Merit Pay: Will It Work? Is It Politically Viable?
A Conference Organized by the Harvard Program on Education Policy and Governance
Taubman Building, 5th Floor Conference Rooms, Harvard Kennedy School
June 3-4, 2010

Sponsored by the Program on Education Policy and Governance and the Taubman Center for State and Local Government, with support from the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, the Thomas W. Smith Foundation, the Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston, and the Center for American Political Studies.

Thursday, June 3

8:00-8:45 Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:45-9:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Edward Glaeser, Fred and Eleanor Glimp Professor of Economics and Director of the Taubman Center for State and Local Government, Harvard University
- Paul E. Peterson, Henry Lee Shattuck Professor of Government and Director of the Program on Education Policy and Governance, Harvard University
- Michael Henderson, Program on Education Policy and Governance, Harvard University

9:00-10:45 Panel I: The Politics of Pay for Performance

Chair: Bill Purcell – Director, Institute of Politics, Harvard Kennedy School

Andrew Smarick, Thomas B. Fordham Institute and American Enterprise Institute

Discussant: Roberto J. Rodríguez, Special Assistant to the President for Education, Domestic Policy Council, Executive Office of the President

William G. Howell, University of Chicago
Michael Henderson, Harvard University

Discussant: Stephen Ansolabehere, Harvard University

10:45-11:00 Break
11:00-12:30  Panel II:  Impacts of Teacher Financial Incentives on Student Achievements: Innovations from the United States

Chair:  Martin R. West – Harvard Graduate School of Education

Paper:  “The Impact of Incentives on Effort: Teacher Bonuses in North Carolina”  
Tom Ahn, University of Kentucky  
Jake Vigdor, Duke University

Discussant:  Richard J. Murnane, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Paper:  “Teacher Incentive Pay and Educational Outcomes: Evidence from the NYC Bonus Program”  
Sarena Goodman, Columbia University  
Lesley Turner, Columbia University

Discussant:  Elena Llaudet, Harvard University

12:30-1:30  Lunch

1:30-3:45  Panel III:  Compensation Effects on Teacher Supply

Chair:  Alan Altshuler, Harvard Kennedy School

Matthew Chingos, Harvard University  
Paul E. Peterson, Harvard University

Discussant:  Brian Gill, Mathematica Policy Research

Martin R. West, Harvard Graduate School of Education  
Matthew Chingos, Harvard University

Discussant:  Steven G. Rivkin, Amherst College

Michael J. Podgursky, University of Missouri  
Matthew Springer, Vanderbilt University

Discussant:  Michael Henderson, Harvard University

3:45-4:00  Break
4:00-4:45  Panel IV:  Can We Identify Ineffective Teachers?

Chair:  Kenneth K. Wong, Brown University

Paper:  “The Effect of Employment Protection on Worker Output: Evidence from Public Schooling”
         Brian Jacob, University of Michigan

Discussant:  Joshua Goodman, Harvard Kennedy School

Friday, June 4

8:15-9:00  Breakfast

9:00-10:30  Panel V:  Impacts of Teacher Financial Incentives on Student Achievements: Evidence from Abroad

Chair:  Paul E. Peterson, Harvard University

Paper:  “Cross-Country Evidence on Teacher Performance Pay”
         Ludger Woessmann, Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München and Ifo Institute for Economic Research

Discussant:  Jonah Rockoff, Columbia University

Paper:  “Teacher Performance Pay: Experimental Evidence from India”
         Karthik Muralidharan, University of California at San Diego
         Venkatesh Sundararaman, The World Bank

Discussant:  Rajashri Chakrabarti, Federal Reserve Bank of New York

10:30-10:45  Break
10:45-12:15 Panel VI: Where Will the Money Come From?

Chair: Edward Glaeser, Harvard University

Paper: “Economic Aspects of Improving Teacher Quality”
Eric Hanushek, Stanford University, National Bureau of Economic Research, and CESifo

Discussant: Robert B. Schwartz, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Paper: “Blocking, Diluting, and Co-Opting Merit Pay”
Stuart Buck, University of Arkansas
Jay P. Greene, University of Arkansas and Manhattan Institute

Discussant: James Stergios, Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research

12:15-12:30 Final Thoughts

- Michael Henderson, Program on Education Policy and Governance, Harvard University
- Paul E. Peterson, Henry Lee Shattuck Professor of Government and Director of the Program on Education Policy and Governance, Harvard University