

Abigail (Abby) Francis

Wheelock College of Education & Human Development, Boston University
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Education

2024– Present Ph.D., Educational Policy Studies, Boston University
2023–2024 M.Ed., Human Development Studies, Vanderbilt University, Academic
Scholarship
2019-2023 B.A. Educational Studies, Davidson College, Magna Cum Laude,
Educational Studies Honors Thesis

Research Fields

Education Policy, Economics of Education

Peer Reviewed Publications

Francis, A., and Goodman, J. (2025) School Enrollment Shifts Five Years After the Pandemic, *Economics of Education Review*.

Braxton J., Marsicano C., Francis A., and Sheldon D. (2022) Wither or Not the Academic Public Intellectual Across the Spectrum of U.S. Colleges and Universities, *New Directions for Higher Education*.

Work in Progress

Francis A., and Winters M. (In Progress) Emergency-Licensed Teachers and Academic Outcomes for Students with Disabilities.

Ma M., and Francis A. (In Progress) Full Day Kindergarten and Enrollment Patterns: Evidence from Massachusetts.

Murray B., and Francis A. (In Progress) Racialized Parent Organizations: A Comparative Case Study (accepted to AERA 2023 Conference; in process).

Winters M., and Francis A. (In Progress) Exemption Design and Human Capital Accumulation under Test-Based Promotion.

Other Writing

Goodman, J., and Francis, A. (2025). “School Enrollment Shifts Five Years After the Pandemic: Public education sees shrinking middle schools and an exodus of wealthy, white, and Asian students.” *Education Next*, 25(4), 22 July 2025.

Media Mentions

Boston Globe, Yahoo Finance, Yahoo News, EdWeek, the 74, WGBH, and the Brink (10+ others).

Teaching Experience

Boston University

Teaching Assistant, ED431 Child Policy, Fall 2024

Teaching Assistant RS653 Quantitative Methods, Fall 2025

Vanderbilt University

Teaching Assistant, HOD 1300: Small Group Behavior, Spring 2023

Grants

2022	George L. Abernethy Grant \$5900
2026	Invited to Full Proposal; Under Review at <i>Charter School Research Collaborative at MIT Blueprint Labs</i> - Yerin Yoon (PI), Abigail Francis (Co-PI)

Seminar and Conference Presentations

*Poster Presentation denoted with **

2026	AEFP Annual Conference
2025	MIT Blueprint Labs School Access and Quality Fellowship Kickoff, Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness, EdWorkingPapers Webinar, Thriving in the Middle School Years Forum*
2023	AEFP Annual Conference*, Verna Miller Case Research & Creative Works Symposium*

Affiliations

2025- Present	Wheelock Educational Policy Center (WEPC), Boston University
2025-Present	Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE)
2023, 2025-Present	Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)
2021-2023	College Crisis Initiative (C2I), Davidson College
2021-2023	Educational Studies Department, Davidson College Education Policy
2022	Children and Screens, Institute of Digital Media and Child Development

Refereeing

Education Finance and Policy (1)