

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SCHOOL CHOICE SOLUTIONS, LLC

Education Policy Consultant, 2008 – present

Current

- Director of the Education Freedom Center at Independent Women’s Forum, host of the *Students Over Systems* podcast, and contributor to the Independent Women’s Network. IWF articles and interviews featured [here](#).
- Senior Advisor for the American Federation for Children. I provide research, writing, analysis, and strategic advice for policy, communications, and development initiatives.
- Policy researcher and writer. Sample projects: case study of the federal Charter School Program for the R Street Institute; CARES Act, curriculum, and private school policy research for the Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy; the Collaborative for Student Success’s ESSA state plan peer review; and analysis supporting the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools’ *Commitment to Quality*.

Past

- Federal lobbyist for the American Federation for Children, educated Members of Congress and staff, expanded the Congressional School Choice Caucus, and explored federal policy proposals.
- Senior Advisor at National School Choice Week.
- Alliance for School Choice senior policy advisor. Projects included: extensive operational reviews of the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program, legislative research, family mobilization, and event planning.
- Regular contributor to the Heartland Institute’s *School Reform News*.
- Grant reviewer for the U.S. Department of Education’s Charter School Program.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE OF INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT

Washington, DC

Associate Assistant Deputy Secretary/Senior Policy Adviser, 2007 – 2008

- Promoted education innovation initiatives to internal and external groups and supported development of the office’s program, policy and dissemination agenda.
- Prepared policy analysis and strategic direction for the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program.
- Ensured that the Office of Non-Public Education (ONPE) Office provided accurate and timely guidance, technical assistance and communications. Shepherded faith-based initiatives through the Department.
- Oversaw timely development and dissemination of the office’s publications, including Innovations in Education guides, the monthly *Innovator* e-newsletter and *Choosing a School for Your Child*.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT EDUCATION AND PARENTAL CHOICE

Tallahassee, Florida

Executive Director, 2005 – 2006

- Planned, organized and directed the implementation of Florida’s school choice programs, including charter schools, home education, virtual education, McKay Scholarship Program for students with disabilities, Corporate Tax Credit scholarship program, and the Opportunity Scholarship Program.
- Developed outreach capacity within the office to develop brochures, fact sheets, booklets and e-mail newsletters about Florida’s school choice programs. Drafted letters to the editor and opinion editorials.
- Directed strategic realignment of Florida’s 3-year \$36 million federal charter school program grants and administrative funding. Planned the annual Charter School Conference and supported Charter School Appeals Commission and Charter School Review Panel operations.
- Advised legislators regarding funding, revision or additions to choice programs and their implementation, and proposed changes in existing statutory provisions or requirements. Reported regularly to the Commissioner of Education, the Governor and the State Board of Education.

- Planned the effective utilization of available financial resources, including the Choice Office \$2.3 million operational budget. Directed 40 staff members, including a Choice Office leadership team.

THE FRASER INSTITUTE, CHILDREN FIRST: SCHOOL CHOICE TRUST

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Program Director, 2002 – 2005

- Administered and strategically marketed Children First, Canada's first privately-funded school choice program for Ontario elementary students from low-income households. Managed the program's budget, staff and volunteers and organized parent meetings. Created detailed Parent Handbook, regular newsletters and web site content.
- Planned media events and published articles and editorials about the program. Conducted media interviews and participated in televised debates. Negotiated donated advertising opportunities.
- Processed 10,000 applications for 375 tuition assistance grants over two years and allocated grants to 155 participating schools. Surveyed participating parents and schools and published findings.
- Regularly reported to donors and secured funding commitment increase of 200% during first year of program. Received a Templeton Freedom Prize for Social Entrepreneurship, an international award issued by the Atlas Economic Research Foundation.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, EDUCATION FINANCE BRANCH

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Senior Policy Adviser, 2000 – 2002

- Managed the research, analysis and public consultations for the Education Equality Task Force, a province-wide independent review of the \$14 billion provincial funding formula.
- Led the ministry's policy and funding review of the Learning Opportunities Grant, a \$204 million grant for at-risk students. Proposed options that led to a \$15 million increase for the 2002-03 school year.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Washington, DC

Budget Analyst, Committee on the Budget, 1998 – 2000

- Prepared Chairman John Kasich and key committee members for education-related committee meetings and media events. Coordinated education policy hearings for the committee.
- Advised the Speaker's education working group and the Conservative Action Team's appropriations strategy team. Acted as liaison to the House Appropriations Committee.

Legislative Assistant, U.S. Rep. Jay Dickey, 1997 – 1998

- Prepared the Congressman for Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations subcommittee hearings, meetings, and markups. Advised Congressman on social policy issues.
- Established the Congressman's district Education Advisory Committee.

EDUCATION

MAXWELL SCHOOL OF CITIZENSHIP AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Master of Public Administration, June 1997

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Cum Laude, May 1996