K-12 School System Reform - An IOPA Tier One Policy Issue

There are two reasons why this is THE top IOPA issue. 1) Inhouse Expertise; and 2) Global Importance.

1) IOPA Chief Merrifield and IOPA VP Phelps have several books and articles on different aspects of underperforming primary and secondary education systems (all schools, public and private), worldwide. IOPA Treasurer Gray has a PhD in Education Policy, and is a coauthor, with Merrifield, of *Unproductive School Choice Debates* (2023). VP Phelps just published *The Malfuction of US Education Policy*. IOPA Development Director Milena Smolinskaya is a new education policy PhD.

2) Regarding the 51 (50 states plus DC) US K-12 school systems, there have been periodic re-affirmations of the formal ‘Nation at Risk’ declaration. Since the world’s best K-12 systems are only slightly higher performing than the existential threat-level US system, low-performing school systems are a global threat to freedom, equity, and prosperity.

Research projects underway:

Private School Access Index

The Effect of Testing on Student Achievement, exhaustive data base and meta-analysis.

Planned projects (comments and financial support would be greatly appreciated), including proposals:

Research yielding this Book: *Political Control of K-12 Education*

**Purpose:** provide an objective basis for comparison of market control and political control of schooling personnel and content.

**Accountability Pilot Project:** Identify better ways to hold students and educators accountable for student outcomes and develop and implement ways to hold trusted information sources accountable for their claims and behaviors.

Important K-12 Reform Books, Articles, and Dimensions:

From IOPA – K-12 Publications - K-12 Blog Post Archive Forthcoming

Other - e-mail IOPACHief@policytalk.org to recommend additions. See also items B, C, D, M, and Q in the Why IOPA is Needed Document.

Tools:

A) The school choice fiscal notes calculator (coming soon to this website) was developed because sloppy, disingenuous fiscal cost estimates (fiscal notes) often provided political cover for legislators to oppose school choice expansion. IOPA can create such fiscal notes, cheaply, on demand. Via ZOOM, we can determine what information the calculator requires, enter those numbers, and get important estimates immediately.

B) Coming soon: a Private School Access Index (PSAI). We need the Index to sustain progress beyond the early universal eligibility adopter states in 2022 and 2023, and to build on the initial steps forward achieved by the early universal expansion adopters (Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Iowa, Ohio, Oklahoma, Utah, West Virginia, and Wisconsin).

C) The *Nonpartisan Education Review* – a peer-reviewed academic journal