chair:**

Neal McCluskey (Cato Institute)

**Presenters:**

Neal McCluskey (Cato Institute) — The Conservative Response to Transformative Disruption: Voice or Exit 100 Years after Meyer and Pierce?

Leslie Hiner (EdChoice) — UN Sustainable Goal 4: Hijacked by Abidjan Principles

Robert Maranto (University of Arkansas), Martha Bradley-Dorsey (Center for K12 Captivity Studies), Andrea Honeycutt (University of Arkansas), Nathaniel Bork (University of Arkansas) — Can Markets Limit Free Speech? Comparing Catholic, Other Private, and Public College Campuses

## **Horizon I: The 2023 Cardus Education Survey: Diverse School Sectors, Holistic Graduate Outcomes**

### **Chair:**

Lynn Swaner (Cardus)

### **Presenters:**

Lynn Swaner (Cardus), Albert Cheng (University of Arkansas), Jonathan Eckert (Baylor University) — The 2023 Cardus Education Survey: Findings from the Protestant and Catholic School Sectors

Albert Cheng (University of Arkansas), Angela R. Watson (Johns Hopkins University) — The 2023 Cardus Education Survey: Findings from the Homeschooling Sector

Joanna DeJong VanHof (Cardus), Lynn Swaner (Cardus), Albert Cheng (University of Arkansas) — The 2023 Cardus Education Survey: Findings from the Independent School Sector

## **Horizon II: School Choice Models and Machine Learning**

### **Chair and Discussant:**

Harry A. Patrinos (University of Arkansas)

### **Presenter:**

M. Danish Shakeel (University of Buckingham), Paul E. Peterson (Harvard University) — Analyzing School Choice Models Through AI and Machine Learning

## **Horizon III: Giving, Spending, and School Efficiency**

### **Chair:**

John Thompson (Kennesaw State University)

### **Presenters:**

Garion Frankel (Texas A&M University) — Does Private Funding Harm Public Schooling?: A Historical Note From 19th Century Texas

Giovanni Antonini (Politecnico di Milano), Tommaso Agasisti (Politecnico di Milano) — The Challenge of School Efficiency: A Comparative Analysis of Public and Private Schools in Italy

Patrick Graff (American Federation for Children) — Scale or Spend? Estimating the Benefits of Private School Choice vs. General Education Spending for Public School Students

**10:45 AM**

## Concurrent Session 10 Choices

### ***Infinity Ballroom: Academic Research of Homeschooling: A Special Issue of the Journal of School Choice***

**Chair:**

Christy Batts (North Carolina State University)

**Presenters:**

Alanna Bjorklund Young (Johns Hopkins University), Angela R. Watson (John Hopkins University) — The Changing Face of the American Homeschooler

Albert Cheng (University of Arkansas), Angela R. Watson (John Hopkins University) — How do Demographic Characteristics of Homeschooling Households Influence the Way Homeschooling is Practiced

Jonathan Plucker (Johns Hopkins University), Annie Connolly-Sporing (The Grayson School), Rachael A. Cody (United States Coast Guard Academy) – Gifted Students Learning in Homeschool Settings

Kevin Boden (Homeschool Legal Defense Association), Michael P. Donnelly (Club For Growth) – Data or Ideology: What is Driving Homeschooling Policy Around the World and Why?

### ***Horizon I: Critical Conversation – Equity Effects of School Choice Expansion: Evidence from Canada***

**Organizer:**

David Hunt (Aristotle Foundation)

**Participants:**

John Merrifield (Institute for Objective Policy Assessment), John Jagersma (Association of Independent Schools and Colleges of Alberta), Joanna Van Hof (Cardus)

### ***Horizon II: Panel – Learning Full Circle to Serve Full Circle + Bringing Flexible Education Models to Your Community***

**Organizers and Participants:**

Emily Harber Williams (Micah's Mission School), Hayden Harrower (REALM)

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**12:15 PM**

## Lunch (Grab and Go)

*Impressions Foyer*

## Conclusion of Conference



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**JANUARY 8-11, 2026**

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