



**CONTACT:**

Matt Chingos (202) 261-5664 mchingos@urban.org  
Antonio Wendland (617) 495-7976 pepg\_administrator@hks.harvard.edu

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Senior Fellow, Urban Institute  
Associate Director, PEPG

## Matthew M. Chingos and Paul E. Peterson Receive 2016 Association for Education Finance and Policy Prize

### Prize Awarded for Best Academic Paper on School Choice and Reform

**Cambridge, MA** — Matthew M. Chingos, Senior Fellow, Urban Institute and Paul E. Peterson, Director, Program on Education Policy and Governance, Harvard University, have been selected as the winners of the [2016 Association for Education Finance and Policy \(AEFP\) Prize](#) for their paper “Experimentally estimated impacts of school vouchers on college enrollment and degree attainment” awarded for best academic paper on school choice and reform

The study, published in the [Journal of Public Economics](#) in 2015, finds that minority students who received a school voucher to attend private elementary schools in 1997 were, as of 2013, 10 percent more likely to enroll in college and 35 percent more likely than their peers in public school to obtain a bachelor’s degree.

The study shows significantly positive voucher impacts for the children of African American mothers of six percentage points on college enrollment on a base enrollment rate of 42 percent. Among the same group of students, more minority students who received the vouchers obtained a bachelor’s degree than students who did not receive a voucher.

Most research on educational interventions, including school vouchers, focuses on impacts on short-term outcomes such as students’ scores on standardized tests. Few studies are able to track longer-term outcomes, and even fewer are able to do so in the context of a randomized experiment. This study marks the first time anyone has been able to present empirical evidence of the long term efficacy of school vouchers through to college graduation.

The prize was awarded to papers that addressed a topic related to school choice or competition in education. It will be announced at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) in Denver, Colorado on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, and includes a \$5,000 cash award.

#### **About the Authors**

[Matthew M. Chingos](#) is a Senior Fellow at the Income Benefits and Policy Center at the Urban Institute, where he studies education-related topics at both the K-12 and postsecondary levels. [Paul E. Peterson](#) is the Henry Lee Shattuck Professor of Government, Harvard University, Director of the Program on Education Policy and Governance (PEPG), Harvard Kennedy School, and Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University.