

Synergistic Impacts of PreK and K12 School Spending on Children's Later-Life Outcomes

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Abstract: In this presentation, I draw from two recent papers on the synergistic impacts of preK and K12 school spending on children's later-life outcomes; the first using earlier era school finance reforms and rollout of Head Start; the second using the most recent major school finance reform in California, the Local Control Funding Formula. This work is part of a book project, *Children of the Dream: Why School Integration Works* (to be published by Basic Books & the Russell Sage Foundation near the end of the year)

1. Johnson, Rucker C. and C. Kirabo Jackson (2017). "[Reducing Inequality Through Dynamic Complementarity: Evidence from Head Start and Public School Spending](#)". NBER working paper #23489. Summaries in [The NBER Digest](#) (July 2017) & [IRP Focus](#) (July 2017).
2. Johnson, Rucker C. and Sean Tanner (2018). "[Money and Freedom: The Impact of California's School Finance Reform](#)".



Bio: Rucker C. Johnson is an Associate Professor in the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley. His graduate and postdoctoral training is in labor and health economics. He received his Ph.D. in economics in 2002 from the University of Michigan and was the recipient of three national dissertation awards. Johnson was a Robert Wood Johnson Scholar in Health Policy from 2002 to 2004. His work considers the role of poverty and inequality in affecting life chances. He has focused on such topics as low-wage labor markets, spatial mismatch, the societal consequences of incarceration, the socioeconomic determinants of health disparities over the life course, and the effects of growing up poor and poor infant health on childhood cognition, child health, educational attainment, and later-life health and socioeconomic success.