

RICHARD WEISSBOURD  
Senior Lecturer in Education  
Director of Human Development and Psychology Program  
Harvard Graduate School of Education  
Lecturer in Education  
Kennedy School of Government

EDUCATION

**Harvard University**, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
Doctorate in Counseling and Consulting Psychology  
Graduate School of Education, June, 1987

**Stanford University**, Stanford, California  
B.A. with honors in Psychology, September 1979

TEACHING

- 2009 - "Moral Adults: Moral Children," Harvard Graduate School of Education, Harvard University
- 2012- "Developing Effective Interventions for At-Risk Children," Harvard Graduate School of Education, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
- 1999-2008 "Effective Interventions and School Reforms for At-Risk Children" Graduate School of Education and Kennedy School of Government Harvard University
- 2001 "Evaluating Literacy Interventions," Module, with Lowry Hemphill and Terrence Tivnan, Graduate School of Education, Harvard University
- 1999 "ReadBoston," Module, with Lowry Hemphill, Graduate School of Education, Harvard University
- 1998 "School Reform and At-Risk Children," Module, taught with Martha Minow, Lucie White and Gil Noam, Graduate School of Education, Law School, and Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
- 1996-1997 "Inclusionary Education and At-Risk Children," Module, taught with

Martha Minow, Lucie White and Gil Noam, Graduate School of Education, Law School and Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

1994-1998 Risk and Resilience in Children and Families: Implications for Public Policies,” with Ron David, 1994-96; with Julie Wilson 1997-98, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

### PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND INTERVENTIONS

2011- Present Co-lead national initiative at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, with Stephanie Jones, designed to promote moral and social development. Received planning grant in May of 2012. Received four-year grant in the summer of 2013.

2006- 2011 Faculty Co-Chair, Three-to-Third: a collaboration with the Boston Mayor's office and the Boston public schools intended to improve achievement, strengthen family engagement and reduce emotional and health risks in children from PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> grade

2007- 2011 Faculty Co-Chair, PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Institute. Funded to develop a series of institutes and follow up activities intended to strengthen PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> grade efforts in multiple districts across the country

1995-Present Principal Founder  
ReadBoston; a citywide initiative, lead by Mayor Menino, intended to greatly increase the number of Boston children reading by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

2003 Co-Founder  
WriteBoston; a citywide initiative lead by Mayor Menino intended to improve writing competence among middle school and high school students

1999-2007 Co-Founder  
Project ASPIRE, a collaboration between faculty at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and three Boston elementary schools designed to promote social and ethical development

2004 Co-Founder  
Lee Academy Pilot School; a Boston pilot school that begins with children at 3 years old and that focuses intensively on literacy development and family engagement

2002 Co-Founder

New Teacher Campaign; a campaign lead by Mayor Menino designed to recruit high quality teachers to the Boston schools

- 2001 Co-Founder  
Cambridge Talk Campaign; a city-wide campaign that seeks to improve children's language and literacy development by increasing high quality verbal interactions between parents and young children
- 1996 Co-Founder  
Cambridge Center for Families; a family support and education program for parents of young children

### RECENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

- 2010-Present Research on how young people view romantic love and how older adults can better transfer wisdom to young people about how to develop mature, ethical romantic relationships
- Research on characteristics of middle schools and high schools that promote moral and social development
- 2008- 2010 Worked with Hiro Yoshikawa and several graduate students to assess the effectiveness of Three-to-Third and ReadBoston interventions designed to support family engagement and family literacy
- 2003-2008 Directed a group of graduate students conducting research on how parents and teachers shape key moral qualities in children and on variations in the development of these moral qualities across race, ethnicity and class
- 2001-2003 Principle investigator of an evaluation of the Boston schools' Transitions Program, a program designed to increase the number of students passing the MCAS at several grade levels
- 2000 Conducted pilot evaluation, with Lowry Hemphill and Terrence Tivnan, of literacy interventions in the Boston schools

### BOARDS

Center for Applied Science and Technology (CAST)

Strategies for Children  
Boston, MA

Family Focus  
Chicago, Illinois

PREVIOUS BOARDS

The Lee Academy Pilot School  
Boston, MA

The Right Question Project  
Cambridge, MA

The Kenan Institute for Ethics  
Duke University  
Durham, North Carolina

Citizen Schools  
Boston, MA

The Cambridge Coordinating Council on Children, Youth and Families  
Cambridge, MA

MEMBER OF THE CORPORATION

Judge Baker Children's Center

ADVISORY BOARDS and COMMITTEES

Strategies for Children Statewide Advisory Committee for Report on Reading Failure in  
Massachusetts (Chair), Summer, 2010

The Family Center  
Somerville, MA

Cambridge Legal and Counseling Services

Co-Chair-- Mayor Menino's Boston Early Childhood Task Force, 2007

Summer Search Evaluation Project, San Francisco, CA, 2007-2009

Steering Committee—ReadBoston

Steering Committee—WriteBoston, 2011

Schools for Children, Arlington, MA

### ADVISING AND CONSULTING

Advised Freshmen Dean's office and Harvard College Dean Evelyn Hammond in developing initiative that promotes the moral development of Harvard students Lead "Reflecting on Your Life" sessions for Harvard freshmen, 2011-2012

Served as informal advisor to Vice President Al Gore on family policy and served on the board of Father-to-Father, a program led by the Vice President that was designed to increase fathers' involvement in their children's lives

Served as a regular, informal education advisor to Boston Mayor Tom Menino from 2000-2013

Served as an informal advisor on the city level on education and on the state level on school-based services and child-protective services

### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

#### **Books**

Weissbourd, R. (1996). *The vulnerable child: What really hurts America's children and what we can do about it*. New York: Addison-Wesley.

Weissbourd, R. (2009). *The parents we mean to be: How well-intentioned adults undermine children's moral and emotional development*. Reading, MA: Houghton Mifflin.

#### **Selected Articles/Web Publications**

Weissbourd, R., Peterson, A. and Weinstein, E. (2013/2014). Preparing students for romantic relationships. *Phi Delta Kappan*, (2013/2014), 95(4), 54-58.

Weissbourd, R. (2013). True empathy. *Huffington Post*, 11/26/2013. ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/richard-weissbourd/true-empathy\\_b\\_4330826.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/richard-weissbourd/true-empathy_b_4330826.html))

Weissbourd, R. and Rolland, R. G. (2013). Learning about love. *Harvard Education Letter*, 29(2), 7-8.

Jones, S., Bouffard, S., and Weissbourd, R. (2013). Educator's social and emotional skills vital to learning. *Phi Delta Kappan*, 94(8), 62-65.

Weissbourd, R. and Jones, S. (2012). Joining hands against bullying. *Educational Leadership*, 70(2), 26- 31.

Weissbourd, R. (2012). Promoting moral development in schools," *Harvard Education Letter*, (January- February, 2012), 28(1), 8-7.

Weissbourd, R. (2012). Senseless extravagance, shocking gaps," *Educational Leadership*, (February 2012), 69(5), 74-78

McCartney, K. and Weissbourd, R. (2012). Listen to Lady Gaga: Be kind, stop bullying, CNN

Jones, S. and Weissbourd, R. (2012). Preventing bullying begins with us," *Huffington Post*. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/richard-weissbourd/preventing-bullying\\_b\\_1304110.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/richard-weissbourd/preventing-bullying_b_1304110.html)

Weissbourd, R. (2012). Why our kids don't believe us when we talk about college," *Huffington Post*. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/richard-weissbourd/college-competition-anxiety\\_b\\_1408826.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/richard-weissbourd/college-competition-anxiety_b_1408826.html)

Weissbourd, R. *New York Times*, contributing blogger to Motherlode (<http://parenting.blogs.nytimes.com/>)

Weissbourd, R. (2011). The over-pressured student. *Education Leadership*, 68(8), 22-27.

Weissbourd, R. (2010). Advice to the Governor: Early reading. *CommonWealth*, MassINC, October 19, 2010.

Weissbourd, R. (2009). Dads, this is your challenge to step up, NPR, *All Things Considered*, October 14, 2009.

Blood, M. and Weissbourd, R. (2009). The third grade reader. Op-ed, *The Boston Globe*. September 16, 2009

Weissbourd, R. (2009) What we're missing by raising happy kids, NPR, *All Things Considered*, July, 2009

Weissbourd, R. (2009). The Schools we mean to be: Parents and teachers together are powerful vehicles for driving the moral growth of adults and students. *Educational Leadership*, (May 2009), 26-31.

Weissbourd, R. *Psychology Today*, blogged, "The Parents We Mean to Be." (<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-parents-we-mean-be>)

Weissbourd, R. (2008). The quiet “troubles” of low-income children. *Harvard Education Letter*, 24(2), p. 8, 6-7. (Award for best editorial of the year, Association of Educational Publishers).

Weissbourd, R. (2003). Moral teachers, moral students. *Educational Leadership*, 60 (6), 6-11 (Mar 2003)

Weissbourd, R. (with Jake Murray), (2003). Focusing on core academic outcomes: A key to successful school-community partnerships. *Yearbook for the National Society of the Study of Education*, 102(2), 179-200.

Weissbourd, R. (2003). How cities can improve children’s outcomes: The case of ReadBoston. In Lerner, M, Jacobs J. and Wertlieb, D. (Eds.), *The Handbook of applied developmental Science*, Volume 1, 2003

Weissbourd, R. (2002). Moral parent, moral child; Family structure matters less to a child's development than the quality of the parenting. *The American Prospect* (July 14, 2002) 24-26. A Special Supplement; Reforming Welfare Reform;

Weissbourd, R. (2002). Down home. *The New Republic*, February 25, 2002, pp. 17-19.

Weissbourd, R. (2000). Beyond ‘Villages’: New community building strategies for disadvantaged families, in Bane, M.J., Coffin, B. and Thiemann, R. (Eds.) *Who Will Provide? The changing role of religion in American social welfare*. Center for the Study of Values in Public Life, Harvard Divinity School.

### SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS/MEDIA

Over the last three years I've spoken to over 80 organizations and groups across the nation, including several keynote addresses, on moral development. In the spring and summer of 2009 I was interviewed on dozens of radio shows about my recent book, including regional NPR stations and NPR's Fresh Air and Morning Edition. I have spoken widely on effective schools and services for children, including several keynote addresses at conferences.

### **Speeches for Schools, Parent Groups, Community Organizations:**

Barnhard Parent Forum, NY

Buckingham Browne and Nichols School, Cambridge, MA

Marin Country Day School, San Francisco

Family Action Network, North Shore of Chicago

Meadowbrook School, Weston, MA

National Cathedral School, Faculty, Washington, DC

National Cathedral School, Parents, Washington, DC

Sidwell Friends School, Washington, DC

Roxbury Latin School, Boston, MA

Board members and friends of the Boston Children's Museum

Winchester Parent Group, Winchester, MA

Wayland Community Forum, Wayland MA

### **Askwith Forums at the Harvard Graduate School of Education**

Teaching Empathy, Preventing Bullying, Emily Bazelon & R.J. Palacio, Panel Moderator

Powering Social Change with Data: A Case Study, Nancy Lublin, CEO of DoSomething.org, along with DoSomething.org Data Scientist Jeff Bladt, Introduction

Martha Minow, Askwith Forum on Desegregation, Panelist

Wynton Marsalis, Askwith Forum, Panelist

### **Selected Conference Speeches/Presentations/Radio Appearances**

Harvard EdCast: Discussing Tragedy with Children, with Betsy Groves

GoodWorks Conference (Project Zero) on Developing Responsible, Caring, and Balanced Youth, Panel Moderator

Harvard Law School, Civics Education: "Why it Matters to Democracy, Society and You," Panel Moderator

Boston Children's Museum, Featured Speaker

Hosted Youth Summit and assisted in planning of event at Harvard with Lady Gaga and Oprah

National Association of Independent Schools Conference, Chicago, Keynote Speaker



Association of Independent School Consultants, Boston, Keynote Speaker

Bay Area Coalition of Jewish Schools, Keynote Speaker

Bullying Conference, Radcliffe Institute, Co-host and Moderator

Harvard Kennedy School Achievement Gap Conference, Panel Moderator, Panel Respondent

Fernando Reimer's Global Education Conference, Teaching Empathy, Panelist

Boston Book Festival, Moderator, Panel on Boys Development

Guest Speaker, *Art of Social Change*, Harvard Law School

Featured on Facing History website piece on bullying.

Moderated discussion of film *Bully* after premiere of film at the Kendall Sq. Cinema in Cambridge

Presented at three screenings of the film *Race to Nowhere*, Boston area towns.

Panelist on *Theater and Morality*, Artists in Context

Worked with Tovia Smith and Patti Neighmond from NPR's "All Things Considered" to develop pieces for NPR. Interviewed for several pieces.

## AWARDS

Book selected by the *American School Board Journal* as one of the top 10 education books of all time. Weissbourd, R. *The Vulnerable Child: What Really Hurts America's Children and What We Can Do About It* (Addison-Wesley, 1996).

Book selected by *New Yorker* reviewers as one of the top 24 nonfiction books of 2009. Weissbourd, R. *The Parents We Mean to Be: How Well-Intentioned Adults Undermine Children's Moral and Emotional Development* (Houghton Mifflin, 2009).

Runner Up, National Awards for Education Reporting 2012. Opinion in an Education-Only Newsroom: Promoting Moral Development in Schools, *Harvard Education Letter*, 28(1), Jan/Feb 2012. (2012)

Best Editorial of the Year Award from Association of Educational Publishers: The "Quiet" Troubles of Low Income Children, *Harvard Education Letter*, 24(2),

March/April 2008.

Selected Faculty Convocation Speaker, Harvard Graduate School of Education, May 30, 2013

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Social Policy**

- 1989-1991      Research Fellow  
Commissioned by the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University to prepare papers for project on children in poverty. Participated in executive session at the Kennedy School on children in poverty
- 1987-1989      Consultant and Writer  
Project consultant and member of five member team of writers, film and video directors funded by the Annie Casey Foundation to develop and implement plan for documenting and evaluating the experience of troubled teenagers in five cities
- March 1989  
-August 1989      Consultant  
Assisted Dr. Larry Brown in developing *The Center on Hunger, Poverty and Nutrition Policy* at Tufts University
- 1979-1981      Policy Analyst  
*Center for the Study of Social Policy, Washington, D.C.*  
Analyzed legislation, developed position papers, provided technical assistance, documented impact of federal budget cuts on the poor

### **Mental Health**

- 1983-1989      Psychotherapist  
*Cambridgeport Problem Center, Cambridge, MA*  
Psychotherapist in clinic providing legal mediation and mental health services to low-income population
- 1982-1983      Psychotherapist  
*Mystic Valley Mental Health Center, Lexington, MA*  
Psychotherapist for children and adults