

RON W. ZIMMER, PH.D.
MARTIN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

December 1, 2023

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Current Employment

Director, Martin School of Public Policy and Administration, University of Kentucky, 2016-
Professor, Martin School of Public Policy and Administration, University of Kentucky, 2016-
Distinguished University Research Professor, 2023-

Previous Employment

Associate Professor, Vanderbilt University, 2010-2016
Associate Professor, Michigan State University, 2008-2010
Policy Analyst, RAND Corporation, 1999-2008

Other Professional Appointments

Principal member, Institute of Education Sciences' Education Systems and Broad Reform
Education Research Scientific Review Panel. 2015-2018
Associate Editor, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 2017-2020
Co-Editor, *Education Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 2012-2015
Associate Editor, *Economics of Education Review*, 2009-2012
Editorial Board, *Economics of Education Review*, 2012-
Editorial Board, *Education Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 2015-
Editorial Board, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 2020-
Board Member, Association for Education Finance and Policy, 2012-2015
Tennessee Governor Haslam's Voucher Task Force, 2011-2012

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Public Policy, University of Kentucky, Martin School of Public Policy, December 1997
Master of Science, Economics, University of Kentucky, Department of Economics, May 1994
Bachelor of Science, Economics and Business, Illinois Wesleyan University, May 1992

EXTERNAL GRANTS

"Charter School Enrollment and Performance Before, During, and After the COVID-19
Pandemic", Co-PI

Tennessee Score, \$300,000, 2023-2025

"Workforce-Aligned Educational and Employment Programs and Pathways" Co-PI

Walton Family Foundation, \$517,000, 2022-2024

"School Improvement in Indiana: Exploring Differences Among Charter, Magnet, Private, and
Traditional Public High Schools," Co-PI

Institute for Education Sciences, \$219,298, 2019-22.

- “An Extended Evaluation of Tennessee’s Achievement School District and Local Innovation Zones”, Co-PI
 John and Laura Arnold Foundation, \$381,618, 2017-2021
 Walton Family Foundation, \$555,972, 2017-2021
- “An Extended Evaluation of Tennessee’s Achievement School District”, Co-PI
 Walton Family Foundation \$350,000, 2014-17
- “Examining Tennessee’s Achievement School District”, Co-PI
 U.S. Department of Education through Tennessee Higher Education Commission,
 \$350,000, 2013-15
- “Examining Post-Secondary Outcomes of Chicago Charter Students” PI
 Joyce Foundation, \$116,000. 2010-14
- “The Effects of Chartering Authorities on Student Achievement.” PI
 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (through the University of Washington), \$15,000.
 2009-10
- “Learning to Use Economic Methods to Answer Questions about Education: An Interdisciplinary Pre-Doctoral Research Training Program” Co-Author
 Institute of Education Sciences, \$4,900,000, 2009-14
- “Estimation and Inference in Education Research when Actions by Participants Impact Validity and Availability of Data”, Co-PI
 Research Methods Competition, Institute of Education Sciences, \$963,000, 2009-12
- “Evaluating Chicago’s High School Reform”, Collaboration with Stanford Research Institute, Consortium on Chicago School Research, & RAND. Co-PI
 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, \$4,100,000 (RAND’s share: \$800,000), 2008-09
- “Determinants of Student Outcomes in an Urban School District”, Co-PI
 Institute of Education Sciences, \$2,060,000, 2007-10
- “National Charter School Evaluation: Adding Clarity to the Debate,” Co-PI,
 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, \$300,000,
 Smith Richardson Foundation, \$260,000,
 Stranahan Foundation, \$50,000,
 Joyce Foundation, \$100,000,
 William Penn Foundation, \$109,000,
 Philadelphia School District, \$25,000, 2007-09
- “Evaluation of Pittsburgh’s After School Programs”, PI
 Pittsburgh Public Schools, \$149,000, 2006-07
- “Evaluation of Philadelphia Privatization of Schools”, Co-PI
 Annenberg Foundation, \$12,000
 William Penn Foundation, \$49,000
 Philadelphia School District, \$40,000, 2005-07
- “Charter School Competitive Effects” Co-PI
 Smith Richardson Foundation, \$125,000, 2004-05
- “Evaluation of Nonclassroom-Based California Charter Schools”, Co-PI

- California Legislative Analyst Office, \$334,000
- “California Charter School Evaluation” Co-PI
California Legislative Analyst Office, \$662,000, 2002-03
- “Private Giving to Public Schools and Districts in Los Angeles County”, 2000-2001, Co-PI
John Randolph and Dora Haynes Foundation, \$150,000
- “The Labor Market for Attorneys in the State of California: Past, Present, and Future”
University of California, Office of the President, \$111,000, Co-Author
- “Evaluation of Michigan Centralized Funding Model”, 2000-2001, Co-PI
National Center for Education Statistics, \$5,000
- “Kentucky’s Road Fund Tax Structure”, Co-PI
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, \$45,000

PUBLICATIONS

*indicates authorship is in an alphabetic order

Kim, Y. & **Zimmer, R.** Forthcoming. “Is Reputational Pressure Enough to Create Competitive School Choice Effects? Evidence from Seoul’s School Choice Policy” *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness* Published paper available [here](#). Working paper available [here](#).

Waddington, J., **Zimmer, R.**, & Berends, M. (2023). “Cream Skimming and Pushing Out of Voucher Students Indiana.” Forthcoming, *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*. Published paper available [here](#), Working paper available [here](#).

Kho, A., Henry, G. T., Pham, L. D., & **Zimmer, R.** (2023). Spillover Effects of Recruiting Teachers for School Turnaround: Evidence from Tennessee. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 45(2), 368-284. Published paper available [here](#). Working paper available [here](#)

Dixon, L., Pham, L., Henry, G., Corcoran, S., & **Zimmer, R.** (2022). "Who Leads Turnaround Schools? Characteristics of Principals in Tennessee’s Achievement School District and Innovation Zones", *Education Administration Quarterly*, 58(2):258-299. Published paper available [here](#).

Kho, A., **Zimmer, R.**, & McEachin, A. (2022). “A Descriptive Analysis of Cream Skimming and Pushout in Choice versus Traditional Public Schools.” *Education, Finance, and Policy*, 17 (1): 160–187. Working paper available [here](#). Published paper available [here](#).

Zimmer, R., Buddin, R., Smith, S.A., & Duffy, D. (2021). “Nearly three decades into the charter movement, what has research told us about charter schools?” in Brian McCall (Editor) *The Routledge Handbook of Economics of Education*, 1st Edition, **Routledge Taylor Francis Group**. Working paper available [here](#). Published paper [here](#)

Viano, S.L., Pham, L., Henry, G.T., Kho, A., & **Zimmer, R.** (2021). “Push or Pull: School-Level Factors that Influence Teacher Mobility in Low Performing Schools”, *American Educational Research Journal*, 58(1): 201-233. Working paper available [here](#). Published paper available [here](#)

Henry, G.T., Pham, L., Kho, A., & **Zimmer, R.** (2020). “Peeking into the Black Box of School Turnaround: A Formal Test of Mediators and Suppressors”, *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 42(2): 232–256. Working paper available [here](#), Published paper available [here](#).

Pham, L., Henry G. T., **Zimmer, R.**, & Kho, A. "(2020). School Turnaround Over the Long Haul: An Extended Evaluation of Tennessee's Achievement School District and Local Innovation Zones." *AERA Open*, 6(1): 1-27. Published paper available [here](#).

Kho, A., **Zimmer, R.**, & Buddin, R. (2020). "The economics of charter schools." In, Steve Bradley and Colin Green (Eds) *Economics of Education*, 2nd Edition., **Academic Press**, 531-542. Published paper available [here](#)

Hong, K., **Zimmer, R.**, & Engberg, J. (2018). "How Does Grade Configuration Impact Student Achievement?" *Journal of Urban Economics*, 105, 1-19. Published paper available [here](#).

Zimmer, R., Henry, G.T. & Kho, A. (2017). "The Effects of School Turnaround in Tennessee's Achievement School District and Innovation Zones." *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, Vol. 39, No. 4, 670–696. Published paper available [here](#).

Hong, K., & **Zimmer, R.** (2016). "Does Investing in School Capital Infrastructure Improve Student Achievement?" *Economics of Education Review*, 53, 143-158. Published paper available [here](#).

Sass, T., **Zimmer, R.**, Gill, B., & Booker, K. (2016) "Charter High School's Effect on Educational Attainment and Earnings", *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. Published paper available [here](#).

Zimmer, R., & Engberg, J. (2016). "Can broad inferences be drawn from lottery analyses of school choice programs? An exploration of appropriate sensitivity analyses" *Journal of School Choice*, 10:1, 48-72. Published paper available [here](#): Working Paper available [here](#).

*Epplé, D., Romano, R., & **Zimmer, R.** (2016). "Charter Schools: A Survey of Research on their Characteristics and Effectiveness" in Eric Hanushek, Steve Machin, and Ludger Woessman (Eds) *Handbook of Economics of Education*, Eds., **North-Holland**, Also NBER Working Paper 21256 Available [here](#)

Zimmer, R., & Bettinger, E. (2015) "Getting Beyond the Rhetoric: Surveying the Evidence of Vouchers and Tax Credits." In Ladd, H.F. and Peg Goertz (Eds.) *Handbook of Research in Education Finance and Policy*, Vol. 2. **Lawrence Erlbaum Association**. Published chapter available [here](#)

Zimmer, R., & Attridge, J. (2014). "Do Educational Peer Effects Exist? Why Is It So Hard To Know?" in D. Brewer, & L. Picus (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of education economics & finance*. Thousand Oaks, (pp. 523-526), CA: **SAGE Publications**, Inc.

Zimmer, R., Gill, B., Attridge, J., & Obenauf, K. (2014). "Charter School Authorizers and Student Achievement" *Education, Finance, and Policy*, (9), 59-85. Published paper available [here](#). NCSPE Working paper available [here](#),

*Engberg, J., Epplé, D., Imbrogno, J., Sieg, H., & **Zimmer, R.** (2014). "Identification and Estimating of Treatment Effects when Program Participation is Partially Determined by Lotteries: The Case of Magnet Programs" *Journal of Labor Economics*, Vol 32 (1): 27-63. Published paper available [here](#). NBER Working Paper, 14842 available [here](#)

*Davis, B., Engberg, J., Epplé, D., Sieg, H., & **Zimmer, R.** (2013). "Evaluating the Gifted Program of an Urban School District using a Modified Regression Discontinuity Design" *Annals*

of Economics and Statistics, Vol.111/112, 2013. Published paper available [here](#). NBER Working Paper, 164 available [here](#)

*Butler, J.S., Carr, D., Toma, E., & **Zimmer, R.** (2013). "School Attributes and Distance: Tradeoffs in the School Choice Decision." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 32(4). Published paper available [here](#). NCSPE Working Paper, 186. available [here](#)

Zimmer, R & Guarino, C. (2013). "Is There Empirical Evidence Consistent with the Claim That Charter Schools "Push Out" Low Performing Students?" *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, (35)4: 461–480. Published paper available [here](#)

Zimmer, R., Gill, B., Booker, K., Lavertu, S., & Witte, J. (2012). "Examining charter school achievement in seven states." *Economics of Education Review*, Vol. 31 (2): 213-224. Published paper available [here](#)

*Engberg, J., Gill, B., Zamarro, G., & **Zimmer, R.** (2012). "Closing Schools in a Shrinking District: Do Student Outcomes Depend on Which Schools are Closed?" *Journal of Urban Economics*, Vol. 71(2): 189-203. Published paper available [here](#)

Toma E.F., & **Zimmer, R.** (2012). "Two decades of charter schools: expectations, reality, and the future." *Economics of Education Review*, Vol. 31 (2). Published paper available [here](#)

Booker, K., Sass, T., Gill, B., & **Zimmer, R.** (2011). "The Effects of Charter High Schools on Educational Attainment." *Journal of Labor Economics*, Vol. 29(2) pp. 377-415, Published paper available [here](#): NCSPE Working Paper, 169 available [here](#)

Zimmer, R. Buddin, R., Jones, J., & Liu, N. (2011). "What type of school capital projects are voters willing to support?" *Public Budgeting and Finance*, Vol. 31(1). Published paper available [here](#)

Zimmer, R., Gill, B., Booker, K., Lavertu, S., & Witte, J. (2011). "Do charter schools "cream skim" students and increase racial-ethnic segregation?" In Berends, M., Springer, M.G., Ballou, D., and Walberg, H. (Eds.) *School Choice and School Improvement*, **Harvard Press**. Working Paper available [here](#)

Booker, K. Sass, T., Gill, B., & **Zimmer, R.** (2010). "The Unknown World of Charter High Schools. With no one paying any attention, they may be boosting high school graduation and college attendance rates." *Education Next*. Published paper available [here](#)

Zimmer, R., Christina, R., & Hamilton, L. (2010). "After-School Tutoring in the Context of No Child Left Behind: Effectiveness of Two Programs in Pittsburgh Public Schools." *Economics of Education Review*, Vol. 21 (1). Published paper available [here](#)

Zimmer, R. Guarino, C., & Buddin, R. (2010). "School Choice: Options and Outcomes," book chapter in *Urban and Regional Policy and Its Effect*, Vol. 3, edited by N. Pindus and H. Wolman, **Brookings Institution**. Published chapter available [here](#)

Zimmer, R. & Buddin, R. (2010). "The Economics of Charter Schools.", in The International Encyclopaedia of Education, 3rd Edition, edited by Barry McGaw, Penelope Peterson and Eva Baker, **Elsevier Publishers**.

*Gill, B., Hamilton, L., & **Zimmer, R.** (2009). "Perspectives on Educational Management Organizations" In Berends, M., Springer, M.G., Ballou, D., and Walberg, H. (Eds.) *Handbook of*

Research on School Choice Mahwah, NJ: **Lawrence Erlbaum Associates**. Published chapter available [here](#)

Zimmer, R. Gill, B., Booker, K., Lavertu, S., Sass, T., & Witte, J. (2009). *Charter Schools in Eight States: Effects on Achievement, Attainment, Integration, and Competition*. **RAND**: MG-869. Published book available [here](#)

Zimmer, R. & Buddin, R. (2009). "Is Charter School Competition in California Improving the Performance of Traditional Public Schools?" *Public Administration Review*, Vol. 69(5), pp. 831-845, 2009. Published paper available [here](#). NCSPE Working Paper, available [here](#)

*Jones, J., Toma, E.F., & **Zimmer, R.** (2008). "Student attendance and school and district size." *Economics of Education Review*, Vol. 27(2), pp. 140-148, 2008. Published paper available [here](#)

Booker, K., Sass, T., Gill, B., & **Zimmer, R.** (2008). "Going Beyond Test Scores: Evaluating Charter School Impact on Educational Attainment in Chicago and Florida." **RAND** WR-610-BMG. Published report available [here](#)

Booker, K., Gill, B., & **Zimmer, R.** (2008). "The Impact of Chicago Charter Schools on Student Achievement and Attainment." **RAND**: TR-585. Published report available [here](#)

Zimmer, R., Blanc, S., Christman, J., & Gill, B. (2008). "Evaluation of Philadelphia's Charter Schools." **RAND** WR-550 EDU. Published paper available [here](#)

Zimmer, R. & Buddin, R. (2007). "Getting Inside the Black Box: Examining how the Operation of Charter Schools Affect Performance." *Peabody Journal*, Vol. 82(2-3), 231-273. Published paper available [here](#). Working paper available [here](#)

Zimmer, R., Gill, B., Razquin, P., Booker, K., & Lockwood III, JR. (2007). "National Longitudinal Study of No Child Left Behind: Title I Parental School Choice, Supplemental Educational Services, and Student Achievement." prepared for the **U.S. Department of Education**. Published report available [here](#)

Gill, B., **Zimmer R.**, Christman, J. & Blanc, S. (2007). *State Takeover, Restructuring, Private Management, and Student Achievement in Philadelphia*. **RAND** MG-533-RFA. Published report available [here](#)

Zimmer, R., Christina, R., Hamilton, L., & Prine, D.W. (2007). "Evaluation of Two-Out-Of-School Programs in Pittsburgh Public Schools: No Child Left Behind's Supplemental Educational Services and State of Pennsylvania's Educational Assistance Program. **RAND**: WR-451-PPS. Published report available [here](#)

Zimmer, R. & Bettinger, E. (2007). "Getting Beyond the Rhetoric: Surveying the Evidence of Vouchers and Tax Credits" in Ladd, H.F. & Fiske, E.B. (Eds.) *Handbook of Research in Education Finance and Policy*. **Lawrence Erlbaum Association**. Published paper available [here](#)
Also published in *The International Encyclopaedia of Education*, 3rd Edition, edited by Barry McGaw, Penelope Peterson and Eva Baker, **Elsevier Publishers**, (2010).

Zimmer, R. & Buddin, R. (2007). "Charter School Outcomes in California." In Berends, M., Springer, M.G., and Walberg, H.J. (Eds). *Charter Schools: Their Outcomes and Growth*. Mahwah, NJ: **Lawrence Erlbaum Associates**. Working paper available [here](#)

Vernez, G. & **Zimmer, R.** (2007). "Interpreting the Effects of Title I Supplemental Educational Services" prepared for the **U.S. Department of Education**. Published paper available [here](#):

- Hamilton, L., Stecher, B., Vernez, G., & **Zimmer, R.** (2007). "Passing or Failing? A Midterm Report Card for No Child Left Behind." **RAND Review**, Vol 31 (3): 17-25. Published paper available [here](#)
- Booker, K., **Zimmer R.**, & Buddin, R. (2006). "The effect of charter schools on school peer composition." **RAND**. WR-306-EDU and NCSPE Working Paper 110, available [here](#)
- Toma, E.F., **Zimmer, R.** & Jones. J. (2006). "Beyond Achievement: Enrollment Consequences of Charter Schools in Michigan." In *Advances in Applied Microeconomics, Volume 14, Improving School Accountability: Check-Ups or Choice* Eds., Timothy Gronberg & Dennis W. Jansen, **Elsevier Publishers**. Working Paper available [here](#)
- Zimmer, R.** & Buddin, R. (2006). "Charter School Performance in Urban Districts," *Journal of Urban Economics*, Vol. 60(2), 307-326. NCSPE Working Paper, 118, available [here](#)
- Zimmer, R.** & Buddin, R. (2006). "Making Sense of Charter Schools: Evidence from California." **RAND** Occasional Papers, OP157. Paper available [here](#)
- Gill, B., Hamilton, L., Lockwood, JR., Marsh, J., **Zimmer, R.**, Hill, D., & Pribesh, S. (2005). *Inspiration, Perspiration, and Time: Operations and Achievement in Edison schools*. **RAND**: MG-351-EDU. Published Report available [here](#)
- Marsh, J., Kerr, K., Schuyler Ikemoto, G, Darilek, H., Suttorp, MJ, **Zimmer, R.**, & Barney, H. (2005). *Instructional Improvement Efforts of Districts Partnered with the Institute for Learning*. **RAND**: MG-361. Published report available [here](#)
- Guarino, C., **Zimmer, R.**, Krop, C., & Chau, D. (2005). *Nonclassroom-based Charter Schools in California and the Impact of SB 740*. **RAND**: MG-323-EDU. Published report available [here](#)
- Buddin, R & **Zimmer, R.** (2005). "Student achievement in charter schools: A complex picture." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, Vol. 24 (2). Published paper available [here](#)
- Zimmer, R.** & Jones, J. (2005). "Unintended Consequence of Centralized Public School Funding in Michigan Education." *Southern Economic Journal*, Vol. 71 (3), pp. 534-544, published paper available [here](#)
- Krop, C. & **Zimmer, R.** (2005). "Charter School Type Matters When Examining Funding and Facilities: Evidence From California." *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, Vol. 13 (50). Published paper available [here](#)
- Buddin, R., Gill, B., & **Zimmer, R.** (2004). "Examining the Federal Impact Aid's Reimbursement to Local School Districts." *Contemporary Economic Policy*, Vol. 22 (4). Published paper available [here](#)
- Buddin, R. & **Zimmer, R.** (2004). Review of two school choice books: "The Political Dynamics of School Choice: Negotiating contested terrain," Lance D. Fusarelli and "Economics of School Choice," Ed., Caroline Hoxby, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, Vol. 23 (4). Published review [here](#)
- Zimmer, R.**, Buddin, R, Chau. D., Gill, B., Guarino, C., Hamilton, L., Krop. C., McCaffrey, D. Sandler, M., & Brewer. D., (2003). *Charter School Operation and Performance: Evidence from California*. **RAND**: MR-1700. Published book available [here](#)

Bikson, T., Beckett, M., Brewer, D., Gates, S., Guarino, C., Ross, K., Schoeni, R., & **Zimmer, R.** (2003). *The Labor Market for Attorneys in the State of California: Past, Present, and Future*, **RAND**: MR-1710-UC. Published report available [here](#)

Zimmer, R. (2003). "A New Twist in the Tracking Debate." *Economics of Education Review*, Vol. 22 (3), pp. 307-315. Published paper available [here](#)

Zimmer, R., Krop, C., & Brewer, D. (2003). "Private Resources in Public Schools: Evidence from a Pilot Study." *Journal of Education Finance*, Vol. 28. Published paper available [here](#)

Zimmer, R., Buddin, R., & Gill, B. (2002). "Distribution Effects and Distorted Incentives: A case study of the funding formulas of the federal Impact Aid program." *Journal of Education Finance*, Vol. 27. Published paper available [here](#)

Zimmer, R. & Brewer, D. (2002). Review of Jos L. Blank (eds.) "Public Provision and Performance," *Economics of Education Review*, Vol. 21. Published review available [here](#)

Buddin, R., Gill, B., & **Zimmer, R.** (2001). *Impact Aid and the Education of Military Children*, **RAND**: MR-1272-OSD. Published report available [here](#)

Zimmer, R., Krop, C., Kaganoff, T., Ross, K., & Brewer, D. (2001). *Private Giving to Public Schools and Districts in Los Angeles County: A Pilot Study*. **RAND**: MR-1429-EDU. Published report available [here](#)

Jones, J. & **Zimmer, R.** (2001). "Capital Outlays Impact on Educational Attainment." *Economics of Education Review*, Vol. 20 (6). Published paper available [here](#)

Gates, S., Augustine, C., Benjamin, R., Bikson, T., Kaganoff, T., Levy, D., Moini, J., & **Zimmer, R.** (2001). *Ensuring Quality and Productivity in Higher Education: An Analysis of Assessment Practices*, **ASHE-ERIC/Higher Education Report**. Published book available [here](#)

Zimmer, R. & Toma, E.F. (2000). "Peer Effects in Private and Public Schools Across Countries." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, Vol. 19 (1). Published paper available [here](#)

Working Papers:

Ferrare, J., Fitzpatrick, B., Berends, M., Waddington, J., & **Zimmer, R.** The Mediating Effects of High School Course Taking and the Voucher Impacts on Educational Attainment. Presented at 2021 Association of Education, Finance, and Policy

Waddington, J., **Zimmer, R.** Jin, R., Ferrare, J., & Berends, M. Understanding the Impacts of High Schools on Student Achievement and College Outcomes across a Statewide System of K-12 Choice Policies. Presented at 2021 Association of Education, Finance, and Policy

Pham, L., Corcoran, S., Henry, G., & **Zimmer, R.** Do the Effects Last? An Examination of the Long-Term Effects of School Turnaround? Presented at 2021 Association of Education, Finance, and Policy. Revise & Resubmit.

Smith, S.A. & **Zimmer, R.** "The Impacts of School District Consolidation on Rural Communities: Evidence from Arkansas Reform". Presented at 2021 Association of Education, Finance, and Policy, Revise and Resubmit

Guest Columns, Invited Editorials, and Research Briefs:

*Courtemanche, C., Le, A., Yelowitz, A., & **Zimmer, R.** (2021) “School Reopenings, Mobility, and COVID-19 Spread: Evidence from Texas”, National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 28753, Available [Here](#).

Kho, A., Zimmer, R., & McEachin, A. (2021) “Evaluating Claims that Charter Schools Practice Cream Skimming and Pushout.” *Education Next*, 21(1). Available [here](#)

Pham, L, Henry, G., **Zimmer, R.** & Kho, A. (2019). School Turnaround in Tennessee: Insights After Six years of Reform. Tennessee Education Research Alliance, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University. Available [here](#)

Pham, L, Henry, G., **Zimmer, R.** & Kho, A. (2018). “School Turnaround After Five Years: An Extended Evaluation of Tennessee’s Achievement School District and Local Innovation Zones”, Tennessee Education Research Alliance, Vanderbilt University. Available [here](#)

Kho, A., Henry, G., **Zimmer, R.**, & Pham, L. (2018) “How has iZone Teacher Recruitment Affected the Performance of Other Schools?” Tennessee Education Research Alliance, Vanderbilt University. Available [here](#):

Henry, G., **Zimmer, R.**, Kho, A., & Pham., L. (2017) “Recruitment and Retention of Teachers in Tennessee’s Achievement School District and iZone Schools” Tennessee Education Research Alliance, Vanderbilt University. Available [here](#)

Henry, G., **Zimmer, R.**, Attridge, J., Kho, A., & Viano, S. (2015). “Teacher and Student Migration in and out of Tennessee’s Achievement School District” Tennessee Consortium on Research, Evaluation, and Development. Available [here](#)

Zimmer, R & Gill, B. (2003). “New Evidence on Charter School Operations and Performance.” **Education Commission of States**, Guest Column., September 30. Available [here](#)

Zimmer, R & Gill, B. (2004). “Assessing the Performance of Charter Schools.” **Education Commission of States**: Guest Column, Available [here](#).

Ron Zimmer & Christopher Nelson. (2004). “A Citizen’s Guide to Research on School Choice.” *San Diego Union Tribune*, September 19.

Reviews:

Journals: *Economics of Education Review*, *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Peabody Journal*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, *Nonprofit Management and Leadership*, *Southern Economic Journal*, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, *Sociology of Education*, *Education Finance and Policy*, *American Journal of Education*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *International Economic Review*, *Sociological Perspective*, *Education Economics*, *Public Finance Review*, *Journal of School Choice*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Education Next*, *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*, *Educational Policy*, *Education Researcher*,

Institutions: Smith Richardson Foundation, Institute of Education Sciences (IES) of the Federal Department of Education, RAND, EdSource, Institute for Research on Education Policy & Practice (Stanford University), American Education Research Association (AERA) paper submission and book chapter reviews, National Science Foundation (NSF), AEPF paper submissions, W.T. Grant Foundation,

Research Awards:

American Education Finance Association/ National Center for Educational Statistics (AEFA/NCES) New Scholars Award, 2000.

2015 Thomas B. Fordham Institute Best Paper Prizes Award at The Fourth Annual International School Choice & Reform Conference for the paper entitled “Charter High School’s Effect on Educational Attainment and Earnings”

2017 American Education Research Association Division L's Outstanding Policy Report Award, The Effects of School Turnaround in Tennessee's Achievement and School District Innovation Zones.

Named a University Research Professor which recognizes excellence in research at University of Kentucky, 2023.

Papers presented at the following conferences:

American Economic Association (AEA)
American Education Research Association (AERA)
Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)
Association of Public Policy and Management (APPAM)
Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE)
Institute of Education Sciences Research Conference (IES)
Western Economic Association (WEA)
Midwest Economics Association (MEA)
Association for Budgeting & Financial Management (ABFM)

Universities/Research Organizations Seminars

University of Indiana, Fall 2021
University of Virginia, Spring 2021
Syracuse University, Spring 2020
Cleveland Federal Reserve Bank, 2018
University of Kentucky, Education School, 2017
University of Kentucky, Martin School, 2016
Stanford University, 2015
ACT, 2015
University of Kentucky, Martin School of Public Policy, 2014
University of Southern California, 2014
Indiana University, Joint Public Policy and School of Education Seminar, 2012
Vanderbilt University, Leadership Policy Organization Seminar Series, 2012
University of Arkansas, Education Reform Department, 2012
Vanderbilt University, Leadership Policy Organization Seminar Series, 2011
New York Fed-NYU Joint Economics of Education Seminar, 2010
Vanderbilt Law and Economics Seminar Series, 2010
Illinois Wesleyan University, 2010
Vanderbilt University, Leadership Policy & Organization Department, 2009
Michigan State University, Economics of Education Seminar Series, 2009
Brookings/George Washington University Joint Urban Conference, 2009
Michigan State University Education Policy Program, 2008
University of Kentucky, School of Education, 2007
University of North Carolina, Public Policy School, 2005

University of Kentucky, Martin School of Public Policy, 2004
Public Policy Institute of California, 2003
U.S. Department of Education, 2003
RAND Corporation, 1998
Southern Illinois University, 1998
University of South Florida, 1998
University of Arizona, 1998

Select Policy Briefing

Tennessee Department of Education, June 2018
“Five-year effects of Tennessee Turnaround”

Tennessee Department of Education, May 2017
“Cream Skimming and Pushout Analysis of Tennessee’s Charter Schools”

Tennessee Department of Education, October 2015
“Impact Analysis of the Achievement School District”

Walton Family Foundation, August 2015
“Impact Analysis of the Achievement School District”

Tennessee Department of Education, May 2015
“Impact Analysis of the Achievement School District”

Achievement School District, September 2014
“Achievement School District Impact on Student and Teacher Mobility”

Tennessee Education Summit, invited by Governor Haslam, Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey and
House Speaker Beth Harwell, September 2014
“School Choice”

The League of Women Voters of Nashville in collaboration with Vanderbilt University'
“School Vouchers: What Research Show Us”, February 2013

Vanderbilt Board of Trust with Ellen Goldring, Tom Smith, & Maddy Mavrogordato, April 2012
“Perspectives on Education Reform”

Presented at meeting with Tennessee Governor Haslam, August, 2011
“Summary of the literature of voucher effects.”

National School Choice Conference, Vanderbilt University, funded by IES, October 2009.
“Do Charter Schools Cream Skim and Create Racial Segregation”

Brookings-George Washington University Economic Development Conference, May 2009
“Comparing District-Managed and Non-District-Managed School Choice”

SERVE Conference for Southern States’ Title I providers, June 2009
“Findings from evaluation of NCLB’s Supplemental Education Services and School
Choice Options”

U.S. Congressional Briefing, May 2009
“Charter Evaluation in Eight States”

Columbus Foundation, April 2009
 “Charter Evaluation in Eight States”

Mississippi State Board of Education and State Superintendent of Education, Oct. 2008
 “Overview of Charter Schools”

RAND New Orleans Recovery Policy Conference, August 2008
 “An Overview of RAND’s Charter School Evaluations”

U.S. Senators DeMint, Durbin, and Obama Offices, May 2008
 “Chicago Charter School Achievement and Attainment”

U.S. Congressman Davis and Rush Office, May 2008
 “Chicago Charter School Achievement and Attainment”

National Title I Conference, July 2007
 “State and Local Implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act: Volume I—Title I School Choice, Supplemental Educational Services, and Student Achievement.”

U.S. Congressional Briefing, July 2007.
 “State and Local Implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act: Volume I—Title I School Choice, Supplemental Educational Services, and Student Achievement.”

RAND Corporate Board Briefing, April 2007
State Takeover, Restructuring, Private Management, and Student Achievement in Philadelphia.

Heinz Foundation, March 2007
 “Evaluation of two after-school programs”

U.S. Senators Clinton, Dodd, and Obama Offices, January 2007
 “Overview of RAND’s education research”

U.S. Congressional Sub-Committee Chairman Representative Miller Office, January 2007
 “Overview of RAND’s education research”

Secretary of Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education, January 2007
 “Evaluation of Philadelphia’s use of Private Providers in Schools”

Pentagon, U.S. Department of Defense, Summer 2006
 “Presentation of School Choice Data Base”

Institute of Education Sciences, Federal Department of Education. June & October 2006
 “Student Achievement Effects of No Child Left Behind”

The Commonwealth Club of California (in San Francisco), Spring 2005.
“A Discussion of Charter Schools”

California Legislative Analyst Office, Spring 2005
 “Nonclassroom-Based Charter Schools”

California Legislative Analyst Office, Spring 2004
 “Operation and Performance of California Charter Schools”

Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, October 2003

“Operation and Performance of California Charter Schools”

U.S. Senator Lieberman’s Office, July 2003

“Overview of Operation and Performance of California Charter Schools”

U.S. Senator Page’s Office, July 2003

“Overview of Operation and Performance of California Charter Schools”

MEDIA INTERVIEWS

Print

New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Education Week, Associated Press, LA Daily, Modesto Bee, Los Angeles City News, San Francisco Chronicle, LA Business Journal, Tacoma News Tribune, Jackson Clarion Ledger, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, Wall Street Journal, Salem Statesman Journal, Peoria Journal Star, Pittsburgh Post Gazette, San Diego Union Tribune, Raleigh News & Observer, Austin-American Statesman, Denver Post, New York Sun, Pittsburgh Tribune Review, Chicago Sun Times, Chicago Magazines, Philadelphia Inquire, Lansing State Journal, School Reform News, Pro Publica, San Bernadino Sun, Take Part, Southern Education Desk, Anniston Star, Minneapolis Star Tribune, Des Moines Register, Nashville City Paper, District Administrator, Tennessean, Sacramento Bee, World Magazine, Chalkbeat, Orange County Register, Memphis Commercial Appeal, California Health Report, Atlanta Constitutional Journal, Miami Herald, WNPT Nashville, The 74million, Knoxville News Senetenel, Dallas Morning News, Indiana Chalkbeat, Education Dive, Desert News, Fort Worth Star Telegram

Radio

KNX News Radio, Los Angeles; Family in Focus, Colorado Springs; National Public Radio (Seattle Affiliate); National Public Radio (San Diego Affiliate), Michigan Radio (Michigan’s National Public Radio Affiliate), WILS-1320 AM, Lansing, MI, Rhode Island Public Radio, WPLN, Nashville Public Radio, Texas Public Radio, WBCK Battle Creek 95.3., 89.3 KPCC NPR Southern California, WRAL (North Carolina NPR affiliate), WABE 90.1 NPR Affiliate,

Television

Nashville News Channel 5, LocalMemphis, News3 Memphis, Fox13 Memphis, CNBC, Nashville Fox 17, WPXI News 11 Pittsburgh,

Additional cites of reports in media:

Washington Post, Philadelphia Daily News, Baltimore Sun, WTXF-PHI TV, San Jose Mercury News, Sacramento KCRA-TV, KCOY-CBS, Bay Area KGO-TV, KTLA-5 Los Angeles, CNN, USA Today, Chicago Tribune, WHYY-NPR Philadelphia Affiliate, Rockford Register Star, Catalyst Chicago, Progress Illinois, Sacramento Bee, Seattle Times, St. Louis Dispatch, Washington Times, The Grand Rapids Press, Science Daily, Columbus Dispatch, Marco Eagle, Athens Banner-Herald, Boston Globe, Black Star News, Kennebec Journal, Washington Examiner, Reason Magazine, New York Post, Philadelphia Public School Notebook, Fort Worth Star Telegram, Springfield State Journal, Jackson Commercial Dispatch, American Spectator, The Birmingham News, NewsMax, Savannah Morning News, Charleston Gazette, Tucson Sentinel, Charleston Daily Mail, Richmond-Times Dispatch, Suburban Journals of Greater St. Louis, Lexington Herald Leader, Indianapolis Star, Contra Costa Times, Arizona Republic, Yahoo News, Education Week, Washington Post, Business Insider, Bloomberg New, Desert News, WTTW Chicago PBS station, Chicagomag.com, Reuters, Tennessean, Huffington Post, WPLN Nashville Public Radio, Wisconsin Reporter, New Jersey Star Ledger, Philadelphia City Paper, Crane Chicago Business, Forbes Magazine, The Federalist, National Review, Bloomberg View, Take Part, Dropout Nation, Crain’s Chicago Business, Chicago PBS, Seattle Times, American

Interest, The City Sentinel, The National Journal, Memphis Daily News, Tampa Tribune, Las Vegas Review Journal, The Ledger, Nashville Post, Charlotte Observer, Press Telegraph, Memphis Flyer, WUNC Public Radio Charlotte, Tucson Weekly, Charleston Post and Courier, Springfield State Journal Register, NWF daily news (Fort Walton Beach, FL), New York Magazine, Greensboro News and Record, Indianapolis Business Journal, Durham Herald Sun, New York Magazine, U.S. New and World Report, Diverse Issues in Higher Education, The Times Picayune, Daily Herald, Post Register, Los Vegas Review Journal, Valley News, Boston Globe, The Detroit News, CNBC, Politico, Paducah Sun, The Telegraph, Times Free Press (Chattanooga), Savannah Now, Westside Gazette, The Moultrie Observer, Online Athens, Mother Jones, Better Georgia, ABC News

COURSES TAUGHT

Introduction to Microeconomics (Undergraduate)
Introduction to Economics (Undergraduate)
Public Economics (Master of Public Administration)
Consequences and Logic of Accountability in Education (Graduate)
Education Reform and Policy Analysis (Undergraduate)
Economics of Education (Graduate)
Public Finance (Undergraduate)
Master of Public Policy and Master of Public Administration Capstone Class (Graduate)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, COMMITTEE, AND ADVISORY PANEL ACTIVITIES

Review Panels and Committees

Institute of Education Sciences, Education Systems and Broad Reform, Scientific Review Panel
National Evaluation of Comprehensive Technical Assistance Centers, U.S. Dept of Ed., 2007-2009.
Institute of Education Sciences, Advisory Panel for U.S. Department of Education Impact
Evaluation of Title I Supplemental Education Services, 2008
California Research Bureau Advisory Panel for Charter School Evaluation, 2008
Institute for Research on Education Policy & Practice (Stanford University), 2006

Dissertation Chair or Advisor:

Jonathon Attridge, Vanderbilt University (first position, Tennessee Department of Education)
Kai Hong, Vanderbilt University (first position, New York University)
Adam Kho, Vanderbilt University (first position at University of Southern California)
Lam Pham, Vanderbilt University (first position at North Carolina State University)

Dissertation Committees:

Ilya Rahkovsky, Michigan State University (first position at USDA)
Anna Nicotera, Vanderbilt University (first position at Basis Policy Research)
Keke Liu, Vanderbilt University (first position at NCAA)
Jeff Springer, Vanderbilt University (first position at Basis Policy Research)
Peter Goff, Vanderbilt University (first position at University of Wisconsin)
Madeline Mavrogordato, Vanderbilt University (first position at Michigan State University)
Rebecca Schmidt, Vanderbilt University (first position at SRI)
Billie Davis, Carnegie Mellon University (first position at Carnegie Mellon University)
Jonathon Stern, Vanderbilt University (first position at Research Triangle Institute)
Jason Imbrogino, Carnegie Mellon University (first position at University of South Alabama)
Bommi Lee, Vanderbilt University,
Hajime Manti, Vanderbilt University, (first position at Rowan University)
Walker Swain, Vanderbilt University (first position at University of Georgia),

Alex Combs, University of Kentucky (first position at the University of Georgia)
Xin Chen, University of Kentucky (first position, Beijing Normal University)
Cory Curly, University of Kentucky (first position, Martin School, Lecturer)
Hakyeon Lee, University of Kentucky (in progress)
Jinsol Park, University of Kentucky (in progress)
Kyung Ha Oh, University of Kentucky (in progress)

Other Service

Awards Committee for Best Paper, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 2021
Publication Committee, Co-Chair, Association for Education Finance and Policy, 2013-14
Conference Program Committee, Association for Education Finance and Policy, 2012-13
Section Chair, AERA Division L, School Choice and School Finance Section, 2009-10
Allegheny County Advisory Panel for After-School Programs, 2007-2008
RAND Internal Review Board Committee Member, 2007-2008
RAND-Spencer Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellowship Mentor:
 Kevin Booker, Ph.D., Texas A&M, February 2005 to August 2006
 Paula Razquin, Ph.D., Stanford, January 2005 to December 2005
RAND Summer Intern Mentor:
 Katharine Strunk, Ph.D. candidate, Stanford, June to September 2005
 Billie Davis, Ph.D. candidate, Carnegie Mellon University, May to August 2007