

Alex E. Combs

Assistant Professor
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Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor of Public Administration and Policy Department of Public Administration and Policy, University of Georgia	2020-Present
Visiting Assistant Professor Department of Public Administration and Policy, University of Georgia	2019-2020
Post-Doctoral Researcher & Instructor Martin School of Public Policy and Administration, University of Kentucky	2018-2019

Education

Ph.D. University of Kentucky (Public Policy & Administration)	2018
M.A. University of Kentucky (Public Administration)	2014
B.A. Eastern Kentucky University (Political Science)	2009

Areas of Expertise

Public budgeting and finance, Education finance (K-12 and postsecondary), State and local tax policy

Research

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

- [3] **Combs, A.E.** (Forthcoming). High school student achievement and college enrollment in the absence of school improvement interventions: Evidence from Kentucky. *Public Finance and Management*, 22(1).
- [2] **Combs, A.E.**, & Foster, J. (2021). The effects of homestead exemptions for seniors and disabled people on school districts. *Rural Education Finance and Policy*, special issue of *AERA Open*. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F2332858420988712>
- [1] **Combs, A.E.**, Foster, J., & Toma E.F. (2018). Local response to school finance equalization: Wealth or place? *Public Finance and Management*, 18(3).

Works Under Review

- [4] Buerger, C., **Combs, A.E.**, & Afonso, W. Plugging the tax leak: An analysis of North Carolina's local sales tax redistribution policy. (Revise and resubmit at *State and Local Government Review*)
- [3] **Combs, A.E.** & Kim, S. The impact of school district tax and expenditure limits on education-supporting nonprofit revenues

[2] **Combs, A.E.** The expenditure response of postsecondary institutions to changes in state subsidies.

[1] **Combs, A.E., Foster, J., & Troland E.** The role of property assessment oversight in school finance inequality. (Preprint selected for the Opportunity & Inclusive Growth Institute System Working Papers, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis <https://doi.org/10.17016/FEDS.2023.024>)

Works In Preparation

[6] **Combs, A.E., & Afonso, W.** Local government expenditure response to state-level redistribution of local option sales tax revenue.

[5] **Combs, A.E., & Afonso, W.** How does sales tax redistribution policy align with other dimensions of equity?

[4] **Combs, A.E., & Kim, S.** The impact of tax and expenditure limits on educational non-profit entry and exit.

[3] **Combs, A.E.** State sales tax revenue generated by daily K-12 school operations: Insights from COVID-19 school closures and re-openings.

[2] **Combs, A.E.** The impact of school board governance and membership on the distribution of district funds to schools.

[1] **Combs, A.E.** Fiscal illusion under the cover of property tax limits: School district revenue responses to a reordering of tax levy options.

Awards & Fellowships

[4] Busbee Endowment Seed Grant. \$13,200 2021

[3] Graduate School Academic Year Fellowship, University of Kentucky. \$16,000 2016

[2] Graduate School Academic Year Fellowship, University of Kentucky. \$16,000 2015

[1] Daniel Reedy Award for Outstanding MPA Paper, University of Kentucky. \$1,000 2014

Conference Presentations

[14] School District TEL Stringency and Education-Supporting Nonprofit Revenues: Crowding Out Community Support to Supplement School Revenues. 2023
Korean Association of Public Administration

[13] School District TEL Stringency and the Finances of Education-Supporting Nonprofits: Crowding Out Community Support to Supplement School Revenues. 2023
Association of Education Finance and Policy

[12] Do Nonprofits Substitute Educational Resources in Response to Tax and Expenditure Limits on School Districts? 2022
Association for Budgeting and Financial Management

[11] Property Tax Levies Relative to Predetermined Options: Exploiting Fiscal Illusion? Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management	2022
[10] The effects of removing voter recall from school district property taxes. Association for Budgeting and Financial Management	2021
[9] The impact of state oversight on property assessments and school district revenues. Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management	2019
[8] The effects of homestead exemptions for the disabled and the elderly on school districts. Association of Education Finance and Policy	2019
[7] High-tuition, high-aid policy and college expenditures. Association of Education Finance and Policy	2018
[6] Are state subsidies in higher education driving a divergence in institutional expenditures? Association for Budgeting and Financial Management	2018
[5] The effect of NCLB waivers on college outcomes. Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management	2017
[4] Local response to school finance equalization: The important of place. Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management	2017
[3] Local response to school finance equalization. Association for Budgeting and Financial Management	2017
[2] The effect of distance on degree completion. Association of Education Finance and Policy	2016
[1] Trends and determinants of state government privatization activity. Association for Budgeting and Financial Management	2015

Research Assistance

Visiting Research Assistant, Kentucky Center for Statistics and University of Kentucky	2018-2019
Research Fellow, Council of State Governments	2013-2014

Teaching

University of Georgia

Education Finance and Policy	Fall 2022
Data Applications in Public Administration	Fall 2019-Present
Introduction to the Nonprofit Sector	Fall 2020
Introduction to Public Policy Analysis	Spring 2020, 2022, 2023
Public Financial Management	Fall 2019, 2021, 2023

University of Kentucky

Public Program Evaluation	Spring 2019
Strategic Planning & Organizational Change	Fall 2018
Economic and Business Statistics	Spring 2017
Education: Economics and Policy (TA)	Fall 2015

Service

Conferences

Panel Discussant, Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management.	2022
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University

College Curriculum Committee, School of Public and International Affairs	2023; 2020
MPA Capstone Reviewer, School of Public and International Affairs	2020-Present

Students

Youkyoung Jeong, Public Administration (Ph.D.), University of Georgia, Committee Member

Reviewer for Journals

State and Local Government Review, AERA Open, Educational Researcher, Routledge

Reviewer for Presses

Routledge

Media Commentary

Kiernan, J.S. 2023's Property Taxes by State. *WalletHub*. <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-the-highest-and-lowest-property-taxes/11585>

Kiernan, J.S., 2023's Most & Least Federally Dependent States. *WalletHub*. <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-most-least-dependent-on-the-federal-government/2700>

Non-Academic Employment

Associate Director of Leadership Development, Sigma Nu Fraternity Inc.	2010-2013
Leadership Consultant, Sigma Nu Fraternity Inc.	2009-2010