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# Economic Policy Institute

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## TWO EDUCATION EXPERTS JOIN EPI

Researchers To Concentrate on Teacher Pay, Hiring and Certification;  
Student Achievement; School Reform; Charter Schools

Two newly-hired education researchers have joined the Economic Policy Institute with plans to concentrate on such current issues as measuring student and school performance, examining the role of teacher quality and certification on student performance, and probing the impact of charter schools, vouchers, and competition on school outcomes.

Eileen Foley, a senior economist at EPI, is slated to develop research that assesses the performance and improvement of schools, teachers and students while identifying academic, social, and economic reforms that impact the achievement gap. Joydeep Roy, an education economist, is conducting research focused on charter schools and a variety of topics relevant to teachers, including certification, turnover, and pay.

“In this time, when reform in the nation's schools is on the political front-burner, solid research and analysis in performance and achievement is essential,” said Foley, whose areas of specialization also include the politics of education and measurement.

Roy, whose expertise includes education policy and economics, said he also wants to tackle such topics as school financing. “I want to bring scientific rigor to studying these important issues, especially as they have policy implications,” he said.

Foley formerly was a senior associate at BTW Consultants in Berkeley, Calif., conducting education research, and director of evaluation at Fordham University's National Center for Schools and Communities. In addition, she was director of research for the Public Education Association, and has taught public policy and evaluation courses at Teachers College, Columbia University and at Fordham. She has a Ph.D. from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and Teachers College, Columbia University.

Before joining EPI, Roy received his Ph.D. from Princeton University. There, he studied the effect of the Michigan school finance reform of 1994, which led to a comprehensive overhaul of school financing across the state. He researched the effects of the reform proposal on school spending, academic performance, and neighborhood socioeconomic segregation. He also looked at the impact of a policy in the Indian State of West Bengal, where teaching English in primary grades was abolished in the 1980s.

“Eileen and Joydeep will be assets not only to EPI, but also to those who work in and cover the education field,” said EPI President Larry Mishel. “Their expertise on so many relevant issues gives us new strength in evaluating important trends that affect schools, students and teachers.”

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