

Total Student Load: The Secret to Boosting School Performance?

Wednesday, September 23, 2009, 9:00–10:30 a.m.
Wohlstetter Conference Center, Twelfth Floor, AEI
1150 Seventeenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

On July 24, 2009, President Barack Obama introduced the *Race to the Top*, an initiative to promote successful public school innovation. On the heels of the \$100 billion in education stimulus funds targeted for states and localities, it is essential to take a hard look at the systems charged with spending all this money. In a timely contribution, William Ouchi, influential management thinker, professor, and creator of “Theory Z,” has penned a new volume, *The Secret of TSL* (Simon & Schuster, September 2009). Ouchi reports on his research in eight decentralizing urban districts where principals have the freedom to control their budgets and tailor expenses to fit their schools. This freedom has enabled these districts to decrease their teachers’ total student load—the number of papers teachers must grade and the number of students they must get to know each term—and increase their students’ achievement by more effectively allocating the resources at their disposal. This approach expands on the reform agenda of his 2003 book *Making Schools Work* (Simon & Schuster, September 2003). Is Professor Ouchi right? Is his strategy a recipe for transformation?

Please join us as AEI resident scholar and director of education policy studies Frederick M. Hess hosts Professor Ouchi and panelists Eric Nadelstern, chief schools officer for the New York City Department of Education, and Chester E. Finn Jr., president of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, in a lively discussion of these questions and how education leaders can leverage new school management practices to best serve K–12 students.

8:45 a.m.	Registration	
9:00	Introduction:	FREDERICK M. HESS, AEI
9:05	Presenter:	WILLIAM OUCHI, University of California, Los Angeles
9:30	Discussants:	CHESTER E. FINN JR., Thomas B. Fordham Institute ERIC NADELSTERN, New York City Department of Education
10:30	Adjournment	

I will attend the education policy event on Wednesday, September 23.

Name: _____
Title: _____
Affiliation: _____
Address: _____
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E-mail: _____

Please check if this is a new address.

I do not plan to attend this event, but please e-mail me related event materials.

Please register online at www.aei.org/events or by faxing this form to 202.862.7171. Shortly after the event occurs, a video webcast will be available on the AEI website at www.aei.org/video.

For more information, please contact Olivia Meeks at olivia.meeks@aei.org or 202.862.5822.
For media inquiries, please contact Véronique Rodman at vrodman@aei.org.