

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Space limited

No charge to attend this conference

Please register by *Tuesday, January 24*

Online at www.pioneerinstitute.org/evevent,
or by phone: 617-723-2277

Pioneer Institute was founded in 1988, as an independent non-profit public policy research institute based in Boston. Pioneer is in the business of generating and promoting new and practical public policy ideas and peer-reviewed scholarship that ensure the maintenance of core values of an open society—economic opportunity, social mobility, private and market rather than government-driven solutions, and governmental accountability to the people.

Pioneer Institute's Center for School

Reform is the most recent addition to Pioneer Institute's programs. Its mission is to improve significantly the academic performance of elementary and secondary schools in Massachusetts through broad public dialogue, legislative outreach, and scholarly research. The Center promotes the free exchange of ideas related to academic excellence, competition, and data-driven approaches to public education reform, so that students, citizens, and the Commonwealth as a whole can compete globally. The Center's work is built on the premise that the central focus of the education system in Massachusetts ought to be to uphold its constitutional obligations to all our school children by increasing academic rigor, quality of expectations, and equality of educational opportunities.

DIRECTIONS - Omni Parker House

60 School Street - The Omni Parker House is located on the corner of School and Tremont Streets.

Via the T: Take the Red Line or Green Line to the Park Street station. Walk up Tremont toward Faneuil Hall area.

Via commuter rail: For trains terminating at South Station, take the Red Line inbound to Park Street; for North Station trains, take the Green Line inbound to Park Street.

By car: www.parkerhouseboston.com/city.asp

School Choice and Education Reform in Massachusetts: Competing in the 21st Century

with

Christopher Whittle



Tuesday, January 31, 2006
8:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Omni Parker House
60 School Street
Boston, MA

Conference Overview

Please join us for a breakfast discussion of the recent developments in the Bay State's education reform efforts and the role of school choice in making education reform thrive in the Commonwealth. Since 1993, Massachusetts has spent approximately \$40 billion in state Chapter 70 aid on education reform. Nevertheless, in Boston, Worcester, Springfield, Holyoke, Fall River, Lowell, and Lawrence—the state's largest, poorest school districts—nearly 75 percent of the students score in the 'Needs Improvement' and 'Warning/Failing' categories on the MCAS test.

What can we do to ensure that the Commonwealth's children receive high quality educational options? Increased school choice and emphasis on accountability can drive systemic reform. The event will feature Christopher Whittle, a dynamic entrepreneur and founder of Edison Schools, and a major influence on re-establishing quality education in America. The forum will also highlight school choice and its prospects for driving academic improvements in Massachusetts. This morning discussion will be of particular interest to: School Administrators, Academics, Parents, Education Policy Makers, and Legislators.

Christopher Whittle

An entrepreneur with more than 25 years of leadership experience in the fields of education and publishing, Whittle conceived of and founded Edison Schools in 1992. He was founder and chairman of Whittle Communications, one of America's largest student publishers. In 1989, Whittle converted its print businesses to electronic ones, launching Channel One, the first national electronic news system, which today serves 12,000 middle and high schools throughout the United States, providing 8 million students with domestic and international news each morning. Channel One's programming has received wide recognition, including the Peabody Award, one of television journalism's highest accolades. The company was sold to K-III Communications in September 1994. From 1979 to 1986, Whittle was also chairman and publisher of *Esquire* magazine.

School Choice and Education Reform in Massachusetts: Competing in the 21st Century

- 8:15 - 8:30 Registration / Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 - 8:35 Welcome
Alan Steinert, Jr., Board of Directors, Pioneer Institute
- 8:35 - 9:00 Keynote Presentation
"Reflections After 15 Years in Education Reform"
Christopher Whittle, Founder and CEO, Edison Schools
- 9:00 - 9:10 Presentation of Papers
"Framing the Debate: The Case for Studying School Vouchers" and "Massachusetts Private School Survey: Gauging Capacity and Interest in Vouchers"
James Stergios, Executive Director, Pioneer Institute
- 9:10 - 10:00 Roundtable Panel Question and Answer
Dr. Roberta Schaefer, Executive Director, Worcester Regional Research Bureau (Moderator)
Cornelius Chapman, Esq., Partner, Burns & Levinson LLP
Dr. William Howell, Associate Professor of Government, Harvard University
Christopher Whittle, Founder and CEO, Edison Schools
- 10:00 - 10:30 Book Signing
Christopher Whittle, Author of *Crash Course: Imagining a Better Future for Public Education*