

Archived Information

The Brookings Institution The Brown Center on Education Policy Public Engagement

The Brown Center on Education Policy conducts research on topics in American education, with a special focus on efforts to improve academic achievement in elementary and secondary schools. Through its many public engagement efforts, the center seeks to inform policymakers at all levels of government, to influence the course of future educational research, and to make its own research available to the general public.

The Brown Center Report on American Education entered its third year of publication with the 2002 Report. The *Report* has covered a variety of topics over the past few years, including arithmetic education and achievement in Blue Ribbon Schools, charter schools, and athletic powerhouse schools. High-profile news stories based on the *Report* have been written in the *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, and *Education Week*. Dozens of print and electronic news outlets around the country picked up the Associated Press story on our charter school study.

The Brookings Papers on Education Policy (BPEP) series, now in its sixth year, is well-established as a reputable source of national scholarship in the field of education. The BPEP Conference brings scholars from a variety of intellectual disciplines to present papers. The 2003 version of BPEP examined the American high school, discussing questions such as: “Should we group students according to ability?”, “Do only nerds get A’s?”, and “Why do students in other countries do better than American students in math?”.

The Brown Center also hosts occasional forums, inviting scholars to discuss topics of current interest in education. In January 2002, with the Fordham Foundation, we featured a forum entitled "Whole School Reform and Federal Aid to Struggling Schools" which addressed whether whole school reform is the best reform model for turning around struggling schools. In November 2002, Tom Loveless and John Chubb, Chief Education Officer of Edison Schools, hosted a forum in conjunction with the release of their recent edited volume, *Bridging the Achievement Gap*. The book covers promising solutions for reducing the achievement gap between white students and their Hispanic and African American peers.

We advertise Brown Center books in important educational newspapers, magazines, and scholarly journals. This has enabled us to attract the attention of education scholars and lay readers interested in education issues, as well as to publicize our books. The Brown Center web page (www.brookings.edu/browncenter) is an important source of outreach for the Center, providing information on research, publications, and upcoming events. The site offers policy briefs, journal articles, newspaper articles, transcripts of events, video clips of scholars participating in Brown Center activities, and a complete video streaming of the Brown Center conference on closing the achievement gap. The Brown Center Report and BPEP are extensively featured on their own homepages. The site also provides links to other websites addressing issues in education policy.