International School Choice and Reform Conference

2027 PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

5:00 – 8:00 PM | Registration Open
Grand Palm Colonnade

6:00 PM | Welcome Reception
Grand Palm Colonnade

7:00 PM | Welcome and Opening Keynote
Tarpon/Sawyer

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

8:00 – 9:00 AM | Breakfast
Garden Courtyard

9:00 – 10:30 AM | Concurrent Session 1 Choices

Room TBD: **The High Stakes of Charter Renewal: Accountability, Politics, and Community Impact**[§]

Moderator and Organizer: David T. Marshall (Auburn University)

Participants: Robert Maranto (University of Arkansas), David Hardy (Girard College), Lawrence Jones (Richard Allen Preparatory Charter School), Hattie Mitchell (Crete Academy), Cesar Lopez (Matrix for Success Academy), Margret Woelke (Matrix for Success Academy)

Room TBD: **New Polling and Research on Parent Perceptions of Choice, Charters, and Technology in Schools**[#]

Moderator and Organizer: Kristen Forbriger (City Fund)

Participant: Kelly Grant (SKDK)

*Single Papers

†Research Panel
‡Critical Conversation: Research

Room TBD: **When the University Reaches Down: How UC's Ethnic Studies Admissions Push Reveals the Limits of School Choice**[§]

Moderator: Brian Kisida (University of Missouri)

Organizer: Danele Rhoads (Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism)

Participants: Lauren Janov (Education Policy Project), Monica Harris (Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism), Terry Stoops (Defending Education)

Room TBD: **Show-Me School Choice: ESAs, Charter Schools and Homeschooling in Missouri**[†]

Chair: Collin Hitt (Saint Louis University)

Presenters: Kathryn Coleman (Saint Louis University), Allison Chandler (Saint Louis University), Collin Hitt (Saint Louis University), Michaela Parisi (Saint Louis University) – MOScholars: Demographics and Early Achievement in Missouri's ESA Program

Andrew M. Camp (Brown University), Collin Hitt (Saint Louis University) – Shocking: Student-Level Evidence from Missouri's Charter-School Funding Reform

Amy Shelton (Saint Louis University), Collin Hitt (Saint Louis University) –Taking Attendance, Two Years Later: Updated Estimates of Missouri's Homeschooling Population

Discussants: Gary Ritter (Saint Louis University), Meghan Rackers (Missouri State Treasurer's Office), Noah Devine (Missouri Charter Public School Association)

Room TBD: **Designing and Measuring Educational Choice: Eligibility, Regulation, and Access***

Chair: Benjamin Scafidi (Kennesaw State University)

Presenters: Harry A. Patrinos (University of Arkansas), Temurbek Rakhmatov (University of Arkansas), Xueshen Shi (University of Arkansas), Gustavo Arcia (Independent Scholar), Kevin Macdonald (Independent Scholar) – Benchmarking School Choice Systems: A Framework for Accountability, Transparency, and Equity

John Merrifield (Institute for Objective Policy Assessment) – Identifying, Documenting, and Planning Further Assessment of Means-Testing Participation in Private School Choice Programs

Matthew H. Lee (Kennesaw State University), Benjamin Scafidi (Kennesaw State University), Roger Tutterow (Kennesaw State University), Damian Kavanaugh (MISBO) – Effects of Regulations on School Choice Program Participation

Room TBD: **Educational Pluralism: Religious Identity, Parental Rights, and Public Obligations***

Chair: TBD

Presenters: Garion Frankel (Texas A&M University) – The Lutheran Line: School Choice and Religious Preservation Among the Wendish of Texas
Suzanne Eckes (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Preston Green (University of Connecticut) – St. Mary Catholic Parish v. Roy at the Supreme Court: Implications for Voucher Programs and the Future of School Choice

Paula Figueiredo Campos Lellis (Catholic University of Salvador, Brazil) –How Legal Discourse Restricts Educational Freedom: Judicial Decisions on Homeschooling in Brazil

Jonah S. Ettinger (Coalition for Responsible Home Education), Tess Ulrey (Coalition for Responsible Home Education) – Addressing the Uncomfortable Realities of Child Maltreatment in Homeschool Settings

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM | Concurrent Session 2 Choices

Room TBD: **Proving What Works: A Live, Multi-State Model for Validating K–12 EdTech Efficacy†**

Chair: Kirianne Suriano (LaunchEd)

Participants: Rachel Windler Freitag (LaunchEd), Meredith Ross (Charter Schools USA), Paula Jackson (Charter Schools USA), Maya Israel (University of Florida)

Room TBD: **Navigating School Choice: Research from England and Florida§**

Moderator and Organizer: Zorka Karanxha (University of South Florida)

Participants: Zorka Karanxha (University of South Florida), Bill Black (University of South Florida), Ian Potter (Ian Potter Consultancy)

Room TBD: **Three Models: Grounded Views from the Inside#**

Moderator and Organizer: Sylvia Duarte (Kennesaw State University)

Participants: Becky Abrams Wilmoth (Nonprofit Education Solutions), Caleb Collier (Institute for Self-Directed Learning)

Room TBD: **Attacks Internationally on the Freedom to Choose Homeschooling†**

Chair: Brian D. Ray (National Home Education Research Institute)

Presenters: Kevin Boden (Home School Legal Defense Association) – The Battle for Primary Authority: Parental Liberty and State Control in Home Education

Corey DeAngelis (Heritage Foundation) – Defending Educational Freedom: Countering Legislative Crackdowns and Myths Against Homecoming

Paula Figueiredo Campos Lellis (Catholic University of Salvador, Brazil) – When the State Intervenes: Qualitative Evidence on Brazilian Families Navigating Homeschool Enforcement

Robert Bortins (Classical Conversations) – Grassroots Defense: Protecting Parental Authority Against Legislative and Local Encroachment

Discussant: Catherine Sunshine (University College Cork)

Room TBD: **Data to Dashboards: New Tools and Resources for Education Choice Research**†

Chair: Angela R. Watson (Johns Hopkins University)

Presenters: Jamie M. Carroll (Tulane University), Josep M. Nadal-Fernandez (Tulane University), Anjana Nair (Tulane University), Sage Sigler (Tulane University), Douglas N. Harris (Tulane University)– Mapping the Full Choice Set: A Presentation of the National Longitudinal School Database (NLSD)

Angela R. Watson (Johns Hopkins University), Genevieve Smith (Johns Hopkins University) – Johns Hopkins Homeschool Hub Interactive Dashboard

Benjamin Scafidi (Kennesaw State University), Colyn Ritter (EdChoice) – The 2027 Friedman Index

Paul DiPerna (EdChoice), Alex Wolf (EdChoice), Cooper Conway (EdChoice) – EdChoice Tools - Choice Comparison Tool and EdChoice Polling Dashboards and Datasets

Room TBD: **Charter Teachers: Autonomy, Effectiveness, and Working Conditions***

Chair: Jamison White (National Alliance for Public Charter Schools)

Presenters: Terry Beasley (Boston University) – Charter Governance and the Teaching Workforce

Dillon McGill (Texas Tech University), Jacob Kirksey (Texas Tech University) – Teacher Certification, Effectiveness, and Returns to Experience in Charter and Traditional Pubic Schools

Matthew T. Missias (Grand Valley State University), Kiel McQueen (Basis Policy Research), Cynthia Mutua (Grand Valley State University) –Teacher Burnout in Charter School Contexts: Organizational Conditions, Teacher Well-Being, and Authorizer-Actionable Evidence

12:15 – 1:30 PM | Networking Lunch
Location TBA

1:45 – 3:15 PM | Concurrent Session 3 Choices

Room TBD: **The Times They Are a Changin': How Can Researchers, Practitioners, and Policy Makers Make Sense of the Expanding, Multidimensional Varieties of K–12 Education Choice and Reframe the Conversation for Parents and the Public at Large?**§

Moderator and Organizer: Georgina Justice Aubin (Innovative Education Management)

Participants: Albert Cheng (Ohio State University), Michael Q. McShane (EdChoice), Siri Fiske (Micro Schools Network), Nina Buchanan (University of Hawaii)

Room TBD: **How 'Co-Lo' Can You Go? Co-Location, Ed-Clustering, and other Choice-Friendly EdSpace Solutions**§

Moderator and Organizer: William Mattox (James Madison Institute)

Participants: Ron Matus (Step Up for Students), Marissa Hess (Urban Cottage Educational Collaborative), Nathan Hoffman (Excel*in*Ed)

Room TBD: **The RAND American Parents Panel: New Evidence on Contemporary Homeschooling**†

Chair: Genevieve Smith (Johns Hopkins University)

Presenters: Yan Wu (Johns Hopkins University), Genevieve Smith (Johns Hopkins University), Tuba Gezer (Johns Hopkins University), Angela R. Watson (Johns Hopkins University) – Motivations and Barriers of Homeschooling Among Bilingual Families: Evidence from a Nationally Representative Survey

Alanna Bjorklund-Young (Johns Hopkins University), Angela R. Watson (Johns Hopkins University) – Household Characteristics and the Decision to Homeschool: Why it Makes Economic Sense

Matthew H. Lee (Kennesaw State University), Angela R. Watson (Johns Hopkins University) – Out and About: Evidence on Homeschooling Families' Time Use Patterns

Christy Batts (Johns Hopkins University), Angela R. Watson (Johns Hopkins University) – Public School for Homeschoolers: An Analysis of Resource Availability and Use

Discussant: John Thompson (Kennesaw State University)

Room TBD: **How Families Use ESAs: Spending, Customization, and Accountability***

Chair: TBD

Presenters: Martin F. Lueken (EdChoice), Michelle Lofton (University of Georgia) – From Targeted to Universal: How Florida Families Use Education Savings Accounts

Kunyou Guan (University of Arkansas), Patrick J. Wolf (University of Arkansas), Harry A. Patrinos (University of Arkansas) – What Does Education Freedom Buy and for Whom?

John M. Kristof (EdChoice) – The Wild West of Education? Spending Accountability in Two Education Savings Account Programs

Patrick Graff (American Federation for Children) – What Is an Acceptable ESA Expense? Comparing Parent and Public Perceptions with Transaction-Level Spending

Room TBD: **Enrollment Decline, School Closures, and Organizational Scale***

Chair: David Marshall (Auburn University)

Presenters: Dennis Jansen (Texas A&M University), Lori Taylor (Texas A&M University), Timothy Gronberg (Texas A&M University) – Shrinking Schools, Growing Competition: School Choice and School Closure

Paul Peterson (Harvard University), Carlos X. Lastra Anadón (IE University) – Small is Beautiful. District Size, Personnel Density, and Student Achievement

Zorka Karanxha (University of South Florida), Aarti Bellara (Western Carolina University), Araseli Martinez-Pena (University of South Florida) – Demographic Hazardous Factors of Charter School Closures in Florida

Robert Maranto (University of Arkansas), David T. Marshall (Auburn University), Gerard Robinson (University of Virginia) – Black, Brown, and the Blues: When School Districts Close Urban Charters, Where Do Students Go?

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM | Concurrent Session 4 Choices

Room TBD: **The Next Phase of Public Education: How Customized Learning is Reshaping School Systems**[#]

Moderator and Organizer: Keith Jacobs (Step Up for Students)

Participants: Jorge Elorza (Democrats for Education Reform), Kia Sweeney Scott (Orange County Public Schools), Julisse Levy (Step Up for Students)

Room TBD: **Hey Babe, Take a Walk on the Supply Side: Tackling Barriers to Growing Demand for School Choice**[§]

Moderator and Organizer: Ron Matus (Step Up for Students)

Participants: Matthew Ladner (Heritage Foundation). Gretchen Schoenhaar (Step Up for Students), Raphael Gang (Stand Together Trust), Jane McEnany (Schools for America)

Room TBD: **School Choice, Educational Neutrality, and School Ethos: Navigating Cultural Controversies Across National and International Contexts**[§]

Moderator and Organizer: Ignasi Grau I Callizo (OIDEL)

Participants: James V. Shuls (Florida State University), Leslie Hiner (EdChoice), Brian Kisida (University of Missouri)

Room TBD: **Beyond School Choice: Policy and Measurement†**

Chair: Lynn Swaner (Cardus)

Presenters: Joanna DeJong VanHof (Cardus) – A Framework for Accountability in Education

Matthew H. Lee (Kennesaw State University), Alison Heape Johnson (Association of Christian Schools International) – Parental Engagement in Education

Albert Cheng (Ohio State University) – Re-Envisioning Measurement in Education

Discussant: Alison Heape Johnson (Association of Christian Schools International)

Room TBD: **Access and Equity Across Choice Systems***

Chair: Kaitlin Anderson (American Institutes for Research)

Presenters: Timberly L. Baker (Arkansas State University), Najaran R. Peters (University of Kansas) – The Presumption of Choice: Identifying Choice in Deserts in Rural Black Communities

John M. Kristof (EdChoice) – Unique Funding for Unique Students: An Exploratory Analysis of Differentiated Aid Across Private School Choice Programs

Misty Gallo (University of Arkansas), Josh B. McGee (University of Arkansas), Patrick J. Wolf (University of Arkansas) – What Does Universal School Choice Look Like? Participation and Achievement Results from the Arkansas Education Freedom Accounts Program

Kaitlin Anderson (American Institutes for Research), James Carter III (Urban Institute), Deven Carlson (Oklahoma University), Thurston Domina (University of North Carolina), Peyton Powers (University of North Carolina) – Student Sorting Within Schools: Understanding Categorical Sorting in an Intradistrict School Choice Context

Room TBD: **Financing Educational Choice: State Funding, Tax Benefits, and Donors***

Chair: Martin F. Lueken (EdChoice)

Presenters: Benjamin Scafidi (Kennesaw State University) – Funding Universal Choice: Options for States

James Paul (America First Policy Institute), Rose Laoutaris (America First Policy Institute) – 529 Plan Conformity Across the States after the One Big Beautiful Bill

Paul DiPerna (EdChoice) – K–12 Giving and a Prospective Donor Base for the Federal Tax Credit for Scholarships (FTCS)

6:00 PM | Reception and Dinner
RumFish Lawn

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

8:00 – 9:00 AM | Breakfast
Garden Courtyard

9:00 - 10:30 AM | Concurrent Session 5 Choices

Room TBD: **From Policy to Practice: Designing Educational Freedom Programs That Serve Families**[§]

Moderator and Organizer: JoAnn Kilpatrick (Outschool)

Participants: Kerry McDonald (Foundation for Economic Education), Colleen Hroncich (Cato Institute), Alexis LaRoe (Step Up for Students)

Room TBD: **Surpassing School Choice Incrementalism, Part One: Could Change be Accomplished via a First Amendment Court Challenge?**[§]

Moderator and Organizer: Martha L. Bradley Dorsey (Center for K–12 Captivity Studies)

Participants: John Merrifield (Institute for Objective Policy Assessment), Cynthia Fleming Crawford (Americans for Prosperity Foundation), Thomas M. Fisher (EdChoice)

Room TBD: **Beyond School Choice: Policy and Measurement**[†]

Chair: Joanna DeJong VanHof (Cardus)

Presenters: Deani Van Pelt (EdVance), Justin Cook (EdVance) – Education as Relationship

Angela R. Watson (Johns Hopkins University) – Flexible Educational Pathways

Eric Wearne (Kennesaw State University) – Educational Frontiers and Those Forging the Way

Discussant: Lynn Swaner (Cardus)

Room TBD: **Curriculum Conflict, Public Opinion, and the Politics of Choice***

Chair: Heidi Holmes Erickson (Brigham Young University)

Presenters: Anna J. Egalite (North Carolina State University), James V. Shuls (Florida State University), Zach Goldberg (Florida State University) – Majority Rule, Opt-Outs, or School Choice? Public Views on Fairness in Curriculum Disputes

Nathanial E. Bork (University of Arkansas), Robert Maranto (University of Arkansas) – Contested Commons: School Boards, Culture Wars, and Prolonged Conflict in Purple-State Battlegrounds

Michael Hartney (Hoover Institution), James V. Shuls (Florida State University), Paul Peterson (Harvard University) – Whose Preferences Matter? Black Support, Teachers Unions, and School Vouchers

Room TBD: **School Choice in Practice: Funding, Participation, and Microschooling***

Chair: Matthew H. Lee (Kennesaw State University)

Presenters: Alex Wolf (EdChoice), Martin F. Lueken (EdChoice) – Fiscal Claims Against School Choice in Context

Allison Aldis (EdChoice), Colyn Ritter (EdChoice), Alex Wolf (EdChoice) – The Landscape of Data on Private School Choice in 2027

Colyn Ritter (EdChoice) – Surveying Prenda Guides

Room TBD: **The Florida Story: Lessons Learned§**

Moderator and Organizer: Doug Tuthill (Pioneer Institute)

Participants: Adam Peshek (Stand Together), Heidie Nesset (yes. every kid. foundation.)

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM | Concurrent Session 6 Choices

Room TBD: **Creating Research Data on the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit Program†**

Moderator and Organizer: Peter Murphy (Invest in Education Foundation)

Participants: Kate Baker Demers (Children's Scholarship Fund - NH), Patrick J. Wolf (University of Arkansas), Greg Nadeau (Ed3)

Room TBD: **Comparing What Cannot Be Easily Compared: Curriculum Transparency in Expanding Choice#**

Moderator and Organizer: Kristin R. Lehman (Ceiba Connections)

Participants: Jack Lewis (Ceiba Connections), Andrew Lewis (Ceiba Connections), Christal Gamble Banks (Harambee Home Education Researchers)

Room TBD: **Ethnic Studies at the Crossroads: Curriculum, Politics, and What Comes Next§**

Moderator: Brian Kisida (University of Missouri)

Organizer: Danele Rhoads (Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism)

Participants: Croix Clayton (Hamline University), David Ferrero (Drexel University), Monica Harris (Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism), Karen Howes (Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism)

Room TBD: **Competition and System Effects in Changing School Markets***

Chair: Angela Dills (Western Carolina University)

Presenters: Anna J. Egalite (North Carolina State University), John Singleton (University of Rochester), Josh B. McGee (University of Arkansas), Yuzhi Yao (University of Rochester)– The Spillover Effects of Arkansas Charter Schools

Mohit Karnani (Harvard University), Paul E. Peterson (Harvard University) – Charter School Expansions and Educational Outcomes: Evidence from Harlem, 1999-2025

Ian Kingsbury (Education Freedom Institute), David T. Marshall (Auburn University) – Universal Education Savings Accounts and the Impact on Charter Schools: Evidence from Arizona, Florida, and Utah

Room TBD: **Charter School Missions, Models, and Pathways***

Chair: Jamison White (National Alliance for Public Charter Schools)

Presenters: Robert Maranto (University of Arkansas), Jamison White (National Alliance for Public Charter Schools), Kaan Camuz (Harmony Schools) – "Turkish" Charter Schools: Immigrant Networks Educating All American Children

Lifei Huang (Future Educators Institute), Justin Barahona Reyes (John R. Lewis High School) – Building the Next Generation of CTE Schools: Career-Connected Innovation Emerging in Charter Schools

Cynthia Xu (National Alliance for Public Charter Schools), Natalie Camarena Lopez (National Alliance for Public Charter Schools) – Mapping Charter High School Models and Their Links to Graduation and Post-Secondary Readiness

12:15-1:30 PM | Keynote Lunch

Tarpon/Sawyer

1:45 – 3:15 PM | Concurrent Session 7 Choices

Room TBD: **Measuring What Matters: Rethinking Accountability Through the Microschooling Movement#**

Chair and Organizer: Ashley Soifer (National Microschooling Center)

Participants: Katie Elliott (National Microschooling Center), Justine Wilson (Curious and Kind), Alexandra Batista Rodriguez (Steps Learning Center), Ar'Jillian Gilmer (Foundation Christian Microschool)

Room TBD: **From Legislation to Lived Experience: A Comparative Study of Alabama and Georgia ESA Policy in Homeschool Contexts#**

Chair and Organizer: Christal Gamble Banks (Harambee Home Education Researchers)

Participants: DeShaun Silas (), Timberly L. Baker (Arkansas State University)

Room TBD: **Autonomy, Governance, and Public Accountability***

Chair: TBD

Presenters: Harry A. Patrinos (University of Arkansas), Gustavo Arcia (Independent Scholar), Kevin Macdonald (Independent Scholar) – Designing Effective Public-Private Partnerships in Education

Christopher White (Central Michigan University), Gregg Dionne (Central Michigan University) – Innovation and Accountability in Charter Schools: Leader Perspectives Across States

Kiel McQueen (Basis Policy Research), Christopher White (Central Michigan University) – Does Board Governance Capacity Matter? Evidence from a Longitudinal Study of Charter Schools

Room TBD: **Civic Learning and the Formation of Political Views***

Chair: Matthew H. Lee (Kennesaw State University)

Presenters: Rachel Davison Humphries (Bill of Rights Institute)– Autonomy for What? A Civic Value Framework for Evaluating School Choice

Daniel Bowen (Texas A&M University), James V. Shuls (Florida State University), James L. Woodworth (Florida State University) – Founding Voices: A Randomized Controlled Trial of Historic Interpreters

Heidi Holmes Erickson (Brigham Young University), Brian Kisida (University of Missouri), Cameron Anglum (Lehigh University), Gary Ritter (Saint Louis University), Jennifer Gontran (Saint Louis University), Matthew H. Lee (Kennesaw State University) – Screen Time, School Teachers, and the Shaping of Students' Political Views

Brian Kisida (University of Missouri – Mapping the Measurement of Civic Education

3:30 – 5:00 PM | Concurrent Session 8 Choices

Room TBD: **Separating Fact from Fiction About Rural School Choice#**

Chair and Organizer: Ron Matus (Step Up for Students)

Participants: Laine D'Souza Baker (Wagyumama Ranch Schoolhouse), Risa Byrd (Putnam Classical Academy), Stephanie Busin (Hendry County School Board)

Room TBD: **The Power of Innovation: Lessons from Schools That Are Redefining What's Possible#**

Chair and Organizer: Jeanne Allen (Center for Education Reform)

Participants: TBD

Room TBD: **Trickle-Down Stupidity and a Danger to Humanity: Homeschooling?†**

Chair: Brian D. Ray (National Home Education Research Institute)

Presenters: Brian D. Ray (National Home Education Research Institute) – A Fully Updated Systematic Review of the Empirical Research on Selected Aspects of Homeschooling

Silvia Cópio (Aberta University), Brian D. Ray (National Home Education Research Institute) – Mapping Two Decades of European Homeschooling Research: Evidence, Legal Challenges and Policy Gaps Across Languages and Regimes

Catherine Sunshine (University College Cork) – The Whole Child at Home: A Multidimensional Portrait of Academic, Cognitive, Physical & Psychological Well-Being Among Irish Home-Educated Children

Kevin Novak (Deconstructing the Coliseum) – Beyond School Choice: A Jurisdictional Case for Zero Civil-Government Role in Education and Discipleship

Discussant: Patrick J. Wolf (University of Arkansas)

Room TBD: **The Life, Scholarship, and Contributions of Charles Glenn**†

Chair: Dick Carpenter (Institute for Justice)

Presenters: Kevin Currie (Eastern Carolina University) – The Long Rise of the State School System: History of Education and the Growth of Centralized Schooling

Nicole Garnett (University of Notre Dame) – What Makes a School Public? Public Purpose, Government Operation, and Civil Society

Neal McCluskey (Florida State University) – Parents, Schools, and the State: Authority Over Children's Education

Matthew Ladner (Heritage Foundation) – Why School Reform So Often Disappoints: Bureaucracy, Implementation, and the Limits of Policy Design

Room TBD: **How Private Schools Respond to Choice Expansion***

Chair: Anna Egalite (North Carolina State University)

Presenters: Angela Dills (Western Carolina University), Anna J. Egalite (North Carolina State University) – How Does Universal Voucher Eligibility Reshape the Supply of Private Schools? Early Evidence from North Carolina

David T. Marshall (Auburn University), Andrew Pendola (Auburn University) – One Year In: Independent School Leaders' Perspectives on the Early Implementation of Alabama's CHOOSE Act

Samuel H. Musser (University of Arkansas) – Investigating Independent School Responses to ESA Funding

Misty Gallo (University of Arkansas), Colyn Ritter (EdChoice), Patrick J. Wolf (University of Arkansas) – The Emergence of New Providers… Is Abundance the Necessary Ingredient to Choice?

Dinner on Your Own

§Critical Conversation: Policy #Critical Conversation: Practitioner

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

8:00 – 9:00 AM | Breakfast Available

Garden Courtyard

9:00 – 10:30 AM | Concurrent Session 9 Choices

Room TBD: **Creative Strategies for Bipartisan Buy-in for School Choice**§

Chair and Organizer: Corey DeAngelis (Heritage Foundation)

Moderator: Matthew Ladner (Heritage Foundation)

Participants: Jason Bedrick (Heritage Foundation), Jorge Elorza (Democrats for Education Reform), Derrell Bradford (50CAN)

Room TBD: **The Next Frontier in Parent Navigation**§

Chair and Organizer: Laura Mazyck (Excel*in*Ed)

Participants: Alissa Jacques St. Pierre (National School Choice Awareness Foundation), Mark Duran (Student First Technologies), Lindsay Omlor (Indiana Department of Education)

Room TBD: **Distinctive Educational Models: Curriculum, Instruction, and Whole-Child Development***

Chair: Christy Batts (Johns Hopkins University)

Presenters: Garion Frankel (Texas A&M University) – Classical Education and Academic Achievement: Evidence from the Classic Learning Test

Brian Polk (Society for Classical Learning), Albert Cheng (University of Arkansas), Samuel H. Musser (University of Arkansas), Kunyou Guan (University of Arkansas) – Does Classical Education Promote Human Flourishing? Evidence from a National Study of Adult Outcomes

Christina Hsu (Independent Researcher) – Beyond Access to Choice: Instructional Quality and Language Development in Mandarin Dual Language Immersion

Emily Harber Williams (Micah's Mission School) – Learning Full-Circle: What Happens When Focusing on the Whole Child

Room TBD: **Emerging Educational Models: AI, Microschools, and Self-Directed Learning***

Chair: Eric Wearne (Kennesaw State University)

Presenters: Eric Wearne (Kennesaw State University) – Beyond Three Boxes: A Two-Dimensional Typology of Hybrid Schools and Microschools

Robert Maranto (University of Arkansas), Sean Woyek (BASIS Schools), Patricia Kolakowska (University of Arkansas) – Back to the Past: Why AI Should Replace Traditional Public Schools with Schools of Choice

Aaron Saiger (Fordham University) – Letting AI Teach the Children

"Rosenrot" M. Schülpke (Clonlara School) – Making Life-Wide Learning Visible: Reconstructing Educational Ecosystems in Off-Campus Education

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM | Concurrent Session 10 Choices

Room TBD: **Opted In, Now What? Turning a Federal Credit into Real Access for Families**[§]

Chair and Organizer: Juliet Squire (Bellwether)

Participant: Alex Spurrier (Bellwether)

Room TBD: **Microschools: Building Policy Without Regulating Away Innovation**[#]

Chair and Organizer: Nicole Stewart (National Association of Black Microschool Leaders)

Participants: Jay Artis Wright (Freedom to Choose Schools), Whitney Sims (WonderHere)

Room TBD: **Measuring School Quality: Grades, Growth, and Improvement***

Chair: TBD

Presenters: Brian Fitzpatrick (Thomas B. Fordham Institute), R. Joseph Waddington (University of Notre Dame), Mark Berends (University of Notre Dame) – Grading Standards Across School Sectors: Evidence from Indiana

Douglas Lee Lauen (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill) – Good Things Take Time: Examining Carter School Improvement Trajectories in North Carolina, 2006-2016

Ian Kingsbury (Education Freedom Institute) – Does VAM Punish High Mobility Schools?

[§]Critical Conversation: Policy

#Critical Conversation: Practitioner

Room TBD: **Family Choice, Information, and Access to Learning Opportunities***

Chair: Heidi Holmes Erickson (Brigham Young University)

Presenters: Leslie Tumangday (University of Toronto) – Public School Choice, Reputation and Enrollment: Connections and Consequences in an Urban Environment

Misty Gallo (University of Arkansas), Patrick J. Wolf (University of Arkansas), Harry A. Patrinos (University of Arkansas) –Identifying Effective Take-Up Strategies for Choice-Based Interventions

Allison Aldis (EdChoice), Jonathan Plucker (Johns Hopkins University), Jennifer Madsen (New Jersey Association for Gifted Children) – Advanced Education and School Choice: Examining Parental Choice Through Public Opinion Polling

Kathryn Sanchez (Florida State University) – What Families Value: Understanding Decision-Making in an Era of Educational Choice

12:15 PM | Conclusion of Conference