

R. Joseph Waddington
Curriculum Vitae

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS & EMPLOYMENT

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

Institute for Educational Initiatives

Director, Program Evaluation and Research, 2023-present

Associate Professor of the Practice, 2023-present

Faculty Affiliate, Lucy Family Institute for Data and Society

Faculty Affiliate, Notre Dame Population Analytics

Faculty Affiliate, Program for Interdisciplinary Educational Research

University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Department of Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation, College of Education

Associate Professor (with tenure), 2021-23

Assistant Professor, 2015-21

Martin School of Public Policy and Administration

Associate Professor (by courtesy), 2021-23

Assistant Professor (by courtesy), 2017-21

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

Institute for Educational Initiatives and Alliance for Catholic Education

Research Associate, Program Evaluation and Research, 2014-15

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Institute for Educational Initiatives, 2012-14

Affiliate, Institute for Educational Initiatives, 2012-15

EDUCATION

University of Michigan School of Education, Ann Arbor, MI

Ph.D., Educational Studies (specialization in Quantitative Research Methods in Education), 2012

Dissertation: *Urban Catholic Schools in Expanding Charter School Markets: Enrollment Shifts and School Closures.*

Committee: Brian McCall (chair), Stephen DesJardins, Susan Dynarski, Valerie Lee

University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School, Ann Arbor, MI

M.A., Statistics, 2012

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

B.S., Chemistry, 2007

TOPICAL & METHODOLOGICAL INTERESTS

K-12 School Choice Programs and Policies

K-12 Education Policy

K-12 Catholic Schools

Causal Inference

Quasi-Experimental Methods

Mixed Methods

PUBLICATIONS ([Google Scholar Profile](#))

(*Author order determined randomly; each author contributed equally.)

Refereed Journal Articles

- *Ferrare, J. J., Waddington, R. J., Zimmer, R., & Berends, M. (online first). The impacts of virtual charter high schools on secondary and postsecondary outcomes: Opening up the black box. *Educational Researcher*. ([link](#))
- Roberts, A. C., Sampson, S. O., & Waddington, R. J. (2025). Exploring differences in school climate among school types. *Journal of Research in Education*, 33(1), 2-28. ([link](#))
- Kwok, A., Waddington, J., Davis, J., Halabi, S., Huston, D., & Hemsley, R. (2025). Beginning teachers and strategies for asset-based pedagogy. *American Journal of Education*, 131(2), 237-270. ([link](#))
- *Waddington, R. J., Zimmer, R., & Berends, M. (2024). Cream skimming and push out of voucher students in Indiana. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 46(4), 795-803. ([link](#))
- Shepley, C. & Waddington, R. J. (2024). Examining the impact of NCLB alternate assessment policies on the post-school outcomes of individuals with significant cognitive disabilities. *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, 62(1), 1-13. ([link](#))
- *Ferrare, J. J., Waddington, R. J., Fitzpatrick, B., & Berends, M. (2023). Insufficient accountability? Heterogeneous effects of charter schools across authorizing agencies. *American Educational Research Journal*, 60(4), 696-734. ([link](#))
- Robersshaw, K., Bradley, K. D., & Waddington, R. J. (2022). Parents' awareness and perspectives of school choice scale: Psychometric evidence using Rasch modeling. *Journal of School Choice*, 16(2), 275-305. ([link](#))
- *Fitzpatrick, B., Berends, M., Ferrare, J. J., & Waddington, R. J. (2020). Virtual illusion: Comparing student achievement and teacher characteristics in online and brick-and-mortar charter schools. *Educational Researcher*, 49(3), 161-175. ([link](#))
- *Austin, M., Waddington, R. J., & Berends, M. (2019). Voucher pathways and student achievement in Indiana's Choice Scholarship Program. *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*, 5(3), 20-40. ([link](#))
- *Waddington, R. J. & Berends, M. (2018). Impact of the Indiana Choice Scholarship Program: Achievement effects for students in upper elementary and middle school. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 37(4), 783-808. ([link](#))
- *Berends, M. & Waddington, R. J. (2018). School choice in Indianapolis: Effects of charter, magnet, private, and traditional public schools. *Education Finance and Policy*, 13(2), 227-255. ([link](#))
- Waddington, R. J., Nam, S., Lonn, S., & Teasley, S. D. (2016). Improving early warning systems with categorized course resource usage. *Journal of Learning Analytics*, 3(3), 263-290. ([link](#))

Books

- Berends, M., Waddington, R. J., & Schoenig, J. A. (Eds.) (2019). *School choice at the crossroads: Research perspectives*. New York, NY: Routledge. ([link](#))

Book Chapters

Sampson, S. O., Bradley, K. D., & Waddington, R. J. (2023). Setting up to thrive by anchoring in evaluation. In J. S. Keengwe (Ed.), *Handbook of research on innovative frameworks and inclusive models for online learning*. Hershey, PA: IGI Global. ([link to book](#))

Waddington, R. J. (2023). Trending topic: Teaching difference-in-differences in a quasi-experimental methods course. In A. L. Terosky, V. Baker, and J. Sun (Eds.), *A practical guide to teaching research methods in education: Lesson plans and advice from faculty* (pp. 132-139). New York, NY: Routledge. ([link to book](#))

*Berends, M., Waddington, R. J., & Austin, M. (2023). School vouchers in Indiana: Policy shifts and their implications for economically disadvantaged families and students of color. In K. G. Welner, G. Orfield, & L. A. Huerta (Eds.), *The school voucher illusion: Exposing the pretense of equity* (pp. 173-196). New York, NY: Teachers College Press. ([link to book](#))

Waddington, R. J. (2020). Social context of vouchers. In M. Berends, A. Primus, & M. G. Springer (Eds.), *Handbook of research on school choice* (2nd ed.) (pp. 202-213). New York, NY: Routledge. ([link to book](#))

*Berends, M. & Waddington, R. J. (2019). Scaling up and sustaining charter school effects. In M. Berends, R. J. Waddington, & J. A. Schoenig (Eds.), *School choice at the crossroads: Research perspectives* (pp. 148-170). New York, NY: Routledge. ([link to book](#))

Krumm, A. E., Waddington, R. J., Teasley, S. D., & Lonn, S. (2014). Using data from a learning management system to support academic advising in undergraduate engineering education. In J. Larusson & B. White (Eds.), *Learning analytics from research to practice: Methods, tools, and approaches* (pp. 103-122). New York, NY: Springer. ([link to book](#))

Other Publications

McConnell Parsons, J., Xia, Y., Waddington, R. J., Sampson, S. (2022). *Read to achieve: 2021 to 2022 annual evaluation report*. Lexington, KY: Evaluation Center, University of Kentucky.

Potterton, A., Waddington, R. J., & LaCour, S. E. (2021, February 26). Tax credit proposal is really a plan for private school vouchers in Kentucky [Editorial]. *Louisville Courier-Journal*. ([link](#))

*Fitzpatrick, B., Berends, M., Ferrare, J. J., & Waddington, R. J. (2020). Virtual charter schools and online learning during COVID-19: An imperfect comparison. Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution. ([link](#))

Jensen, J., Waddington, R. J., & Berry, S. (2018). *FLEXspace year four evaluation report*. Report prepared for the United States Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education First in the World Program.

MacLennan, A., Johannessen, J., Waggoner, J., Waddington, J., & Lubeck, A. (2018). *Long-term bluff recession rates in Puget Sound: Implications for the prioritization and design of restoration projects*. Bellingham, WA: Coastal Geologic Services, Inc. ([link](#))

Berends, M., Waddington, R. J., & Austin, M. J. (2018). Lessons learned from Indiana (from forum: Taking stock of private-school choice). *Education Next*, 18(2), 50-51, 60-63. ([link](#))

Jensen, J., Horohov, J., Wright, C., Waddington, R. J. (2016). *Online2Workforce final evaluation report*. Report prepared for the United States Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Act Community College Career Training Program.

MANUSCRIPTS IN SUBMISSION

Waddington, R. J., Kwok, A., Huston, D., Mitchell, D., & Hemsley, R. Induction coach matching and novice teacher retention. Revise and Resubmit at *Educational Studies*.

Kwok, A., Davis, J., Halabi, S., Waddington, R. J., Huston, D., & Hemsley, R. Equity orientations of novice teachers. Under review at *The Urban Review*.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

(Only projects with working papers listed. Ordered by readiness for submission to peer-reviewed journals.)

*Waddington, R. J., Berends, M., Ferrare, J. J., Zimmer, R., & Jin, R. Estimating the impact of Indiana's private school voucher program on high school outcomes and college enrollment.

Felegi, B. & Waddington, R. J. Evaluating the impact of vouchers on peer interactions in private schools using mixed methods.

*Waddington, R. J., Berends, M., Austin, M. J., & Ferrare, J. J., & Zimmer, R. The expansion of eligibility in Indiana's voucher program and impacts on participation, sorting, and segregation.

*Berends, M., Waddington, R. J., Dallavis, J. W., Roberts, A. C., & Fitzpatrick, B. Understanding differences in school effectiveness indicators across sectors.

*Waddington, R. J., Zimmer, R., Jin, R., Ferrare, J. J., & Berends, M. Comparing the educational attainment impacts of charters and vouchers in a statewide system of school choice.

*Waddington, R. J. & Berends, M. Vouchers in the crossroads: Heterogeneous impacts on achievement and attendance across private schools in Indiana.

ACTIVE PROJECTS

Waddington, R. J., Dougherty, S., Dallavis, J., & Sanchez, K. Vouchers, Catholic schools, and teacher workforce dynamics: Evidence from Indiana.

*Ferrare, J. J., Fitzpatrick, B., Berends, M., Waddington, R. J., & Zimmer, R. The mediating effects of high school course taking and the voucher impacts on educational attainment.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Co-Principal Investigator, Charter School Performance and Practices After the COVID-19 Pandemic. MIT Blueprint Labs Charter School Research Collaborative. PI: Ron Zimmer, University of Kentucky. \$309,520, 2025-26. ([link](#))

Co-Investigator, Districtwide School Choice: Lessons from Indianapolis, Smith Richardson Foundation. PI: Marcus Winters, Boston University. \$271,267, 2023-25.

Co-Investigator, Evaluation of Kentucky's statewide full-service community schools program, U.S. Department of Education via Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence. PI: Shannon Sampson, University of Kentucky. \$3,283,392, 2023-27. (left project upon UK departure) ([link](#))

Co-Principal Investigator, School Improvement in Indiana: Exploring Differences among Charter, Magnet, Private, and Traditional Public High Schools, Institute for Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. PI: Mark Berends, University of Notre Dame. \$540,648, 2019-22. Award Number R305A190340. ([link](#))

Co-Principal Investigator, School Choice in Indiana: An Examination of Impacts and the Conditions under which Choice is Effective, Lyle Spencer Research Award, Spencer Foundation. PI: Mark Berends, University of Notre Dame. \$999,024, 2015-19. Award Number 201600089. ([link](#))

AWARDS AND HONORS

AERA Research on Teacher Induction SIG Paper of the Year for “Induction coach matching and novice teacher retention” (with A. Kwok, D. Huston, D. Mitchell, and R. Hemsley), 2024
Institute for Educational Initiatives “Soup-er Bowl” Cookoff Champion, 2024
Teacher Who Made a Difference Award, University of Kentucky College of Education, 2018
Outstanding Dissertation Award, AERA Catholic Education SIG, 2013

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (last seven years)

- 2025 Association for Education Finance and Policy (March, Washington, DC)
- 2024 Association for Education Finance and Policy (March, Baltimore, MD); Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (November, National Harbor, MD)
- 2023 Association for Education Finance and Policy (March, Denver, CO); American Educational Research Association (April, Chicago, IL)
- 2022 Association for Education Finance and Policy (March, Denver, CO); Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (November, Washington, DC)
- 2021 Association for Education Finance and Policy (March, online due to COVID-19)
- 2020 International School Choice and Reform Conference (January, Fort Lauderdale, FL); Association for Education Finance and Policy (March, online due to COVID-19); American Educational Research Association (paper accepted/conference canceled due to COVID-19); American Sociological Association (August, online due to COVID-19), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (November, online due to COVID-19)
- 2019 Association for Education Finance and Policy (March, Kansas City, MO)

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND PANEL PARTICIPATION (last seven years)

- 2024 Texas A&M University (August, College Station, TX); Center for Research on Educational Opportunity (March, Notre Dame, IN); Notre Dame Population Analytics Mini-Conference (April, Notre Dame, IN)
- 2023 Program for Interdisciplinary Educational Research Colloquium (November, Notre Dame, IN)
- 2020 Community of Applied Research and Evaluation (October, Lexington, KY)
- 2019 Alliance for Catholic Education Reform Leaders’ Summit (January, Tampa, FL)

MEDIA & OTHER PUBLIC CITATIONS

Insufficient accountability? Heterogeneous effects of charter schools across authorizing agencies (with Joseph Ferrare, Brian Fitzpatrick, & Mark Berends) [School Matters Indiana](#).

“Cream skimming and push out of voucher students in Indiana” (with Ron Zimmer & Mark Berends). [Brookings Institution](#), [FutureEd](#), [Fordham Institute](#), [School Matters Indiana](#).

“Virtual illusion: Comparing student achievement and teacher characteristics in online and brick-and-mortar charter schools” (with Brian Fitzpatrick, Mark Berends, & Joseph Ferrare). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (previous version of COVID-19 guidance for K-12 schools), [Chalkbeat](#), [Charleston Gazette-Mail](#), [New York Times](#), [USA Today](#), [WSBT CBS 22 South Bend](#), [WTVQ ABC 36 South Bend](#), [School Matters Indiana](#), [Diane Ravitch’s blog](#).

“A closer look at the future of charter schools in Kentucky.” [WKYT Lexington](#).

“Impact of the Indiana Scholarship Program: Achievement effects for students in upper elementary and middle school” (with Mark Berends). Published version: [Chalkbeat](#), [CT Mirror](#), [Forbes](#), [Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#), [Indiana Public Media](#), [KUER 90.1 NPR Utah](#), [Politico](#), [Public News Service](#), [School Matters Indiana](#), [South Bend Tribune](#), [WFYI Indianapolis](#). Working paper release: [National Public Radio](#), [New York Times](#), [Washington Post](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [Chicago Tribune](#), [Education Week](#), [U.S. News & World Report](#), [Time](#), [National Review](#), [The 74](#), [Chalkbeat](#), [Indianapolis Business Journal](#), [Indianapolis Star](#), [School Matters Indiana](#), [Fort Wayne Gazette](#), [Fort Wayne News Sentinel](#), [Common Dreams](#), [WBOI & Indiana Public Media](#), WVPE NPR South Bend, [WBAA NPR Purdue University](#), [WSBT CBS 22 South Bend](#), [Lexington Herald-Leader](#), [Chad Hartman CBS Radio Minnesota](#), [Diane Ravitch’s blog](#), [California Political Review](#).

“School choice in Indianapolis: Effects of charter, magnet, private, and traditional public schools” (with Mark Berends). [National Public Radio](#), [School Matters Indiana](#).

TEACHING (instructor of record unless otherwise noted)

University of Notre Dame Education, Schooling, and Society Program, Notre Dame, IN

“School Choice Perspectives” (ESS 30634), 2x, most recent Fall 2024

“Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Lab” (ESS 47602), 2x, most recent Spring 2014

University of Kentucky College of Education, Lexington, KY

“Research Design and Analysis in Education” (EPE/EDP 660), 19x, most recent Summer 2023

“Advanced Quantitative Methods” Special Topics Series (EPE/EDP 711)

“Causal and Quasi-Experimental Methods in Educational Research,” 4x, most recent Spring 2023

“Categorical Data Analysis,” Spring 2018

“Gathering, Analyzing, and Using Educational Data II” (EPE/EDP 558), 4x, most recent Spring 2023

“Gathering, Analyzing, and Using Educational Data I” (EPE/EDP 557), 2x, most recent Fall 2022

“Seminar in Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation” Special Topics Series (EPE 525/773)

“Education Policy Studies Seminar” MIC Program, 3x, most recent Fall 2021

“School Choice: Theoretical Perspectives and Educational Outcomes,” Spring 2019

“Advanced Writing Seminar in Educational Research: Manuscript Writing” (EPE 671), Winter 2020

“Advanced Topics and Methods of Evaluation” (EPE/EDP/ANT 621), Fall 2016

Graz University of Technology Inst. of Business Economics & Industrial Sociology, Graz, AT

“Designing Empirical Research and Telling its Story” Workshop, 2017

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, Ann Arbor, MI

“Introduction to R” Workshop, 2016

“Introduction to OLS Regression” Workshop (Bethesda, MD), 2015

“Introduction to Statistics and Data Analysis II” Four-Week Course, 2014

Learning Analytics Summer Institute (LASI), Ann Arbor, MI

Co-Leader (with Andrew Krumm, SRI International), “Feature Engineering” Workshop, 2016

ADVISING (first positions or further graduate study listed in parentheses)

University of Notre Dame

Undergraduate Thesis in Education, Schooling, and Society

Lillian Ryan (joint with Glynn Honors Program), 2025 (teacher, Teach for America)

University of Kentucky

Completed Doctoral Dissertations, Chair/Co-Chair (5)

Mia Morales, Educational Evaluation & Policy, 2023 (program consultant, Kentucky Dept. of Educ.)

Rebecca Tucker, Educational Evaluation & Policy, 2022 (co) (researcher, Berea Coll. Partners for Ed.)

Rui Jin, Educational Evaluation & Policy, 2021 (co) (researcher, Shenzhen University)

Jie Dai, Educational Evaluation & Policy, 2020 (co) (researcher, KY Council on Postsecondary Educ.)
Audrey Roberts, Educational Evaluation & Policy, 2019 (co) (faculty, Bowling Green State University)

Completed Doctoral Dissertations, Committee Member (15)

Yuyan Xia, Educational Evaluation & Policy, 2023 (post-doc, University of Kentucky)
Allison Johnson, Educational Policy Studies, Measurement, and Eval., 2023 (Kentucky Dept. of Educ.)
Jing Zhang, Quantitative & Psychometric Methods in Education, 2023 (post-doc, Univ. of Kentucky)
Nan Li, Educational Evaluation & Policy, 2022 (management analyst, State of Nevada)
Chen Qiu, Quantitative & Psychometric Methods, 2022 (researcher, ACT, Inc.)
Paris Wheeler, Counseling Psychology, 2022 (faculty, University of Cincinnati)
Evisa Bogdani, Accounting, 2022 (faculty, Northeastern University)
Catherine Vannatter, Educational Leadership, 2022 (administration, Fayette County Public Schools)
Valbona Sulcaj, Accounting, 2021 (faculty, University of Texas El-Paso)
Katherine Robersshaw, Educational Evaluation & Policy, 2021 (faculty, Eastern Kentucky University)
Ben Montemayor, Kinesiology/Health Promotion, 2020 (post-doc, Virginia Commonwealth University)
Cory Curl, Public Policy, 2020 (faculty, University of Kentucky)
Donna Brown, Educational Leadership, 2020 (administration, Archdiocese of Louisville)
Collin Shepley, Early Childhood Education, 2019 (faculty, University of Kentucky)
Justin Blevins, Higher Education, 2017 (staff, University of Kentucky)

Completed Masters Program, Advisor and Scholarly Paper Chair (8)

Rosanna Napoleon, Educational Policy Studies, 2023 (staff, Berea College)
Spencer Crawford, Educational Policy Studies, 2022 (doctoral student, University of Kentucky)
Mary Littlepage, Research Methods in Education, 2022 (doctoral student, University of Kentucky)
Dorothy Ross, Research Methods in Education, 2022 (staff, University of Kentucky)
Hannah Edelen, Educational Policy Studies, 2022 (staff, Kentucky Department of Agriculture)
Andrew Hally, Educational Policy Studies, 2022
Christina Lopez-Valencia, Research Methods in Education, 2021 (staff, University of Kentucky)
Sativa Thompson, Research Methods in Education, 2020 (masters student, Columbia University)

PROFESSIONAL AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Professional Affiliations

American Educational Research Association (AERA), Division L (Educational Policy and Politics) & Catholic Education SIG; Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP); Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)

Editorial Service

Journal of Catholic Education, Associate Editor, 2022-present

Referee

AERA Open; American Educational Research Journal; Economics of Education Review; Education Economics; Education Finance and Policy; Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis; Educational Policy; Educational Researcher; International Review of Economics Education; Journal of Catholic Education; Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; Journal of School Violence; Review of Educational Research; Social Currents; Social Science Quarterly; Sociology of Education

Grant Review Panel Service

Spencer Foundation, Large Grants, 2021-22

Conference Service

Graduate Student Mentor Match, AEFP Annual Meeting, 2024
Session Chair, AERA Annual Meeting, 2018, 2024; AEFP Annual Meeting, 2018, 2023
Discussant, AERA Annual Meeting, 2023; APPAM Fall Research Conference, 2024
Reviewer, AERA Annual Meeting, 2015, 2017; AEFP Annual Meeting, 2025

University of Notre Dame Service

University

Center for Broader Impacts Evaluation Specialist Search Committee, 2024

Institute for Educational Initiatives

IEI Faculty Committee (elected), 2024-present

Faculty Position Description Review Committee (ad hoc), 2024-present

Committee on Catholic School Research (ad hoc), 2024

University of Kentucky Service

College of Education

Faculty Council: At-large Member, 2021-2023; Vice Chair, Fall 2022; Chair, Spring 2023

New Faculty and Postdoc Orientation: Co-Coordinator, 2021-2022, Coordinator, Fall 2022

Research Advisory Committee: Member, 2019-22

College Financial Analyst Search Committee: Member, 2021

Committee on Media and Information Systems: Member, 2016-17; Chair, 2017-19

Department Chair Survey Task Force (ad hoc), 2016

Department of Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation

Principal Budget Manager: 2019-23

Higher Education Faculty Search Committee: Co-Chair, 2022

Research Methods in Education & Educational Policy Studies Degree Redesign (ad hoc), 2018, 2021

Department Staff Support Search Committee: Member, 2021

Admissions Committee, 2016-17, 2020-21

Research Methods in Education Faculty Search Committee: Member, 2017; Chair, 2019

Research Methods in Education Planning & Recruitment (ad hoc), 2017-18

Department Statements of Evidence Review (ad hoc), 2016

University

Center for Community Outreach, FUSION Site Advisor, 2015-19

Public Service

Holy Spirit Parish/Newman Center, Social Justice Coordinator (w/ Jennifer Waddington), 2021-23

Notre Dame Alumni Club of Central Kentucky, Co-President, 2018-23

University of Kentucky Healthcare Community COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic, Volunteer (7x), 2021

Diocese of Lexington, Sexual Abuse Study & Action Groups, Communications Facilitator, 2018-19