

Poverty

- [A Closer Look at Student Performance in Upstate City Schools](#) - Parents in central cities seeking good educations for their children face the disconcerting reality that relatively few city school children pass standardized tests required by New York State, suggesting that the schools are failing. In Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse and Schenectady, less than 20% of students passed state required English Language Arts...
- [Education, Economic Status and Student Performance in New York School Districts](#) - Note: A more recent, closer look at this subject may be found here: <https://policybynumbers.com/a-closer-look-at-student-performance-in-upstate-city-schools> In 1966, James S. Coleman and associates wrote the report, "Equality of Educational Opportunity," for the United States Department of Health Education and Welfare, as required by the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The report was...
- [Rochester's Broken School System](#) - Kent Gardner argues forcefully in the Rochester Beacon that Rochester's school system is broken and in need of radical change. Gardner's post highlights the efforts of a local organization, ROC the Future, to bring about reform of the city's school system. Gardner is correct – students in the city's schools...
- [New York's Local Revenue Sharing Aid Program is Broken: How to Fix It](#) - Most New Yorkers are aware that the state has a cap on local property taxes that has effectively slowed their growth. But few know that residents of a few large cities benefit from a multi-million-dollar infusion of state dollars that limits property taxes, while residents of smaller cities, towns and...
- [Times Union Op-Ed: State's Unfair City Aid Formula Needs](#)

[Revising](#) - I've been looking at how well the State's local revenue sharing works. It doesn't work well. I wrote an Op-Ed that appears in the Albany Times-Union this weekend: It may be found here: <https://www.timesunion.com/opinion/article/State-s-unfair-city-aid-formula-needs-revising-13709884.php> I'll have a longer piece that takes a closer look at this on my blog next...

- [Misconceptions About People in Poverty: Are Work Requirements Effective?](#) - This is an expanded version of the essay, "False Stereotypes Harm People in Poverty" that appeared in the Rochester Beacon, containing additional information relating to the five largest upstate metropolitan areas.

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- [Misconceptions About People in Poverty: The Push for Work Requirements](#) - Misconceptions about people in poverty appear to drive proposed changes in social welfare policy, particularly the work requirements either being promoted by the Trump Administration and discussed or implemented in several states. A fuller understanding of factors underlying the problem of poverty suggests that these policies will be counterproductive, neither...
- [Left Behind: Missing from the Labor Market in New York State](#) - A reader of this blog recently wrote, "We know that labor force participation rates across the country have declined noticeably for a number of years, and many economists have warned of the troubling implications of this. Such rates across Upstate NY have declined as well, and in most cases are significantly below the national average..."
- [School Segregation is Increasing in New York's Cities and Suburbs](#) - Recent articles in the New York Times and

The Nation have focused on efforts to resegregate schools in the South, by carving new predominantly white school districts out of larger county-wide school districts that are predominantly black and Hispanic. The articles examined a recent federal court decision that permitted the creation...

- [More Regional Diversity but a Larger Racial/Ethnic Divide in New York Schools](#) - This post examines changes in the ethnic and racial compositions of kindergarten through twelfth grade schools in New York State metropolitan areas over the past 25 years. During that period, the student population, like the general population has become more diverse, with the percentage of students identified as white decreasing,...
- [The Income Gap between Men and Women: 2015 vs. 1970](#) - Since 1970, inflation adjusted wage income growth has been almost nonexistent - only five percent over the 45 year period ending in 2015. Income change in metropolitan areas in New York State has differed little from the nation. Rochester and Buffalo were two exceptions - both had lower median real wage...
- [The Persistent Gap Between White and Black Incomes in New York](#) - There has long been a substantial gap between the incomes of white Americans and those who describe themselves as African/American or black. As early as 1964, with the enactment of the Civil Rights Act, the Federal and state Governments began passing laws aimed at preventing discrimination in the workplace. Has New York seen...
- [Education, Age and Declines in Real Income Since 1970](#) - The economic malaise that has affected small and medium sized rust belt cities since 2000 has been widely noted. Most have seen little or no real household income growth since then. Much of the weak performance has been associated with the long-term decline of manufacturing employment in the region -...
- [New York's Dysfunctional School Spending Patterns](#) - For

many years, government spending in New York State has far exceeded the national average. State and local governments in New York had the second highest per capita spending in the nation in 2013.[1] Local government spending contributes significantly to New York's high spending levels. Local government spending in New...

- [Rex Smith's Albany Times-Union Column, "Development Dollars Draw on Politics"](#) - The Albany Times-Union carried a column by its Editor, Rex Smith on August 6th, concerning decision making by New York's Regional Economic Development Councils, questioning whether their efforts are directed at areas of the state with greatest need. His column may be found here. The column draws on research that I recently...
- [Poverty in Upstate Metropolitan Areas – Characteristics and Change: 1999-2013](#) - A paper, based, in part, on data previously presented on this blog site. This paper examines the incidence of poverty in upstate New York cities, compared to the surrounding suburbs. The data shows that while residents of upstate suburbs enjoy incomes that are substantially higher than the national average, and...
- [New York's Ineffective Business Tax Incentives](#) - In 1987, New York State enacted legislation to create an Economic Development Zones Program, modelled after the enterprise zones concept, championed by Congressman Jack Kemp. Proponents argued that by reducing taxes in specific geographic areas with high concentrations of poverty and unemployment, existing firms would be more likely to create...
- [SolarCity: The Risk Embedded in Buffalo's Billion](#) - .pdf version here: Note: This post is also published on The Empire Center website. The decision by the nation's largest solar panel provider to locate a state-of-the-art manufacturing plant in Buffalo, and to create other jobs in Western New York, could be a needed shot in the

arm for a...

- [The Shrinking Middle Class in New York State – Cities and Suburbs](#) - Pew Research has been releasing a series of studies showing that the percentage of Americans who have middle class incomes has been declining. The most recent of these is America's Shrinking Middle Class: A Close Look at Changes Within Metropolitan Areas. The report received extensive coverage in many newspapers, including the New...
- [More on Race, Income and Student Achievement](#) - A few months ago, I wrote about the link between economic disadvantage and poor student performance. I looked at the performance of students on the State's annual student assessment for grades 3 to 8, and found that the percentage of economically disadvantaged students in schools and school districts accounted for...