

Advertisement

Turn Information Into Achievement

Click here to learn more—attend a free webinar!

RIVERSIDE

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT

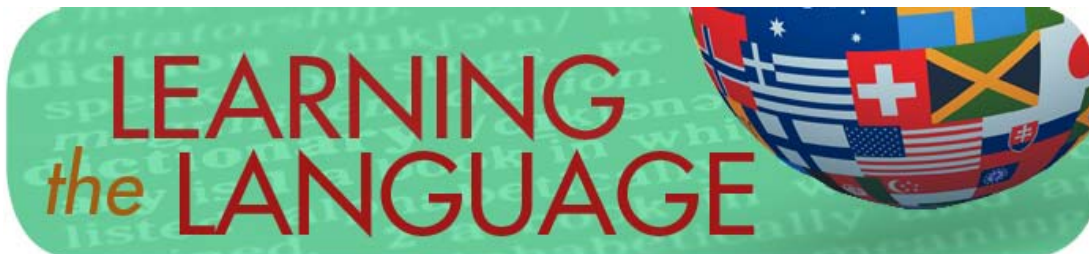
SUBSCRIBE TO EDUCATION WEEK

Get 37 issues in Print (1 year) + Premium Online Access

Advertisement

Education Week's blogs > Learning the Language

See our English-Language Learners coverage



Mary Ann Zehr is an assistant editor at Education Week. She tackles difficult policy questions, explores learning innovations, and shares stories about different cultural groups on her beat.



Mary Ann Zehr

<< Software Company to Host April 21 Webinar on RTI and ELLs | Main | Charters in New York Can Be Revoked for Low ELL Recruitment >>

## 'Immigrant Paradox' Stronger for Boys Than Girls

By [Mary Ann Zehr](#) on April 15, 2011 7:40 AM | [2 Comments](#)

We see a fair bit of research these days showing boys are falling behind girls in achieving various educational outcomes, but when it comes to children with at least one immigrant parent, boys are doing better than girls, a journal article says.

27

Tweet

A good deal of research shows that many youths from immigrant families outperform their peers in school, something that's referred to as the "immigrant paradox." In an article appearing in the spring issue of *The Future of Children about the children of immigrants*, two researchers write that the immigrant advantage is more pronounced for boys than girls.

For example, research shows that the difference in middle school math test scores between children born in another country and those whose families have lived in this country for two generations or more before them is 5 percent of a standard deviation for girls but 20 percent of a standard deviation for boys.

Reporting those findings are Robert Crosnoe, a sociology professor at the University of Texas-Austin, and Ruth N. López Turley, an associate professor of sociology at Rice University, in Houston. Crosnoe and Turley write that they cannot explain why boys from immigrant families are outperforming girls from such families.

They also report in their article, "K-12 Educational Outcomes of Immigrant Youth," that the immigrant paradox is more pronounced for children of Asian and African immigrants than other groups. That can be partly explained by the tendency for more socioeconomically advantaged residents to leave Asia and Africa for the United States than is the case from a continent such as South America, they say.

The immigrant paradox is also more consistently present at the secondary level than the elementary level.

The special issue of the journal put out by the Brookings Institution and Princeton University includes a number of other articles by experts who study English-language learners or children from immigrant families.

Margarita Calderón and Robert Slavin, both affiliated with Johns Hopkins University,

### ARCHIVES

Select a Month...

### RECENT COMMENTS

**Robert Mayer** : In my college English 101 classes, many of my fema read [more](#)

### RECENT ENTRIES

[Charters in New York Can Be Revoked for Low ELL Recruitment](#)

['Immigrant Paradox' Stronger for Boys Than Girls](#)

[Software Company to Host April 21 Webinar on RTI and ELLs](#)

[How Do Cantonese-Speaking ELLs Learn to Read English?](#)

[Study Shows Math Graphics Aid ELLs on Tests](#)

[Web Chat Today With Larry Ferlazzo on Student Motivation](#)

[Fallout From the Government Shutdown That Almost Happened](#)

[The Nation Sees a Drop in Latino Preschool Enrollment](#)

[Six States, Six Different Definitions of English Fluency](#)

[A New Edition of the English-Learning Carnival](#)

### CATEGORIES

[Adult Education \(1\)](#)

[Bilingual Education \(21\)](#)

[Charter Schools \(13\)](#)

[Civil Rights \(16\)](#)

[College Preparation \(2\)](#)

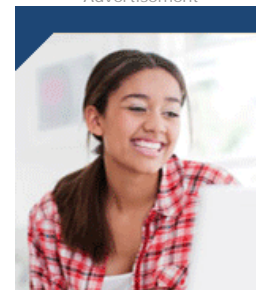
### FOLLOW THIS BLOG

[RSS via Reader](#)

[RSS via Email](#)

[Follow on TWITTER](#)

Advertisement



Online Summer School Courses for Your District

Enrichment. Credit Recovery. Remediation. Acceleration.



TO LEARN MORE, CLICK HERE

and Marta Sánchez, a doctoral candidate in education at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, write about effective program models for English-language learners, stressing that "the quality of instruction is what matters most in educating English-learners."

Two researchers affiliated with Princeton University describe the differences in adaptation to U.S. society of two distinct "pan-ethnic populations: Asian-Americans, who tend to be the offspring of high-human-capital migrants, and Hispanics, many of whose parents are manual workers." Generally speaking, socioeconomic outcomes for the children from professional immigrant families are very good but they are not good for children from unskilled immigrant families. The researchers who write about these two groups are Alejandro Portes, a Princeton sociology professor, and Alejandro Rivas, a doctoral candidate in sociology at Princeton.

Overall, the issue is a good primer for any educator wanting to know more about the major issues affecting the education of children from immigrant families in the United States. The Brookings Institution is hosting a [forum](#) featuring issues affecting immigrant children corresponding with the publication of the special issue of *The Future of Children* on April 20 here in the nation's capital.

Categories: [Research](#), [Trend Watch](#)



[Court Cases \(7\)](#)

[Curriculum \(20\)](#)

[Districtwide Issues \(2\)](#)

[ELLs With Disabilities \(6\)](#)

[ELLs in Secondary Schools \(3\)](#)

[Federal Policy \(77\)](#)

[Good Read \(8\)](#)

[Graduation Rates \(3\)](#)

[Heritage Languages \(1\)](#)

[Immigration \(76\)](#)

[Innovations \(16\)](#)

[Job Changes \(1\)](#)

[Native American Students \(5\)](#)

[Parent Engagement \(2\)](#)

[Preschool \(4\)](#)

[Reclassification Rates \(1\)](#)

[Refugees \(9\)](#)

[Research \(47\)](#)

[Resources \(23\)](#)

TopSchoolJobs

### **Superintendent of Schools**

Clarence Central School District, Clarence, NY

### **Associate Superintendent**

San Mateo County Office of Education, Redwood City, CA

### **Superintendent of Schools**

The Osceola County School Board, Osceola County School District, FL

### **Chief Financial Officer**

Des Moines Public Schools, Des Moines, IA

### **Director of Community Relations & Legislative Liaison**

Des Moines Public Schools, Des Moines, IA

**MORE EDUCATION JOBS >>**  
**POST A JOB >>**