

New Book From Brookings Press On Educational Vouchers

Earlier this month, the Brookings Institution Press published *The Education Gap: Vouchers and Urban Schools*. According to John E. Brandl, dean, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, "This is the most important book ever written on the subject of vouchers."

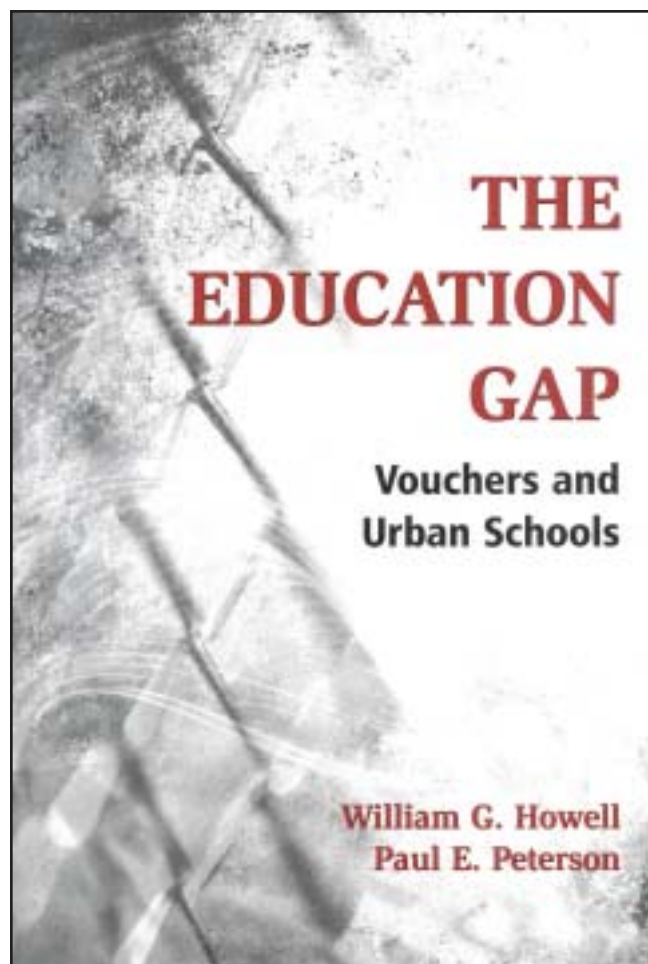
Brookings Press describes *The Education Gap* as follows:

"In *The Education Gap*, William Howell and Paul Peterson, with co-authors Patrick Wolf and David Campbell, report new findings drawn from the most comprehensive study on vouchers conducted to date....

"The findings shed new light on how existing voucher programs affect students' educational experiences, covering factors such as school climate, class size, homework, resources, and test scores. They also reveal the impact of voucher programs on racial segregation, school-family communication, political tolerance, community social capital, parental satisfaction, and children's self-esteem.

"Although the programs operated in a wide variety of settings, the findings were quite consistent. In combined results for New York, Dayton, and Washington, African American students participating in voucher programs scored, on average, three percentile points higher than their public school peers in Year I, six percentile points higher in Year II, and seven points higher in Year III....

"[T]he authors suggest that the limited educational options available to black Americans may [explain these gains]. Since many low-income African American families cannot easily move to neighborhoods with strong public schools, new forms of choice for low-income families are most likely to benefit African American students.



"The authors recommend that these issues be explored further in larger, better-funded voucher programs in central cities with high concentrations of African Americans. While acknowledging that vouchers are not a panacea for all the troubles in American education, Howell and Peterson report signs that vouchers may help close the achievement gap found nationwide between African American and white students."

A decade ago, when there was virtually no academic research on school vouchers, proponents and opponents monopolized the debate with intense opinions and theoretical arguments.

While the debate remains intense, the publication of such works as *The Education Gap* means it no longer occurs in a scholarly vacuum.

More information about *The Education Gap* is available at www.brookings.edu/bipress/books/education_gap.htm and www.ksg.harvard.edu/pepg/.



For more information go to: www.schoolchoiceinfo.org or www.baeo.org