

JON VALANT

curriculum vitae

1775 Massachusetts Avenue, NW | Washington, DC 20036-2103
202.238.3624 | jvalant@brookings.edu

POSITIONS

Current

Director	Brown Center on Education Policy, Brookings Institution	2021-present
Senior Fellow	Governance Studies, Brookings Institution	2020-present
Nonresident Research Fellow	Education Research Alliance for New Orleans, Tulane University	2016-present

Past

Lecturer	Stanford University Graduate School of Education	2021
Fellow	Governance Studies, Brookings Institution	2016-2020
Postdoctoral Research Fellow	Education Research Alliance for New Orleans, Tulane University	2014-2016

EDUCATION

PhD	Stanford University, 2014 Educational Policy Dissertation committee: Susanna Loeb, Thomas Dee, Terry Moe, Sean Reardon, Rob Reich
MA	Stanford University, 2012 Political Science
MPP	Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, 2008 Public Policy
AB	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2004 Philosophy & Political Science

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles, Chapters, and Books

- Valant, J. (2025). Unified enrollment systems in school choice. In D. Harris (Ed.), *Live Handbook of Education Policy Research*. Association for Education Finance and Policy.
- Lincove, J. A., & Valant, J. (2024). The effects of unified school enrollment systems on school demographics and outcomes: Evidence from New Orleans' transition to a centralized school lottery. *American Educational Research Journal*, 61(4), 647-686.
- Weixler, L., Valant, J., Doromal, J. B., & Gerry, A. (2024). Increasing access in the ECE enrollment process: Evidence from an information intervention in New Orleans. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 68, 54-64.
- Weiland, C., Unterman, R., Dynarski, S., Abenavoli, R., Bloom, H., Braga, B., Faria, A.-M., Greenberg, E., Jacob, B., Lincove, J., Manship, K., McCormick, M., Miratrix, L., Monarrez, T., Morris, P., Shapiro, A., Valant, J., & Weixler, L. (2024). Lottery-based evaluations of early education programs: Opportunities and challenges for building the next generation of evidence. *AERA Open*, 10.
- Valant, J., & Lincove, J. A. (2023). Transportation inequities and school choice: How car, public transit, and school bus access affect families' options. *Educational Researcher*, 52(9), 535-543.
- Larsen, M. F., & Valant, J. (2023). The long-term effects of grade retention: Evidence on persistence through high school and college. *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*, 1-32.
- Valant, J., & Weixler, L. (2022). Informing school-choosing families about their options: A field experiment from New Orleans. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 44(4), 608-637.
- Larsen, M. F., & Valant, J. (2022). Fuzzy difference-in-discontinuities when the confounding variation is sharp: Evidence from grade retention policies. *Applied Economic Letters*, 30(15), 2009-2013.
- Barrett, N., McEachin, A., Mills, J. N., & Valant, J. (2021). Disparities and discrimination in student discipline by race and family income. *Journal of Human Resources*, 56(3), 711-748.
- Valant, J., & Newark, D. A. (2020). The word on the street or the number from the state? How parent comments and government ratings affect Americans' opinions of schools. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 30(4), 674-692.
- Weixler, L., Valant, J., Bassok, D., Doromal, J., & Gerry, A. (2020). Helping parents navigate the early childhood education enrollment process: Experimental evidence from New Orleans. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 42(3), 307-330.

- Glazerman, S., Nichols-Barrer, I., Valant, J., Chandler, J., & Burnett, A. (2020). The choice architecture of school choice websites. *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*, 2, 322-350.
- Valant, J. (2020). Good schools for a troubled democracy. *Phi Delta Kappan*, 102(3), 28-31.
- Loeb, S., & Valant, J. (2020). Economic perspectives on school choice. In M. Berends, A. Primus, & M. Springer (Eds.), *Handbook of research on school choice, 2nd edition* (pp. 3-16). New York, NY: Routledge.
- Lincove, J. A., Valant, J., & Cowen, J. M. (2018). You can't always get what you want: Capacity constraints in a choice-based school system. *Economics of Education Review*, 67, 94-109.
- Valant, J., & Newark, D. A. (2017). My kids, your kids, our kids: What parents and the public desire from schools. *Teachers College Record*, 119(12).
- Harris, D., Witte, J. F., & Valant, J. (2017). The market for schooling. *Shaping education policy: Power and process, 2nd edition* (pp. 130-161). New York, NY: Routledge.
- Valant, J., & Newark, D. A. (2016). The politics of achievement gaps: U.S. public opinion on race-based and wealth-based differences in test scores. *Educational Researcher*, 45(6), 331-346.
- Harris, D., Valant, J., & Gross, B. (2015). The New Orleans OneApp: Centralized enrollment matches students and schools of choice. *Education Next*, 15(4), 17-22.
- Loeb, S., Valant, J., & Kasman, M. (2011, March). Increasing choice in the market for schools: Recent reforms and their effects on student achievement. *National Tax Journal*, 64, 141-163.
- Merseth, K.K., Cooper, K., Roberts, J., Tieken, M.C., Valant, J., & Wynne, C. (2009). *Inside urban charter schools: Promising practices and strategies in five high-performing schools*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Manuscripts Under Review & Working Papers

- Valant, J., & Walker, B. (2025). *Setting priorities in school choice enrollment systems: Who benefits from placement algorithm preferences?*
- Porter, T., Ballard, P., Valant, J., Newark, D., Baehr, J., Hoyle, R. H., Jayawickreme, E., MacPherson, A., & Smith, M. (2025). *Developing intellectual humility in adolescence: Why it matters and how schools can help*.
- Weixler, L., Valant, J., & Fields, T. (2025). *Streamlining and supporting access to public assistance programs in Louisiana*.

Reports

- Porter, T., Valant, J., & Bayes, R. (2024). Intellectual humility: What it is and why schools need it. *Education Week*—Special report.

- Valant, J. (2023). *How does the New Orleans school placement algorithm work, and what is the best strategy for getting a preferred placement?* New Orleans, LA: Education Research Alliance for New Orleans.
- Valant, J., & Lincove, J. A. (2023). *How do families' transportation options shape school choice in New Orleans?* New Orleans, LA: Education Research Alliance for New Orleans.
- Hansen, M., Valant, J., & Zerbino, N. (2022). *Do school districts allocate more resources to economically disadvantaged students?* Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.
- Valant, J. (2022). *What happens when families whose schools close receive EdNavigator support and OneApp priority?* New Orleans, LA: Education Research Alliance for New Orleans / National Center for Research on Educational Access and Choice (cobranded).
- McKittrick, L., Lake, R., Tuchman, S., Pillow, T., Sharma, R., Valant, J., & Larsen, M. (2020). *Finding a great fit: Improving the school choice process for students with disabilities.* Seattle, WA: Center for Reinventing Public Education.
- Valant, J. (2019). *Voter vitals: What are charter schools and do they deliver.* Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.
- Kasman, M. & Valant, J. (2019). *The opportunities and risks of K-12 student placement algorithms.* Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.
- Nichols-Barrer, I., Glazerman, S., & Valant, J. (2019). Design with care: School information displays can impact school choices. *Education Next*.
- Lincove, J. A., & Valant, J. (2018). *New Orleans students' commute times by car, public transit, and school bus.* Washington, DC: Urban Institute.
- Blagg, K., Chingos, M. M., Corcoran, S. P., Cordes, S. A., Cowen, J., Denice, P., Gross, B., Lincove, J. A., Sattin-Bajaj, C., Schwartz, A. E., & Valant, J. (2018). *The road to school: How far students travel to school in the choice-rich cities of Denver, Detroit, New Orleans, New York City, and Washington, DC.* Washington, DC: Urban Institute.
- Glazerman, S., Nichols-Barrer, I., Valant, J., & Burnett, A. (2018). *Presenting school information to parents: An evidence-based guide.* Washington, DC: Institute of Education Sciences.
- Hansen, M., Levesque, E., Valant, J., & Quintero, D. (2018). *The 2018 Brown Center report on American education: How well are American students learning?.* Brookings Institution.
- Valant, J. (2014). *Better data, better decisions: Informing school choosers to improve education markets.* American Enterprise Institute white paper.
- Loeb, S., & Valant, J. (2009). Leaders for California's schools. Policy Analysis for California (PACE) Policy Brief 09-4.

Blog Posts (Selected)

- Valant, J., & Zerbino, N. (2025, May 6). How the Educational Choice for Children Act would benefit the wealthy and underserve rural America. [Blog post.] Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard.
- Meyer, K., Valant, J., & Zerbino, N. (2025, April 3). A conversation with former education secretary Miguel Cardona about COVID-19 and schools. [Blog post.] Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard.
- Meyer, K., Perera, R. M., Reber, S., & Valant, J. (2025, February 20). What does the U.S. Department of Education do? [Blog post.] Brookings.
- Meyer, K., Perera, R. M., Reber, S., & Valant, J. (2025, February 20). FAQs: The U.S. Department of Education and the Trump administration. [Blog post.] Brookings.
- Valant, J., (2024, September 24). Moving from a ‘parents’ bill of rights’ to a cross-partisan policy agenda to better support parents. [Blog post.] Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard.
- Valant, J. (2024, September 5). Democrats and Republicans on K-12 education: A comparison. [Blog post.] FixGov.
- Perera, R. M., Valant, J., & Meyer, K. (2024, August 12). Project 2025 and education: A lot of bad ideas, some more actionable than others. [Blog post.] Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard.
- Klinenberg, J., Valant, J., & Zerbino, N. (2024, May 7). Arizona’s ‘universal’ education savings account program has become a handout to the wealthy. [Blog post.] Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard.
- Sinha, S., Zerbino, N., Valant, J., & Perera R. M. (2023, October 10). Moms for Liberty: Where are they, and are they winning? [Blog post.] Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard.
- Perera, R. M., & Valant, J. (2023, June 28). The Biden administration’s updated school discipline guidelines fail to meet the moment. [Blog post.] Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard.
- Valant, J. (2022, August 29), What if Americans sour on public education. [Blog post.] Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard.
- Valant, J. (2021, November 1), It’s time to start voting in your local school board elections. [Blog post.] Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard.
- Valant, J., & Zerbino, N. (2021, September 13). Transgender students’ rights shouldn’t be subject to partisan feuds. [Blog post.] Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard.
- Valant, J. (2021, January 15). Why do so many education researchers ignore politics? [Blog post.] *Education Week*.

- Falcone, M., Quintero, D., & Valant, J. (2020, October 13). Ending corporal punishment of preschool-age children. [Blog post.] Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard.
- Valant, J. (2020, July 29). School reopening plans linked to politics rather than public health. [Blog post.] Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard.
- Valant, J. (2020, June 4). The banality of racism in education. [Blog post.] Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard.
- Meltzer, A., Quintero, D., & Valant, J. (2019, October 24). Better serving the needs of America's homeless students. [Blog post.] Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard.
- Valant, J. (2018, March 16). The barriers that make charter schools inaccessible to disadvantaged families. [Blog post.] Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard.
- Valant, J. (2017, February 7). Donald Trump, Betsy DeVos, and the changing politics of charter schools. [Blog post.] Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard.
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PRESENTATIONS

Conferences

- 2025 Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) Annual Conference
- 2024 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Fall Research Conference
 AEFP Annual Conference
- 2023 APPAM Fall Research Conference
 AEFP Annual Conference
- 2022 APPAM Fall Research Conference
 AEFP Annual Conference
- 2021 APPAM Fall Research Conference
 AEFP Annual Conference
- 2020 APPAM Fall Research Conference
 AEFP Annual Conference
- 2019 APPAM Fall Research Conference
 AEFP Annual Conference
- 2018 APPAM Fall Research Conference

- 2017 APPAM Fall Research Conference
AEFP Annual Conference
- 2016 APPAM Fall Research Conference
AEFP Annual Conference
- 2015 APPAM Fall Research Conference
Southern Economic Association (SEA) Annual Meeting
Ifo Institute / PEPG Workshop on Public Opinion and the Political Economy of Education
AEFP Annual Conference
- 2014 AEFP Annual Conference
American Educational Research Association (AERA)
- 2013 AEFP Annual Conference
- 2012 AEFP Annual Conference
- 2011 AEFP Annual Conference

Invited Presentations

- 2025 “The state of parental rights, 100 years after *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*” (panelist)
Cato Institute
- 2025 “Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip to Washington, D.C.” (featured speaker)
Association of California School Administrators & California School Boards Association
- 2025 “Public education’s future in a charged climate” (panelist)
Maryland Association of School Boards Legislative Day & Reception
- 2025 “Defunding the U.S. Department of Education” (podcast guest)
Association of California School Administrators Legislative Lunch Break
- 2025 “American education and the role of think tanks” (panelist)
Federal Policy Institute - Teachers College, Columbia University
- 2024 “How to stand up to Project 2025 and save public education” (podcast guest)
Assembly Required with Stacey Abrams
- 2024 “What will a second Trump term mean for public education?” (podcast guest)
Have You Heard podcast
- 2024 “Tampon Tim, school choice, and pop girl summer” (podcast guest)
Pantsuit Politics

- 2024 “Barriers in school choice enrollment processes: How policies and politics shape which students can access which schools”
Johns Hopkins School of Education
- 2024 “The first year of Equitable Access: An examination of common lottery outcomes for at-risk students” (panelist)
DC Policy Center
- 2024 “American education and the role of think tanks” (panelist)
Federal Policy Institute - Teachers College, Columbia University
- 2023 “Can the Democrats win on education?” (podcast guest)
Have You Heard podcast
- 2023 “Demystifying the New Orleans school admissions process: What we’ve learned about the NCAP school lottery and student priority categories”
Tulane University, Education Research Alliance for New Orleans
- 2023 “The state of U.S. schools and education policy”
Brookings Institution Board of Trustees
- 2023 “When schools choose students: Biases, challenges, and opportunities in school choice placement algorithms”
University of Virginia, School of Education and Human Development
- 2023 “The role of school boundaries in the District of Columbia” (opening remarks)
DC Policy Center
- 2023 “Navigating the journal submission process and R&Rs”
AEFP doctoral student community group
- 2022 “Increasing early education access by addressing barriers and supporting families”
New Orleans Collaborative for Early Childhood Research
- 2021 “The evolution of private school choice”
Education Commission of the States (ECS) Virtual Forum on Education Policy
- 2020 “Consequences of student placement policies in a choice-based school system”
National Center for Research on Education Access and Choice (REACH) annual meeting
- 2019 “Identifying the causes of student discipline disparities”
University of Virginia, EdPolicyWorks Speaker Series
- 2019 “System-wide school choice reforms: Lessons from Qatar and New Orleans”
Tulane University, Education Research Alliance for New Orleans
- 2019 “The causes and consequences of student discipline disparities”
University of Nevada, Las Vegas / Brookings Mountain West

- 2019 “Party pivot: Why Democrats are rethinking school choice” (podcast guest)
Have You Heard podcast
- 2018 Education lunch session
National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Legislative Summit
- 2017 “Disparities in student discipline by race and family income”
Lafayette College, Department of Economics
- 2017 “Socially promoted, academically retained: The effects of nuanced grade retention policies”
Urban Institute, Education Policy Brown Bag Seminar
- 2015 “The word on the street or the number from the state? How parent comments and government ratings affect Americans’ opinions of schools”
University of Southern Denmark, Strategic Organization Design Unit seminar series
- 2015 “Empowering parents and voters for K-12 education reform”
American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research
- 2014 “School choice and family behaviors”
Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education, Washington, DC
- 2013 “About what and from whom? How the provision of information affects school choice”
University of California-Berkeley, POME Seminar in Education Policy and Research
Methods

Brookings Public Events & Podcasts

- 2025 Panel (host): “The future of the U.S. Department of Education: A conversation with three former U.S. education secretaries”

Panel (host): “Bringing the kids back: New strategies for addressing chronic absenteeism in schools”
- 2024 Panel (moderator): “Back to school in an election year”

Podcast (guest): “Does my vote really matter?”

Panel (panelist): “Education and AI: Achieving equity and respecting the rights of students”
- 2023 Panel (host): “The future of charter schools in the United States”
- 2022 Panel (moderator): “Empowering parents to support their children’s development”
- 2021 Panel (moderator): “From COVID-19 to culture wars: The growing hostility of education politics”

Podcast (guest): “What does back-to-school look like during COVID?”

Panel (moderator): “The future of early childhood education after COVID-19”

- Panel (panelist): “Analyzing Biden’s first 100 days”
- 2020 Panel (moderator): “School choice in a time of transition”
- Podcast (guest): “What has COVID-19 taught us about the digital and opportunity divides in America’s schools?”
- Panel (moderator): “Charter school city”
- Panel (panelist): “What to expect from the 2020 State of the Union”
- 2019 Panel (host): “What does the 2020 election mean for education policy in the United States?”
- Panel (panelist): “Addressing America’s 21st-century problems”
- 2018 Panel (panelist): “What to expect from Donald Trump’s first State of the Union address”
- 2017 Panel (panelist): “Outcomes and challenges in US cities with public school choice”
- 2016 Panel (panelist): “Examining charter schools in America”
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GRANTS & CONTRACTS

- 2025-2026 “Literacy practices in Louisiana charter schools”
(Co-PI; PI: Dr. Lindsay Weixler)
MIT Blueprint Labs Charter School Research Collaborative
Award: \$86,157
- 2024-2026 “Exploring early-grade literacy skills as predictors of high school and college success”
(Co-PI; PI: Dr. Lindsay Weixler)
Student Upward Mobility Initiative—Urban Institute
Award: \$157,342
- 2023-2026 “Building a foundation for the study of intellectual humility in education”
(with Dr. Tenelle Porter)
John Templeton Foundation
Award: \$861,736
- 2023-2026 “U.S. school boards in a time of conflict and consequence”
(Principal investigator)
Spencer Foundation
Award: \$359,484

2023-2026	<p>“Improving early grade academic outcomes in Louisiana” (Co-PI; PI: Dr. Lindsay Weixler) Institute for Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education Award: \$999,948</p>
2023-2024	<p>“Streamlining and supporting access to public assistance programs in Louisiana” (Co-PI; PI: Dr. Lindsay Weixler) National Science Foundation – Civic Innovation Challenge, Stage 2 Award: \$999,888</p>
2022-2023	<p>“Streamlining and supporting access to public assistance programs in Louisiana” (Co-PI; PI: Dr. Lindsay Weixler) National Science Foundation – Civic Innovation Challenge, Stage 1 Award: \$49,997</p>
2021-2022	<p>“K-12 intra-district finance research” (Principal investigator, with Dr. Michael Hansen) The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Award: \$230,000</p>
2018-2023	<p>“The National Center for Research on Education Access and Choice” (Co-PI; PI: Dr. Douglas Harris) Institute for Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education Award: \$9,998,565</p>
2019-2021	<p>“The New Orleans Early Education Research Alliance” (Co-investigator; PI: Dr. Lindsay Weixler) Institute for Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education Award (total grant): \$399,998</p>
2017-2020	<p>“Simplifying school choice: Improving support for low-income families” (Principal investigator) Walton Family Foundation Award: \$399,017</p>
2015-2018	<p>“Parent information and school choice evaluation” (Co-PI; PI: Dr. Steve Glazerman) Institute for Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education Award: \$1,594,337</p>
2013-2014	<p>NAEd/Spencer Dissertation Fellow National Academy of Education / Spencer Foundation Award: \$25,000</p>

2009-2013 IES Predoctoral Fellow, Stanford Interdisciplinary Doctoral Training Program in
Quantitative Education Policy Analysis
Institute for Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education

TEACHING

Spring 2021 ED271X: Education Policy in the United States
Graduate-level course designed and taught virtually as Lecturer at Stanford GSE
Course evaluation “mean of means”: 4.95/5.0 (department/school average: 4.31/5.0)
Course evaluation “quality of the instruction”: 5.0/5.0

Spring 2013 ED271X: Education Policy in the United States
Course Assistant (Instructor: Susanna Loeb), Stanford University

Winter 2011 ED255B/SOC257: Causal Inference in Quantitative Educ. & Social Science Research
Teaching Assistant (Instructor: Sean Reardon), Stanford University

Winter 2010 ED255B/SOC257: Causal Inference in Quantitative Educ. & Social Science Research
Teaching Assistant (Instructor: Sean Reardon), Stanford University

Winter 2010 ED347: The Economics of Higher Education
Course Assistant (Instructor: Eric Bettinger), Stanford University

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & RECOGNITION

Editor, Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard blog
Research council member, DC Education Research Collaborative
Research partner, National Center for Research on Education Access and Choice (REACH)
Editorial board, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis
Editorial board, Educational Researcher
Steering committee, Brookings’ Global Task Force on AI in Education
Advisory board, Education Policy Initiative, DC Policy Center
Search committees, Brookings VP positions
Board of Directors, Association for Education Finance and Policy (2022-2025)
AERA Outstanding Reviewer Award (2020)
AERA Outstanding Reviewer Award (2019)
Mentor, Brookings Mentorship Program
Working group, New Orleans Schools Unification Task Force
Emerging Education Policy Scholars program
Stanford University Laboratory for the Study of American Values

Reviewer:

AERA Open, American Educational Research Journal, Economics of Education Review, EdNext, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, Education Finance and Policy, Educational Researcher, Journal of Human Resources, Public Finance Review, Urban Education

Research and commentary featured in (selected):

The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, The Economist, The Atlantic, The New Yorker, ABC News, NBC News, CBS News, 60 Minutes, NPR (e.g., 1A, Here & Now, Marketplace, Morning Edition), PBS NewsHour, CNN, CNN International, C-SPAN (Washington Journal), CNBC, Associated Press, Reuters, ProPublica, The New Republic, The Guardian, Politico, Newsweek, US News, Yahoo News, The Hill, Vox, Congressional Quarterly, Mother Jones, HuffPost, The Nation, The Arizona Republic, The Boston Globe, Chicago Tribune, Houston Chronicle, The Los Angeles Times, New Orleans Times-Picayune, New York Post, The Philadelphia Inquirer, San Francisco Chronicle, Tampa Bay Times, EdWeek, Chalkbeat, Inside Higher Ed, and The74.
