



**THE PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA (PPIC)
AND THE
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR FEDERAL POLICY RESEARCH**
invite you to attend a

***PPIC LUNCHEON BRIEFING:
School Choice in San Diego-Programs
Increase Integration But Not Achievement***

**Wednesday, September 6, 2006
12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.
Room B-354, Rayburn House Office Building**

Public school choice programs in San Diego—the nation's eighth-largest school district—are extremely popular, especially among non-white communities; many San Diego families who apply for these programs are turned away each year. Against the backdrop of a national debate about choice- with proponents arguing such programs will create better schools and accountability, and opponents countering that they could stratify and resegregate a system premised on educational equality—researchers with the Public Policy Institute of California have taken the San Diego experience to investigate in depth the effects of choice on student achievement.

Using new, state-of-the art statistical techniques, PPIC researchers Julian R. Betts, Lorien A. Rice, Andrew C. Zau, Y. Emily Tang, and Cory R. Koedel have produced some intriguing new perspectives on choice that give support to both sides of the debate. Their findings, contained in a report published this month entitled *Does School Choice Work? Effects on Student Integration and Achievement*, also lend support to the San Diego families who are such enthusiastic participants in choice programs-but not in a way they would expect. The PPIC report also has important ramifications for the future of the federal No Child Left Behind law, which requires that students at schools judged to be failing be provided district-funded busing to another school. NCLB expires in September 2007 but Congress has already begun work on its renewal.

Lead author Julian Betts will discuss this research on Wednesday, September 6 from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Rayburn House Office Building, Room B-354 in Washington, DC. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP (acceptances only, thank you) to randsdell@calinst.org or 202-546-3700. Guests are welcome, and we look forward to seeing you Wednesday.