

School Choice International

Exploring Public-Private Partnerships

edited by Rajashri Chakrabarti and Paul E. Peterson

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Preface

The importance of school choice in education cannot be overemphasized and public-private partnerships play an important role in providing such choice all over the world. While they have received considerable attention in the United States, research on such initiatives in other parts of the world has been very limited. This book brings together a set of essays that provide a comprehensive overview and analysis of international initiatives of this kind—on the one hand, it presents essays that conduct rigorous impact evaluations of these initiatives in other countries, and on the other hand, it presents essays that provide comprehensive descriptions of the initiatives and discuss their theoretical underpinnings.

The increased role of such initiatives in today's education policy arena, and the lack of adequate understanding of the effects of such initiatives, prompted Harvard's Program on Education Policy and Governance and the World Bank to come together to organize a conference on public-private partnerships in education. The event, held at Harvard University on October 5–6, 2005, attracted many of the foremost economists, political scientists, policy makers, and practitioners with an interest in education policy. Each paper presented at the conference was critically discussed by practitioners and researchers specializing in education policy. A selected set of papers presented at this conference was subsequently revised in the light of these comments and editorial suggestions; they form this volume.

We are indebted to many people who helped us in the preparation of this volume. In addition to the authors, we would like to thank the following conference participants, presenters, and discussants for their valuable comments, suggestions, and critical discussions of the papers: Joshua Angrist, Carl Bistany, Xiaonon Cao, Jorge Cela, Christopher Cerf, John Chubb, Paul Dovere, Susan Dynarski, Guy Elena, Ronald

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