



IS FAIRNESS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS UNFAIR?

SAVE THE DATE:

May 11, 2004, 8:45 A.M.
1150 Seventeenth Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20036

Over the last 35 years, conceptions of legal fairness have become the norm in public schools as they have in other aspects of American life. But is legal fairness in schools really fair? By definition, legal fairness does not look past compliance to the effects of a policy on the person or group supposedly protected, or to the effects on other school constituents. The forum will examine how public school rules and procedures, intended to create fairness, work in practice.

The first panel will address the fairness of current rules on teacher accountability and staffing, the broader fairness of the rights prescribed for special education and the fairness of public school discipline rules. Panelists will also consider the fairness of the (often very different) way these issues are handled in independent schools. The second panel will focus in depth on school discipline. Panelists will address the current state of discipline in public schools, what kind of change is needed and possible proposals for change.

- 8:45 *Welcome* ROBERT W. HAHN, Executive Director,
AEI-Brookings Joint Center for Regulatory Studies
PHILIP K. HOWARD, Founder and Chair, Common Good
- 9:00 *Keynote Speaker* SENATOR ZELL MILLER, (D. GEORGIA)
- 9:20 *Panel 1* *Conceptions of Fairness in Public Schools*
Moderator: CHESTER E. FINN, Jr., Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University and President, Thomas B. Fordham Foundation
Speakers: DAVID C. BLOOMFIELD, Program Head, Educational Leadership, Brooklyn College, CUNY
MARK G. KELMAN, William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Law, Stanford University
PAUL T. HILL, Director, Center on Reinventing Public Education, University of Washington and Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution
PETER R. GREER, Head of School, Montclair Kimberly Academy

10:45 *Break*

11:00 *Panel 2* *Toward Fairness in School Discipline*
Moderator: ANDREW J. ROTHERHAM, Director, 21st Century Schools Project,
Progressive Policy Institute
Speakers: RICHARD ARUM, Professor of Sociology and Director of
Educational Research, New York University
DEBORAH WADSWORTH, Senior Advisor and Board Member,
Public Agenda
PHILIP K. HOWARD, Founder and Chair, Common Good
WILLIAM DAMON, Director, Stanford Center on Adolescence,
Professor of Education, Stanford University and Senior Fellow,
Hoover Institution, Stanford University

12:30 *Luncheon* Speaker TBD

2:00 *Adjournment*