

LATIN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Understanding what and how students learn has emerged as a salient issue in Latin America, a region where the majority of children now have access to schools but few students learn the skills they need to succeed. *Raising Student Learning in Latin America* examines recent advances in our understanding of the policies and programs that affect student learning and provides policy makers with effective options.

“The attention of those concerned about schooling in the developing world is rapidly shifting from getting bodies in school to getting minds engaged in learning. This latter is a much more formidable task and requires a much greater sophistication of thought and evidence. This book brings just that—the state-of-the-art thinking—backed up by evidence and examples, presented clearly and without any ideological bias or blinders. It is the best of a new generation of research on improving student learning.”

—**Lant Pritchett**, *Professor of the Practice of International Development, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University*

“This book is a heroic and largely successful effort to identify, summarize, and communicate what we know and can do about the low quality of Latin American schools. It pulls together, evaluates, and synthesizes in balanced fashion an enormous amount of research. It argues for shifting focus away from expanding enrollments and toward making sure that children learn. It demonstrates that good policy can help even the poorest children. And it makes clear that real progress will take time and that magic bullets do not exist. Policy makers and researchers alike will find the data, analysis, and recommendations to be extraordinarily useful.”

—**Jeffrey M. Puryear**, *Co-director, PREAL; Vice President, Social Policy, Inter-American Dialogue*



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Raising Student Learning in Latin America

Vegas and Petrow

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THE CHALLENGE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

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