

Stephen M. Ponisciak, Ph.D.  
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Notre Dame, IN 46556

## **Employment**

### **Institute for Educational Initiatives, University of Notre Dame**

IEI Research Scientist, March 2020-present; research associate, October 2015-March 2020. Compared student outcomes in Catholic and public schools via matching methods. Estimated student growth models; analyzed survey data using Rasch analysis; summarized assessment results for school leaders and IEI stakeholders; engaged with school leaders and test vendors on data issues; contributed statistical analyses to evaluations in IEI and university departments; submitted journal articles for review and publication. IEI Affiliate Fellow, 2019-present.

### **Value Added Research Center, Wisconsin Center for Education Research, University of Wisconsin**

Associate director, March 2015-December 2015. Embedded researcher at Chicago Public Schools, February 2008-December 2015. Project lead for CPS value-added project: Identified data needs, documented gaps in data availability, data quality concerns, and other obstacles to achieving research goals. Collected and cleaned data for value-added project, and estimated value-added models. Prepared reports for public dissemination and funding agencies. Assisted in design, development and support of value-added training materials and technical documentation for district staff and stakeholders. Created budgets and project plans. Provided technical assistance for school districts with Teacher Incentive Fund grants.

### **Education Analytics, Madison, Wisc.**

Fellow, March 2013-December 2015. Assisted in design, development and support of student growth training materials and professional development presentations for administrators, principals and teachers. Consulted with districts and unions on the use of student growth models in evaluation. Conducted analyses of value-added results and teacher observational ratings.

### **Consortium on Chicago School Research, University of Chicago**

Senior research analyst, October 2002-February 2008. Compared student performance on achievement tests, used hierarchical linear models to study student achievement, teacher mobility, and evaluate specific programs and initiatives.

## **Education**

Ph.D., Statistics, 2002, Duke University  
B.S., Mathematics, 1998, University of Notre Dame

## **Awards**

AERA Division H Outstanding Publication for 2010, Category 4: Planning, Policy, or Management Research, for *The Schools Teachers Leave: Teacher Mobility in Chicago Public Schools*, with Elaine Allensworth and Christopher Mazzeo

## Publications

Kowalski, M., Lichon, K., and Ponisciak, S. (Under review). Measuring Instructional Competence for Teaching English Language Learners. *TESOL Journal*.

Ponisciak, S.M. and Dallavis, J.W. (In Press). Student Achievement Growth Before and During COVID-19: Comparing In-Person and Remote Learning in Catholic and Public Schools. *Journal of Catholic Education*.

Dallavis, J.W., and Ponisciak, S.M. (2024). COVID-19 Disruptions and Choice: Student Movement and Academic Outcomes in Indiana during the Pandemic. *Journal of School Choice*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15582159.2024.2386745>

Dallavis, J.W., and Ponisciak, S.M. (2023). Catholic and Public Schools Compared: Examining Achievement Growth in an Urban Center. *Religion & Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15507394.2023.2268486>

Kowalski, M., Dallavis, J.W., Ponisciak, S.M., and Svarovsky, G.N. (2023). Measuring Students' Sense of School Catholic Identity. *Journal of Catholic Education*, 26(1).

Ponisciak, S., and Morris, K. (2023). Increasing student access to and teacher training for Advanced Placement courses. *Journal of Advanced Academics*, 34(3-4).

Ponisciak, S.M. and Dallavis, J.W. (2022). Student Performance on Renaissance Star Assessments in Catholic and Public Schools. *Religion & Education*, 49(2).

Dallavis, J., Kuhfeld, M., Tarasawa, E., and Ponisciak, S. (2021). Achievement Growth in K-8 Catholic Schools with NWEA Data. *Journal of Catholic Education*, 24(2).

Kowalski, M., and Ponisciak, S. (2021). No Good Options: Analysis of Catholic School Reopening Plans in Fall 2020. *Journal of Catholic Education*, 24(1).

Ponisciak, S. (2021). Surveys, Achievement, and Enrollment: Strengthening and Sustaining Catholic Schools. *Journal of Research on Christian Education*, 30(2).

Ponisciak, S., Meyer, R., Brown, A., and Schatzberg, T. (2020). Trade-Offs in the Implementation of Observational Ratings Systems. *Journal of Applied Measurement*, 21(1).

Ponisciak, S. and Kowalski, M. (2019). Rasch Analysis of Catholic School Survey Data. *Journal of Applied Measurement*, 20(3).

Kowalski, M., Ponisciak, S., and Svarovsky, G. (2018). *The University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education Teaching Fellows Program: Evaluation of Outcomes and Impact, 2015-2017*. Notre Dame, IN: Program Evaluation and Research, Alliance for Catholic Education, University of Notre Dame.

Milanowski, A., Ristow, L., Finster, M., McKibben, C., Doll, M., Lewandowski, H., Roseland, D., White, B., Carl, B., Gawade, N., Kang, H., Marlin, M., Meyer, R., Ponisciak, S., Steele, C., and Wang, Y. (2016). *Evaluation of the Illinois Performance Evaluation Reform Act: Final Report*. Rockville, MD: Westat.

Allensworth, E., Ponisciak, S., and Mazzeo, C. (2009). *The Schools Teachers Leave: Teacher Mobility in Chicago Public Schools*. Consortium on Chicago School Research.

Easton, J., Ponisciak, S., and Luppescu, S. (2008). *From High School to the Future: The Pathway to 20*. Consortium on Chicago School Research.

Hart, H., Sporte, S., Ponisciak, S., Stevens, W., and Cambronne, A. (2008). *Teacher and Principal Leadership in Chicago: Ongoing Analyses of Preparation Programs*. Consortium on Chicago School Research.

Allensworth, E., Correa, M., and Ponisciak, S. (2008). *From High School to the Future: ACT Preparation--Too Much, Too Late*. Consortium on Chicago School Research.

Hart, H., Ponisciak, S., Sporte, S., and Stevens, W. (2006). *Principal and Teacher Leadership in Chicago: Continuing Analysis of Three Initiatives*. Consortium on Chicago School Research.

Ponisciak, S. (2005). *Understanding the Prairie State Achievement Exam: A Descriptive Report with Analysis of Student Performance*. Consortium on Chicago School Research.

Ponisciak, S. and Bryk, A. (2005). "Value-Added Analysis of the Chicago Public Schools: An Application of Hierarchical Models," in *Value Added Models in Education: Theory and Applications*, edited by Robert Lissitz. Maple Grove, MN: JAM Press.

Correa, M., Easton, J., Johnson, O., Ponisciak, S., and Rosenkranz, T. (2004). *Selected Indicators from the U.S. Census and Chicago Public Schools Records Related to the Lives and Schooling of Children*. Consortium on Chicago School Research.

Sebring, P., Sporte, S., Ponisciak, S., and Allensworth, E. (2004). *Principal and Teacher Leadership in Chicago: Early Evidence on Two Initiatives*. Consortium on Chicago School Research.

Easton, J., Correa, M., Luppescu, S., Park, H., Ponisciak, S., Rosenkranz, T., and Sporte, S. (2003). *How Do They Compare? ITBS and ISAT Reading and Mathematics in the Chicago Public Schools, 1999 to 2002*. Consortium on Chicago School Research.

Ponisciak, S. and Johnson, V. (2003). "Bayesian Analysis of Essay Grading" in *Automated Essay Scoring: A Cross-disciplinary Perspective*, edited by Mark Shermis and Jill Burstein. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

## **Conference Presentations**

American Educational Research Association (2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2015, 2016, 2023)  
American Evaluation Association (2018)  
Association for Education Finance and Policy (2012, 2014, 2021, 2024)  
Association of Teacher Educators (2007)  
Case Studies in Bayesian Statistics (1999, 2001)  
Conference on Chicago Research and Public Policy (2004)  
Council of Chief State School Officers (2004)  
Illinois Education Research Symposium (2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2014)  
Institute for Education Sciences (2006, 2008)  
National Catholic Education Association (2022 Catholic Leadership Summit, 2023 Convention)  
Joint Statistical Meetings (2001, 2003, 2005, 2007)  
Michigan Educational Research Association (2007)  
Seventh Valencia International Meeting on Bayesian Statistics (2002)  
Value Added Models conference, University of Maryland (2004)

## **Service to Profession**

Conference proposal reviewer: American Educational Research Association, American Evaluation Association  
Member of editorial board, *Journal of Catholic Education*, 2021-2022  
Member of Illinois State Board of Education Performance Evaluation Advisory Council, 2010-18  
Reviewer: *Educational and Psychological Measurement*; *The Future of Test-Based Educational Accountability*, Routledge, 2008; *International Journal of Educational Development*; *Journal of Applied Measurement*; *Journal of Education Human Resources*