

Education Savings Accounts & Accountability

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Director of Policy



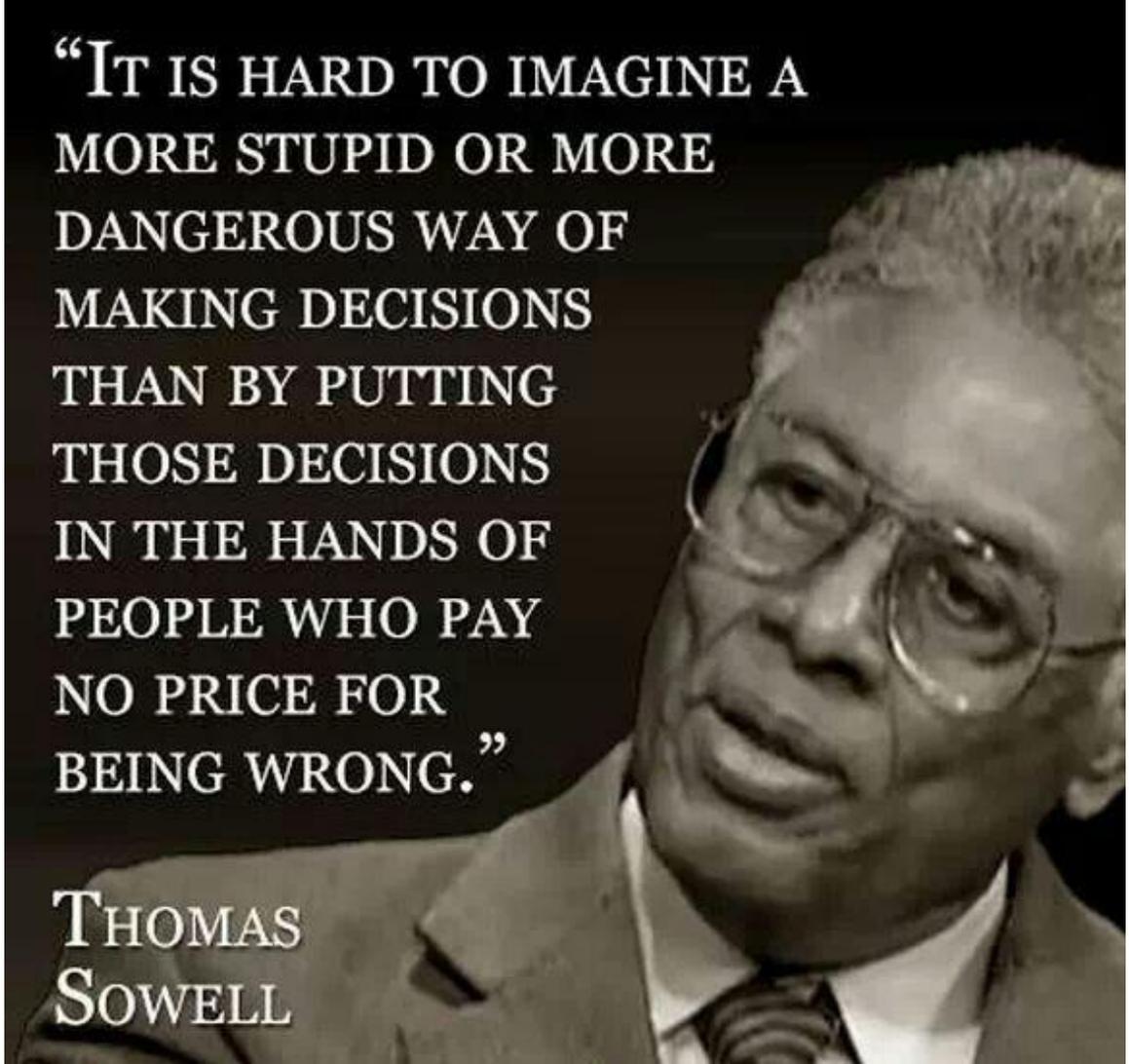
What Is Accountability?

Accountable (*adj.*):

“subject to the obligation to report, explain, or justify something; responsible; answerable.”

Government regulations are not synonymous with accountability or quality.



A black and white portrait of Thomas Sowell, an older African American man with glasses, wearing a suit and tie. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a thoughtful expression. The background is dark.

“IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE A
MORE STUPID OR MORE
DANGEROUS WAY OF
MAKING DECISIONS
THAN BY PUTTING
THOSE DECISIONS
IN THE HANDS OF
PEOPLE WHO PAY
NO PRICE FOR
BEING WRONG.”

THOMAS
SOWELL

Real accountability means being directly accountable to those who bear the consequences of your performance.

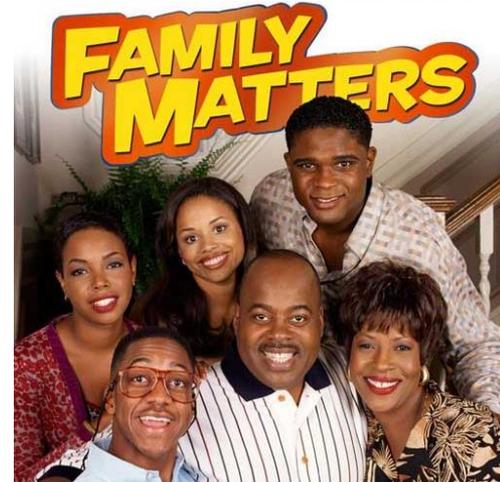
Accountability for What and to Whom?



Financial



Academic



Financial accountability:

Ensuring ESA funds are only used for their intended purpose.

ESA Payment Systems



Reimbursement



Debit Card



- AZ's Department of Education “has prevented and identified misspending of [ESA] program monies.”
- Less than 1 percent of funds misspent.
- GAO: fraud/error rate across 79 programs run by 17 agencies was 4.7 percent.

ESA Payment Systems



Reimbursement



Debit Card



Online Payment



Academic accountability:

Ensuring that students are in the learning environment best suited to their particular learning needs.

What Parents Value in Education

Better Teachers

Responsive Staff

Learning Environment

Less School Day Wasted

Tutorial Services

Student Discipline

Sense of Community

Better Education

Engaged Parents

Small Classes

Peer Influences

Student Safety

Opportunities to Involve

Less Gang Activity

Individual Attention

College Prep

Test Scores

Respect for Parents

Extracurricular

Personalization

Character Development

Source: *More Than Scores: An Analysis of Why and How Parents Choose Private Schools*, EdChoice (2013).

<https://www.edchoice.org/research/more-than-scores/>

What Parents Value in Education

TABLE 2 Reason for choosing a private school for their child

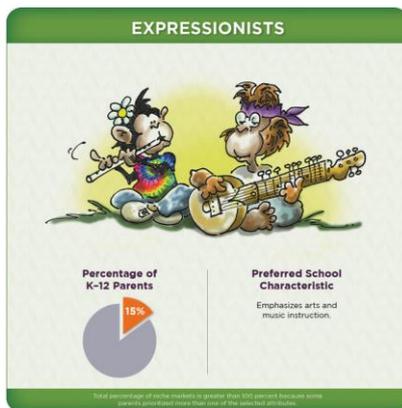
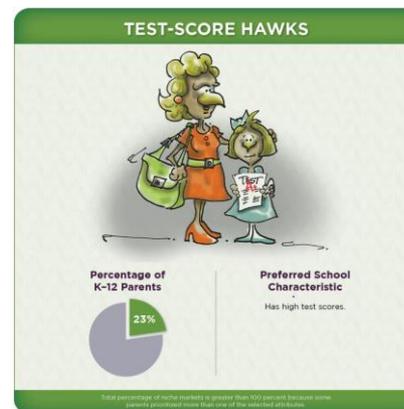
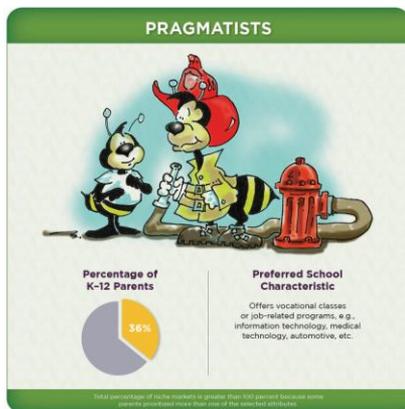
	Percent
Better learning environment	85.1%
Better education	81.3%
Smaller class sizes	80.5%
More individual attention for my child	76.4%
Religious education	64.1%
Better preparation for college	62.9%
Better student discipline	61.7%
More responsive teachers and administrators	60.3%
Improved student safety	52.9%
Better teachers	46.8%

Greater sense of community	46.6%
More attention to the unique needs of my child	44.2%
Other students would be a better influence on my child	41.9%
Greater respect for my rights as a parent	34.9%
Higher standardized test scores	34.6%
Less gang activity	33.8%
Less time wasted during the school day	32.6%
Other parents would be more concerned about their children's education	31.3%
More meaningful opportunities for parental involvement	30.9%
More extracurricular opportunities	21.2%
More tutorial and other supplemental learning services than at a public school	16.2%
Other	7.2%

Source: *More Than Scores: An Analysis of Why and How Parents Choose Private Schools*, EdChoice (2013).

<https://www.edchoice.org/research/more-than-scores/>

Parents Want Different Things



Source: *What Parents Want: Education Preferences and Trade-offs*, Fordham Institute, 2013.

<https://edexcellence.net/publications/what-parents-want.html>

Empowering Consumers with Information

The screenshot shows the Yelp page for Balompie Cafe. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Find tacos, cheap dinner, Max's" and "Near San Francisco, CA". Below the search bar, there are navigation links: Home, About Me, Write a Review, Find Friends, Messages, Talk, Events. The main content area is titled "Balompie Cafe" and "Health Inspections". It shows a "Health Score" of 92 out of 100. Below this, there is a section for "Violations" with three items: "Inadequate or unsanitary refuse containers or area or no garbage service [date violation corrected: 2/4/2014]", "Improper storage of equipment utensils or linens [date violation corrected: 2/4/2014]", and "Moderate risk food holding temperature [date violation corrected: 2/4/2014]". There is also a section for "Previous Inspections" with a table showing inspection dates, types, violation counts, and scores.

Date	Inspection Type	Violations	Score
August 1, 2013	Routine	3	89
January 23, 2013	Routine	6	81
August 22, 2012	Routine	0	100
August 14, 2012	Routine	5	78

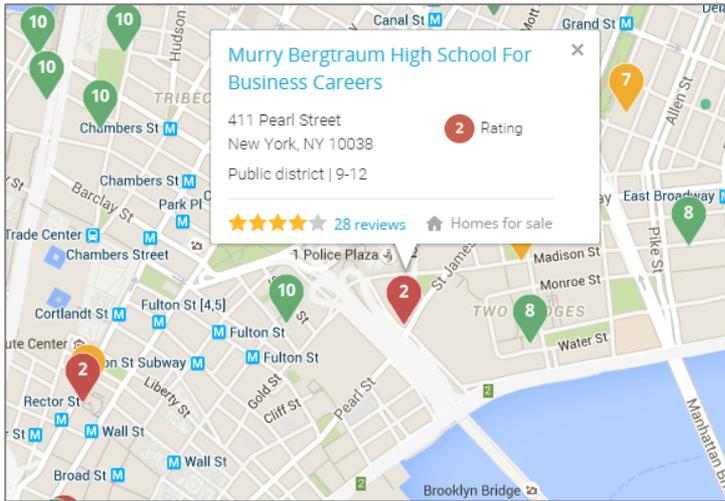
Study: Using Yelp’s reviews data and past health inspection records, Profs. Michael Luca (Harvard Business School) Yejin Choi (Stony Brook University) were able to successfully predict future inspection scores for restaurants 82 percent of the time.

City Governments Are Using Yelp to Tell You Where Not to Eat

Empowering Parents with Information

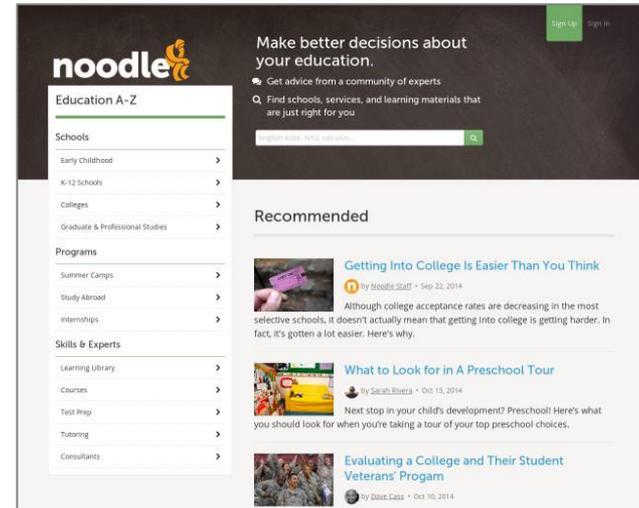
GREAT!SCHOOLS

Using parent ratings and objective metrics to help parents navigate school choice.

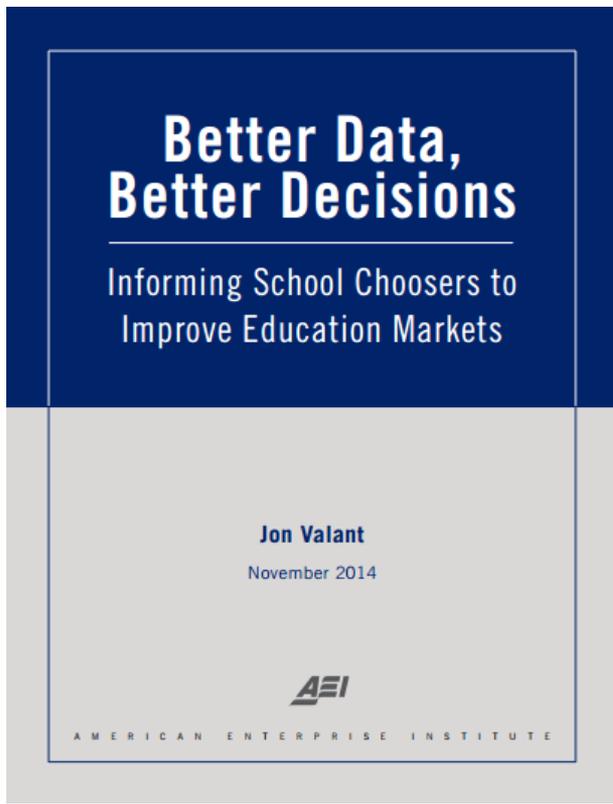


Noodle

Interactive search tools, community advice, and expert reviews to find the right tutor, school, or education service.



Parents Value the Views of Other Parents



The parent comments, however, were stunningly influential. Seeing two positive parent comments rather than two negative parent comments led respondents to grade schools approximately two-thirds of a full grade higher (on average, about the difference between a C+ and a B). Even though these comments were brief, appeared alongside formal academic ratings, came from unidentified sources on the Internet, and described schools that many respondents knew well, they fundamentally reshaped the way parents and other adults evaluated school quality. Follow-up

Empowering Parents with Information



“Using [SAP Ariba® Buying and Invoicing™](#) and [SAP Ariba Commerce Automation™](#), Step Up For Students will create online catalogs through which scholarship recipients can find, buy and pay for tuition at schools of their choice along with educational services and school supplies with just a few clicks.”

“The solutions will be accessible anywhere, anytime via any device, including mobile phones – a key factor in Step Up For Students’ selection.”

The SAP Ariba logo consists of the text 'SAP Ariba' in white, bold, sans-serif font, followed by a stylized yellow and black graphic element resembling a mountain range or a series of upward-pointing chevrons.

Takeaways

- **Accountability means being answerable to those who bear the consequences of your performance.**
- **Parents have a variety of legitimate views about education that are best served by a system with lots of choices.**
- **Online payment systems can provide financial accountability to the taxpayers while empowering parents to hold education providers accountable for academics.**

Thank you!

State Test vs. Norm-Referenced

	Criterion-Referenced Tests (State)	Norm-Referenced Tests
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To determine whether each student has achieved specific skills or concepts.• To find out how much students know before instruction begins and after it has finished.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To rank each student with respect to the achievement of others in broad areas of knowledge.• To distinguish between high and low achievers.
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Measures specific skills which make up a curriculum designed by teachers and curriculum experts.• Each skill is expressed as an instructional objective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Measures broad skill areas sampled from a variety of textbooks, syllabi, and the judgments of curriculum experts.
Scoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each individual is evaluated based on a preset standard. The performance of others is irrelevant.• Student achievement is reported for individual skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each individual is compared with other examinees and assigned a score--usually expressed as a percentile or a grade equivalent score.• Student achievement is reported for broad skill areas, although some norm-referenced tests do report student achievement for individual skills.

The Flexible Testing Approach

The NRT approach is preferred in a choice program because it:

- Provides information on student learning
- Allows private schools to maintain autonomy
- Does not stifle innovation
- Avoids regulatory creep
- Provides a true choice