

OUR VISION STATEMENT

Education Finance and Policy, the journal of the American Education Finance Association (AEFA), was created in 2005, with publication of the first issue in winter 2006. In that short time, the outgoing editors, David N. Figlio and David H. Monk, have molded the journal into a widely recognized outlet for high-quality, policy-relevant education research. The success of the journal is also attributable to the speed with which the editors have handled manuscripts and the attention they have paid to making sure that the articles included in *Education Finance and Policy* are widely accessible.

Our goal as editors is to ensure that the journal continues to serve the membership of AEFA by working to maintain this reputation as a place where policy-relevant research can be made available to the policy community in a timely fashion. In addition to ensuring that submissions are handled promptly, we are working with our publisher, MIT Press, to reduce the lag time between when a paper is accepted and when it becomes available online to AEFA members and journal subscribers. In the near future, we expect to be able to provide early (pre-publication) access to all accepted papers. And, to maintain the breadth of the journal, we will continue the outgoing editors' efforts to reach out to researchers to ensure *Education Finance and Policy* includes research with a diversity of methodological approaches and of topical areas within education.

Special issues and policy briefs also represent essential elements of our strategy to ensure that the journal is policy relevant. When the journal was created, special issues were seen as the natural replacement for the annual handbook. The special issues have been that and more. As the recent fall 2008 and 2009 special issues make clear, these focused volumes can provide a natural venue for work that has not typically appeared in the journal and that is timely and of particular relevance for policy makers. The semi-regular policy briefs provide another mechanism for making the journal relevant for policy makers. Because of their broad appeal to the AEFA membership, we plan to make policy briefs a regular feature.

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