

# Do Boys Benefit from Male Teachers in Elementary School? Evidence from Administrative Panel Data

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**Abstract:** With girls having overtaken boys in many education indicators, the “feminization” of elementary school teaching is causing debates across the globe about disadvantages for male students. Using administrative panel data on the universe of students, teachers and schools for a German state, I exploit within school and within teacher variation to determine teacher characteristics’ effects on students’ tracking outcomes. Germany tracks students at age 10 into more or less academic school types. I find hardly any effects of teacher’s gender, age, pay level, qualifications, or working hours on boys’ or girls’ school track recommendations or school choice. Even when following students into middle school, no effects of teacher gender on school type change or grade repetition can be detected.

**JEL classification:** I21, J45, J71, J78

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# 1 Introduction

In recent decades, male students have been outperformed by female students in many subjects and countries (Machin and McNally, 2005; Machin and Pekkarinnen, 2008). At the same time, we have been observing a declining share of male teachers, which raises the question whether male students are losing out because of the lack of male role models and lack of understanding of male behaviors by female teachers. Whereas the international press debates the “feminization” of the teaching profession, the literature in education economics on the subject is rather small and with the exception of Antecol, Eren, and Ozbeklik (2015) and Winters *et al.* (2013) does not study elementary schools: Ehrenberg, Goldhaber, and Brewer (1995) and Dee (2005, 2007) examine eighth grade students; high school students are analyzed in Nixon and Robinson (1999) and Holmlund and Sund (2008); college/university students’ outcomes by instructor gender are studied in Bettinger and Long (2005), Canes and Rosen (1995), Hoffmann and Oreopoulos (2009), Neumark and Gardecki (1998), Robst, Keil, and Russo (1998), and Rothstein (1995).

Whereas much of this previous literature, especially the one on colleges/university, stresses the scarcity of *female* instructors, especially in some academic fields, it is *male* teachers who are scarce in elementary school, as various newspaper articles for Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Korea, Switzerland, and the U.S. demonstrate.<sup>1</sup> In these countries, the share of male teachers in elementary school is lowest among all school types, at between only 10 and 20 percent. Not only the scarcity of male teachers makes elementary schools important. If early

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<sup>1</sup> Le Monde (France), October 19, 2009: “Face à la féminisation de la profession, Jean Ferrier propose de “revenir à des concours ‘sexués’” [Due to the feminisation of the profession, Jean Ferrier suggests to get back to contests by gender]; Die Zeit (Germany), August 5, 2010 “Was hilft den Jungen?” [What helps the boys?], die tageszeitung (Germany), October 5, 2011 “Männliche Lehrer sterben aus” [Male teachers are dying out], The Irish Times (Ireland-Eire) May 4, 2004 “Teaching in no-man’s land”; The Korea Herald (South Korea), January 9, 2012: “Female teachers dominate middle, elementary schools”.

treatments/interventions are more effective than programs attended later in life—as recent research in economics of human development suggests (Heckman, 2008)—elementary schools should matter more than subsequent school types.

In this paper, I use administrative data on the population of all students and teachers to estimate the effect of teacher gender and other teacher and classroom characteristics for male and female elementary school students in the German state of Hesse (which contains the city of Frankfurt). Because the data cover all students and all teachers of that state from 2007 through 2012, my estimates are based on almost 200,000 students or, in some specifications, 700,000 student by course observations.<sup>2</sup>

Elementary school, which usually lasts for four years (until age 10), is even more important in Germany than in most other countries, because Germany tracks students into physically segregated school types in middle school, which starts after grade 4 of elementary school. Hence, the German case is a situation where the potential stakes in elementary school are high. The tracking decision locks most students into an academically more or less challenging environment in terms of teaching curriculum and peers for a period of at least 5 years, that is the duration of middle school.

The German administrative school data do not contain test scores or school marks, but instead the most important outcome of German elementary school, namely the elementary school's middle school type recommendation and the actual middle school type attended in the

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<sup>2</sup> This is larger than the data bases that were available for most previous studies, with the exception of Winters *et al.* (2013), who use administrative data on the state of Florida for 1.7 million students in different grades. Administrative data have also been used by Bettinger and Long (2005) who study the population of Ohio's 1998-1999 first-year students in public colleges, altogether about 54,000 observations; by Hoffmann and Oreopoulos (2009) who examine the 1996-2005 entry cohorts of the University of Toronto with altogether about 100,000 observations; by Holmlund and Sund (2008) who analyze almost 43,000 student observations taken from Stockholm's upper secondary schools for the period 1997-2004; and by Robst, Keil, and Russo (1998) who obtained administrative files on about 6,000 students from the State University of New York at Binghamton. Other studies use survey data like the National Educational Longitudinal Study (NELS) of 1988, which yields up to 20,000 student by subject observations (Dee, 2007). The randomized experiment by Antecol, Eren and Ozbeklik (2015) is based on almost 2,000 observations.

following year. These decisions depend on the school marks unobserved in the administrative data. A simple simulation demonstrates that with a sample of 200,000 students, an effect of teacher gender of about 0.5 standard deviations on a test score (here a latent variable) would show up as statistically significant even with a binary outcome variable as observed in the German administrative data: when observing the latent variable (“test score”), the estimated coefficient of 0.50 standard deviations is associated with a *t*-value of 67 (a standard error of 0.0075), when using the binary indicator (“school type”) as outcome variable, the estimated effect on attending the higher track middle school is 19 percentage points with a *t*-value of 52 (a standard error of 0.0037).<sup>3</sup> Hence, with the large sample at hand, a binary indicator is sufficient to significantly identify effects on the underlying latent outcome.

Figure 1 illustrates the subjects (and corresponding hours) taught in fourth grade elementary school. The outcome variable in this study is whether a student attends or is recommended to attend the higher track middle school type. Education ministry regulations prescribe that the “learning development”, “performance” and “work attitude” in the main subjects Mathematics, German, and General Studies form the basis for the middle school type recommendation given by the elementary school teachers. Parents, however, may ignore that recommendation when choosing the actual middle school type for their children. In the state of

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<sup>3</sup> The following Stata commands demonstrate the relationship between the coefficient of a regression with the latent (“test score”) and alternatively the binary (“school type”) dependent variable on a dummy treatment variable (“teacher is male”). The setup corresponds to the situation of the data analyzed here: 200,000 observations, 10 percent being “treated” (here having a male teacher) and about 50 percent of students ending up in the higher track middle school:

```
set obs 200000
set seed 10
gen e = rnormal()
gen D = 1 in 1/20000
replace D=0 in 20001/200000
gen y = 0.50 * D + e
gen Y = y > 0
sum y Y D
reg y D
reg Y D
```

Hesse—as in 10 out of 16 German states—parents thus have the final word on their children’s educational choices.

The first outcome variable (i) teachers’ middle school type recommendation is thus a measure of the student’s general performance at the end of elementary school whereas the second outcome variable (ii) middle school type attended in the following year reflects parents’ assessment of the optimal school choice of their children, which may be strongly influenced by the teachers’ recommendation or not—depending on the strength of parents’ priors. In the data set used here, recommendation and actual choice exhibit a 90% overlap. By estimating the effect of teacher gender on these two outcome variables, I capture (i) teacher gender’s effects on overall student performance and (ii) teacher gender’s effects on parents’ decisions, which might be channeled through (i), but also contain parents’ independent judgment on their child. These effects are determined separately for boys and girls.

The outcome variables in previous studies are (iii) test scores/grades (Ehrenberg, Goldhaber, and Brewer, 1995; Dee, 2007; Holmlund and Sund, 2008; Hoffmann and Oreopolos, 2009; Winters *et al.*, 2013, Antecol, Eren, and Ozbeklik, 2015), (iv) teacher perceptions of students like being disruptive, inattentive, or not doing homework (Ehrenberg, Goldhaber, and Brewer, 1995; Dee, 2005, 2007), or (v) students’ perceptions of their courses like the perceived usefulness of the subject, or whether a student is looking forward to the course (Dee, 2007). Although outcome variables (iii) through (v) are not contained in the administrative teacher and student data base for the German state of Hesse, we can regard the outcome variable (i) teachers’ middle school type recommendation as a binary measure of a combination of indicators including (iii) test scores/grades and (iv) teacher’s perceptions, and maybe to some extent also (v) students’ attitudes. Apart from these outcomes, previous literature also considers retention (Robst, Keil, and Russo, 1998), further course choices (Bettinger and Long, 2005; Hoffmann and

Oreopoulos, 2009) or further educational or career achievements as outcomes (Canes and Rosen, 1995; Neumark and Gardecki, 1998; Nixon and Robinson, 1999; Rothstein, 1995). In this study, I will also consider grade retention in elementary and in subsequent middle school (after the school type choice) as well as re-tracking during middle school as additional outcome variables. Outcomes in middle school are particularly interesting, because they are not subject to potential teacher grading bias in elementary school.

Methodologically, we face the challenge of separating the causal effect of teacher gender on students' outcomes from confounding influences that may bias simple regressions. These confounding factors are not only (a) systematic differences in teacher characteristics such as experience or qualifications between male and female teachers, but also (b) sorting of male and female teachers into schools with students who differ systematically in their performances, for example due to different socio-economic backgrounds. For example, Black and Machin (2010) and Machin (2011) survey literature demonstrating that people are willing to pay more for houses belonging to districts with higher schooling quality. We therefore have to expect significant quality differences between schools even within small geographic areas like cities, due to residential sorting by socio-economic status. In addition to these problems, there may be (c) systematic sorting of male or female teachers *within* schools to more or less proficient students. For example, one might hypothesize that male teachers are allocated to more disruptive classes.

What we ideally want as researchers is a randomized design where teachers are randomly allocated a gender *and* randomly allocated to students/schools. In practice, however, we have to expect teacher gender to correlate with teacher quality, school quality, and socio-economic background of students, to the effect that simple OLS estimates of student outcomes on teacher gender may be biased. To address the three confounding factors mentioned in the previous paragraphs, the administrative data used in this study contain (a) information on teacher age,

teacher pay level, teacher qualification, and teacher working hours to control for heterogeneity in these dimensions between male and female teachers. In addition, (b) systematic sorting of teachers of different gender into schools with different unobserved characteristics is controlled by estimating models that include school fixed effects on more than 1,100 elementary schools as well as models with school-by-year fixed effects.

Despite of all these controls available in the administrative data, we might still wonder whether male teachers are systematically allocated to classes with more challenging and less performing students *within* schools. Although the way classes are combined and teachers are allocated in German elementary schools makes this unlikely, I also estimate models following Dee (2007) with (c) teacher fixed effects. The panel nature of the administrative data makes it possible to control for teacher sorting based on unobserved classroom characteristics through these fixed effects. However, in this case, we can only identify the impact of “having a teacher of opposite gender”, and not the separate effects of having a male versus female teacher for boys and girls, respectively. The reason is that teacher gender does not vary “within teachers” (i.e. once teacher fixed effects are controlled for). However, there is still variation in the variable “having a teacher of opposite gender” for each teacher, because teachers are teaching both male and female students (see also Dee, 2007).

Methodologically, only the more recent literature controls for school, student or teacher fixed effects to take into account systematic sorting of male and female teachers to different schools or classrooms. These are Winters *et al.*'s (2013) study on elementary, middle, and high schools, Dee's (2005, 2007) studies on eighth graders, Holmlund and Sund's (2008) analysis of upper secondary students, Bettinger and Long's (2005) and Hoffmann and Oreopoulos' (2009) study of college students, as well as Neumark and Gardecki's (1998) examination of U.S. graduate schools in Economics. The findings of these studies on whether instructor gender matters for students' outcomes are mixed: Winters *et al.* (2013) find no effects of teacher gender

in Florida's elementary schools, but small positive effects of having a female teacher in middle and high schools for *both* genders. Dee (2005, 2007) reports significant benefits of having a teacher of the same gender for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Holmlund and Sund (2008) find no such effects for Swedish upper secondary schools, but point out that if one fails to control for teacher sorting into subjects, such effects, although spurious, might appear. Hoffmann and Oreopoulos (2009) find very small effects (one to five percent of a standard deviation; where males perform worse if they have a female instructor) for the entry cohorts into the University of Toronto. For Economics Ph.D. programmes, Neumark and Gardecki (1998) cannot detect any effects of female faculty or female supervisors on first placements (except that more female faculty decrease women's duration in the Ph.D. program). Antecol, Eren and Ozbeklik (2015) is the only study relying on a randomized control trial. For elementary schools in disadvantaged neighborhoods, the authors find – contrary to the panel estimates by Winters *et al.* (2013) that female teachers *reduce* math (but not reading) test scores of female elementary school students, but have no effect on male students in either math or reading.

This paper is structured as follows. Section 2 explains the German tracking system and the administrative data used in this study. I use data from the German state of Hesse, which is the only German state that provides a comprehensive administrative data set where teacher and student characteristics can be linked for the complete population of schools, teachers and students. As a result, the data cover more than 1,100 elementary schools, more than 11,900 teachers, and almost 200,000 students in these schools over four school years. Section 3.1 explains the fixed-effects identification strategy and the variation in the data off which the estimates are obtained. Even after controlling for fixed effects, there is still significant variation in teacher gender that can be used to provide precise estimates of the teacher gender effect. The estimates of the effects of teacher gender on male and female school type recommendations and choices are presented in Section 3.2. Once school fixed effects are controlled for, almost no



effects of teacher gender on either school recommendation or school choice can be detected: point estimates are close to zero and thanks to the large sample sizes, standard errors are small. This is true for both male and female students, so that male students do not benefit in terms of school type choice from being taught by a male teacher (they do benefit by slightly increasing their chances of being recommended a higher school type, but the effect is small). Alternative specifications reported in Section 3.3, where I include teacher fixed effects to identify the effects of “having a teacher of opposite gender”, also produce insignificant point estimates close to zero with small standard errors. There also seem to be no effects of teacher gender on deferring the school tracking decision, repeating the last grade of elementary school or subsequent grades in middle school, or on re-tracking after having made the first school type choice, as shown in Section 3.4.

An investigation of the effects of other teacher, student and classroom characteristics on school type recommendation and choice is presented in Section 3.5. Again, no effects of teacher pay, qualification or working time are found for the outcome variables available in this study. Concurrent with previous literature, however, male students benefit from more female students in the classroom. Section 4 concludes.

## **2 Institutional Facts and the Administrative Data Source**

### **2.1 Tracking After Elementary School in Germany**

In almost all German states, elementary school lasts for 4 years, after which a student receives a recommendation for one of three middle school types. Traditionally, only the higher school type (called *Gymnasium*, similar to the traditional British grammar school), lasted for 9 years and led to a high school degree (similar to British A-levels) that qualified for college/university entry. The medium school type (called *Realschule*) takes 6 years and

traditionally prepared for a white-collar apprenticeship, whereas the lower school type usually takes 5 years and traditionally prepared for a blue-collar apprenticeship. Several states have recently started to combine the medium and the lower school types. Because of this, because the lower school type does not receive many students in the state of Hesse any more, and because only the higher school type awards a certificate to enter university, the empirical part of this study only distinguishes between the higher school type and any other school type.

Table 1 present the distribution of students over school types and grades (5 through 9) in the state of Hesse for the school year 2007/08, the first school year we use. In the more recent cohorts (grade 5) almost half the students are in the higher school type. The share is somewhat higher for girls (45%) than for boys (43%). The remaining students are in other institutions such as the medium school type, a comprehensive school, a so-called support stage, which allows to defer tracking until grade 7 (see also Mühlenweg, 2008), or a lower school type.

The process for determining the choice of school type is regulated by state school laws and further decrees and is supposed to be based on students' performance in Mathematics, German, and General Studies (in German: *Sachkunde*); see the illustration in Figure 1. The number of school hours (a school hour corresponds to 45 minutes) taught per week at the end of elementary school (fourth grade) in Hesse are 25 hours in total, of which 5 hours of Mathematics, 5 hours of German, 4 hours of General Studies, 4 hours of Arts and Music, 3 hours of Physical Education (Sports), 2 hours of Religious Education or Ethics and 2 hours of a Foreign Language (usually English). Mathematics, German, and General Studies are regarded as major subjects and hence by regulation form the basis for the school type recommendation, which is formally issued by a school committee, but de facto given by the teachers in the three major subjects, who state their recommendation to the committee. The criteria for the recommendation are based on the student's learning progress, state of knowledge and study attitude in these three subjects, but not clear cut. In Hesse, as in the majority of German states,

parents can override the school's school type recommendation and send their children to the type of school they find appropriate for their child (see the illustration in Figure 1).<sup>4</sup>

## 2.2 Administrative Student-Teacher Data for the State of Hesse

The present study draws on administrative *linked* teacher and student five-year panel data (in German: *Lehrer- und Schülerdatenbank, LUSD*) for the universe of teachers, students and schools in the German state of Hesse, which includes the major city of Frankfurt and which is the only German state that makes such linked teacher-student panel data available for research in Germany. The data are available for the school years 2007/2008 to 2011/12.<sup>5</sup> For the same years, there is a course data base which lists all the courses taught per school year (containing information such as the subject of the course). The administrative course data base can be linked to the administrative student and teacher data base.

The teacher data base carries person level information on the gender, age, pay level, highest teaching qualification, citizenship, and working hours of the teacher. The student data base carries information on the age, gender and citizenship of a student. It also carries a classroom identifier, which allows calculating the share of female and non-citizen peers. Unfortunately, there is no information on school marks/grades in the data. However, the data state the school type and thus the school track that a student attends. Thanks to the unique person identifier that is available since the school year 2007/2008, I can relate a student's teacher and classroom characteristics in grade 4 (the last grade of elementary school) to the school type chosen in grade 5 or later.

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<sup>4</sup> As of 2008, in 10 out of Germany's 16 states, the parents have the final word on the school type choice. In the other states, school marks or failure in special tests may prevent a child attending a higher school type.

<sup>5</sup> The state of Hesse has person-level student data since the school year 2002/03, but these data refer to students only, there are no linkable teacher data and the students cannot be followed over time due to lack of a panel identifier.

In addition to the actual track chosen in grade 5, the data also contain the elementary school's track recommendation for about two-thirds of the students. This information is missing for the remaining third. I will address potential selection bias due to these missings by artificially restricting the sample for the school type choice estimates to those students for whom school type recommendation is also observed. It will turn out that the results are virtually unchanged by this sample restriction. Table 2 shows that school type recommendation and school type choice overlap for more than 90 percent of the observations in the data used in this study. Information on the sample size is given in Table A1. There are about 55,000 fourth graders in each calendar year who are observed in school in the state of Hesse in the following year. Only data for four out of five school years can be used, because data for the following year are required to observe the outcome variables school type attended or school type recommended.

There are two ways I structure the data, depending on the estimated model. In one set of estimates, I collapse the data on the student level such that there is exactly one observation for each student in each school year. Because each student follows several courses, the teacher gender variable in this data set will be the share of male teachers in the three main subjects German, Mathematics, and General Studies. In the models with teacher fixed effects, the data cannot be collapsed on the student level, because a student usually has more than one teacher. Therefore, the data are structured so that one observation is a student in a field course (say Mathematics). Hence, there are multiple observations per student in each year. The teacher gender variable in this data format is strictly binary. This latter data format is also required to compare students in courses with male or female teachers, as discussed in the following paragraph.

Table 3 reports sample means for the variables used in the analysis for a sample where each observation is a student in a field course. There are 628,740 observations in total. These observations refer to four school years for 198,155 students in 1,145 elementary schools. There

are 11,900 different teacher observations teaching Mathematics, German, or General Studies in these schools.

Despite of some differences in the field course, age, pay level, qualification and working hours distributions between male and female teachers controlled for in the regression analyses, teachers of both genders teach similar students. As the lower part of Table 3 shows, the student gender, age, and student citizenship distributions are virtually identical among the observations referring to male and female teachers. Hence, any measured difference of students' outcomes between students taught by male and female teachers are unlikely to result from heterogeneity of the students taught by teachers of different gender, although I will also estimate models with teacher fixed effects to control potential sorting based on unobservable teacher or student characteristics. Fifty-one percent of the students obtain a higher school type recommendation and 44 percent of the students attend the higher school type in the following school year. 16 percent defer tracking for two years by entering the so-called Support Stage (Mühlenweg, 2008). Only about 1 percent of students repeat the fourth grade.

Splitting the sample by teacher gender reveals that only 10 percent (that is 1,193 out of 11,901) of the primary school teachers are male. Male teachers are somewhat more likely to teach Mathematics (38 percent) than female teachers (32 percent), but somewhat less likely to teach German (32 percent) than female teachers (37 percent). The share of General Studies is fairly equilibrated between the genders (30 and 31 percent for male and female teachers, respectively).

Teacher characteristics, especially the gender of the teacher, are central to this study. There is information on teachers' age (which is grouped into five dummy variables covering ten-year intervals 20-30, 30-40, etc.) and official working hours (coded into the three categories 0-20, 20-26, and 26-50). The administrative data also contain the teacher's salary group and qualification. As to the salary group, German teachers are usually civil servants, and hence paid according to a civil servant scale that ranges from A12 (common for primary school teachers) to

A16 (common for a headmaster of a higher school type).<sup>6</sup> Especially early on in their career (or for health reasons), however, teachers may be public sector employees without civil servant status. In this case, another public sector pay scale applies.<sup>7</sup> Although 75 percent of the observations are associated with teachers in civil service pay group A12, 7 percent are in public sector pay group BAT III and 9 percent are in civil service pay scale A13 (several of whom must be expected to be elementary school principals). 8 percent of the observations are paid according to other pay scales.

Teachers with the same pay level might still differ by qualification. There are different study curricula for teachers trained for different types of school. That is to say, students wanting to become a teacher already decide at the beginning of their college education whether they want to become an elementary school teacher or a teacher for secondary school of the lower, medium or high type. 77 percent of the observations in our population/sample have teachers with a regular elementary school teaching qualification. 9 percent have a higher qualification in that they would also be allowed to teach at a secondary school. 10 percent have a lower qualification (such as for special schools or kindergartens). The two remaining 4 percent have teachers with a different qualification, such as a specialization for a special subject (*Fachlehrer*) or a special permission to teach, or a missing in the variable.

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<sup>6</sup> Teachers at the lower or medium school type would normally be classified as A13, teachers at the higher school type would usually be classified as A14. The pay scales A15 would usually apply to teachers with management functions, especially head master, in medium and higher school types.

<sup>7</sup> Traditionally, this was called BAT, but has been reformed and is now called TV-L.

### 3 Empirical Analysis Using School and Teacher Fixed Effects

#### 3.1 Identification Strategy and Empirical Results on the Variation in the Data Used to Identify the Effect of Teacher Gender

The identification strategy employed in this paper is based both on (a) a rich set of teacher characteristics as control variables and on fixed effects, with (b1) school fixed effects, or (b2) school-by-year fixed effects, or (c1) teacher fixed effects or (c2) teacher-by-school fixed effects. The estimating equations take the following form:

$$\begin{aligned} y_{i\ school\ t} = & \alpha + \tau(\textit{teacher male})_{i\ school\ t} + \\ & \beta(\textit{other teacher characteristics})_{i\ school\ t} + \\ & \gamma(\textit{classroom characteristics})_{i\ school\ t} + \\ & \delta(\textit{student characteristics})_{i\ school\ t} + \phi_t + \mu_{school} + \varepsilon_{i\ school\ t} \quad (1) \end{aligned}$$

where the outcome variable  $y$  is either the teacher's school type recommendation or the actual school type attended.  $\phi_t$  are school year fixed effects;  $\mu_{school}$  are school fixed effects. This set up thus corresponds to specification (b1). In specification (b2), I include school-by-year fixed effects, that is, there are separate fixed effects for each school in each school year.

A priori it is unclear which type of fixed effects specification is preferable: if male teachers are assigned tougher classes, the within school variation in teacher gender in any school year will not be exogenous. This would bias both types of fixed effects estimates, but more so those with school-by-year (b2) than those with only school fixed effects (b1), because the former are uniquely based on the between classroom variation within a school in a given year. As it will turn out, there is no noteworthy difference between these two estimates, which, together with descriptive evidence on student characteristics by teacher gender and my telephone interviews, substantiates the view that within school variation in teacher gender is exogenous.

Nevertheless, to control any potential systematic assignment of male teachers to more challenging students, I also estimate models with teacher fixed effects (c). The specification with teacher fixed effects does not allow identification of a teacher gender effect, because teacher gender does not vary for a given teacher. However, this specification allows identification of the impact of having a teacher of the opposite gender and requires the assumption that this effect is similar for boys and girls. Because teachers teach both boys and girls the variable “teacher of opposite gender” varies for a given teacher in a student-by-course level data set. The specification is

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{i\ school\ t} = & \alpha + \tau(\textit{teacher of opposite gender})_i + \\
 & \gamma(\textit{classroom characteristics})_{i\ teacher} + \delta(\textit{student characteristics})_i + \\
 & \phi_t + \omega_{teacher} + \varepsilon_{i\ teacher}
 \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

where  $\omega_{teacher}$  are teacher fixed effects (specification c1). In a variation of equation (2), I include teacher-by-school fixed effects (specification c2), which defines a new fixed effect if a teacher changes school. In all specifications (1) and (2), standard errors are clustered at the school level.

The school fixed effects models (b1) and (b2) exhibited in equation (1) raise the question whether – after controlling for school fixed effects – there remains enough variation in the data. Here the question is whether there is sufficient variation in teacher gender *within* schools. Such variation may derive from two sources: teachers teaching the fourth grade in any school may vary over the school years or they may vary between classrooms within a school within a school year (in the state of Hesse, there are more than two classrooms on average in grade 4 during a school year).



The variation in the data that is used to identify the coefficients of equation (1) is presented in Table 4. To this end, I apply the Frisch-Waugh-Lovell theorem and regress each regressor on the fixed effects and all the other regressors of the estimating equation. According to the Frisch-Waugh-Lovell theorem, the standard deviation of the residual of these regressions exhibits the variation in the data used to identify the variable's coefficient in the fixed effects regression.<sup>8</sup> The auxiliary regressions take the following form:

$$\begin{aligned}
& (\textit{teacher male})_{i\ school\ t} + \pi_1 + \pi_2(\textit{other teacher characteristics})_{i\ school\ t} \\
& + \pi_3(\textit{classroom characteristics})_{i\ school\ t} \\
& + \pi_4(\textit{student characteristics})_{i\ school\ t} + \tilde{\phi}_t + \tilde{\mu}_{school} + \xi_{i\ school\ t}
\end{aligned}
\tag{3}$$

where the estimated standard deviation of the residual  $\xi$  measures the variation in the data that is used to estimate the coefficient  $\tau$  in equation (1). I estimated analogous equations for all other regressors in equation (1) and report the corresponding “within school” (i.e. residual of the auxiliary regression) variation in column 3 of Table 4. The fourth column of Table 4 reports the “within school-by-year” variation in the variables, which are obtained from a variant of equation (3) that includes school-by-year instead of just year fixed effects.

Column 3 shows that even when controlling for school fixed effects with four school years of data, a substantial variation in teacher gender (as well as other teacher characteristics) still remains. After partialling out school fixed effects and all the other regressors, the standard deviation of “teacher male” only decreases from 0.25 to 0.22. Hence, there remains enough

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<sup>8</sup> For binary variables, both mean and variance are driven by the same parameter.

variation in the data to exploit teacher gender variation in schools by way of school fixed effects regressions.

In column 4 of Table 4, instead of school fixed effects, I include school-by-year fixed effects. The variation of the residual of this regression exhibits the variation in teacher gender that is generated between classrooms within the same school and calendar year. As shown in column 4 of Table 4, this within school and within year variation in teacher gender is still substantial (0.17), albeit smaller than the total within school variation (0.22). Table 4 also demonstrates that the other teacher and student characteristics still exhibit significant variation even after controlling for school-by-year fixed effects.

### **3.2 Teacher Gender's Effect on School Type Recommendation and School Type Choice using Variation in Teacher Gender within Schools**

Table 5 presents the coefficients of “teacher male” for different types of regression specifications. Because the data from the courses in Mathematics, German, and General Studies are collapsed at the student level, “teacher male” is the average exposure to a male teacher per student in all courses taken in fourth grade in the fields Mathematics, German and General Studies. Hence this variable can take on the values 0, 1, or values in between 0 and 1 (80 percent of classrooms have only female teachers, whereas 3 percent of classrooms have only male teachers in these three main subjects; the remaining 17 percent are taught by at least one male and one female teacher).

Different sets of control variables distinguish the four rows of estimates in Table 4. In the first row, no other control variables are included, the estimates thus corresponding to a raw mean comparison. In the second row, other teacher characteristics are included as controls, so that teacher gender is not confounded with differences in male and female teachers' age, pay level, teaching qualification, citizenship, and working hours.

The third and fourth rows present fixed effects estimates, with school fixed effects included in the third row and school-by-year fixed effects included in the fourth row. Apart from including the fixed effects just discussed, the third and fourth rows also include further control variables at the student (student gender, age, and citizenship) and enrollment or classroom level (enrollment size and the share of female and non-citizen students in the classroom), as well as a dummy variable for the school year.<sup>9</sup> However, I have checked that adding these controls without the fixed effects does not make a decisive difference to the estimates. As it turns out, it is controlling for school fixed effects or not that impacts on the point estimate of having a male teacher.

Raw mean comparisons (the first row in Table 5) show that students with a male teacher on average have a 2.3 percentage point lower probability of being recommended to attend the higher school type and even a 4.3 percentage point lower probability of actually attending the higher school type one year after grade 4 elementary school. These negative and statistically significant effects hold for both male and female students, although having a male teacher is associated with slightly more negative school type recommendations for female than for male students according to the point estimates (the difference between the estimates for boys and girls is not statistically significant).

However, the effects become smaller when other teacher characteristics (age, pay level, qualification, citizenship and working hours) are included as control variables (second row). They now reach 1.7 and 3.2 percentage points for school type recommendation and actual school type attended, respectively. Still, the point estimates of the association of having a male teacher is negative for female and positive for male students when school type recommendation is the outcome variable: the values are -1.9 and 1.2 percentage points, respectively.

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<sup>9</sup> Enrollment size is more likely to be exogenous than class size, see Angrist and Lavy (1999). However, in my case results hardly change when controlling for class size (and its square) instead of enrollment size (and its square).

However, once school fixed effects are included to account for unobserved confounding factors that may be correlated with the school indicator, the point estimates of having a male teacher become closer to zero (between -0.5 and 1.3 percentage points for all students for school type recommendation and school type choice, respectively) with only the latter estimate for school type recommendation statistically significant at the 10 percent level. All estimates for the separate male and female student populations and all estimates with school-by-year fixed effects are statistically insignificant for both school type recommendation and school type choice as the outcome variable. All point estimates are close to zero with small standard errors at only around 1 percentage point. The point estimates are similar when school-by-year instead of only school fixed effects are included: as the last two rows of the estimates show, the type of fixed effects makes hardly any difference to the point estimates (this finding is further discussed in Section 3.3).

Because a third of the students have a missing observation in the variable “school type recommendation”, Table 6 checks whether these missing observations are likely to bias my estimates. To this end, I artificially restrict the “school type choice” sample to the students who also have a valid entry for “school type recommendation”. The adjacent columns in Table 6 then compare the estimates for “school type choice” for the restricted and the unrestricted sample. If the estimates turn out similar, the missing observations are unlikely to bias the estimates. As can be seen in Table 6, the estimates for the sample where the school type recommendation is not missing turn out to be similar to the estimates for the whole student population, although the restricted sample is by about one third smaller. It is particularly interesting that one important result holds in both samples: once I control for fixed effects, the small and sometimes significant effects found in the estimates without fixed effects disappear. Therefore, despite of missing values in the variable “school type recommendation”, the sample for which we can observe this outcome variable seems to be informative.

Table 7 and Table 8 include further robustness checks. In Table 7, I limit the sample to students who are *exclusively* taught by male or *exclusively* taught by female teachers in the three main subjects (Mathematics, German, and General Studies), which is the case in 80 percent of the observations, because only about 10 percent of elementary school teachers are male. By focusing on students who are exposed only to one gender in the main subjects, we might expect that it was more likely to find an effect of teacher gender.

The fixed effects estimates in Table 7 provide some indication that having only male teachers in the three main subjects increases the probability to receive a recommendation of the higher school type. However, this effect shows for *both boys and girls* in the fixed effects regressions (not all estimates are statistically significant). The point estimates indicate an increased probability by between 1.4 and 3.6 percentage points for having only male teachers. These effects seem not very large, given that more than 50 percent of students receive a recommendation for a higher school type, but still worth mentioning. These small positive effects of having only male teachers on the track recommendation do, however, not have a real impact on the actual school type chosen: the final choice is made by the parents and all fixed effects estimates for actual school type chosen are statistically insignificant with point estimates close to zero.

A further robustness check is provided in Table 8, where I include all subjects taught, not just the three main subjects Mathematics, German, and General Studies. The impact variable thus corresponds to the average exposure to male as opposed to female teachers in a wider set of courses and ranges from 0 to 1. Table 8 reports the regression results according to the same structure as Table 5 and Table 7: estimates for the exposure to male teachers are reported for the outcome variables “school type recommendation” and “school type choice”, both for all students together and for male and female students separately. In the specifications without fixed effects, point estimates are negative, with several of them statistically significant. When controlling for

school or school-by-year fixed effects, however, these negative coefficients mostly disappear and most point estimates are close to zero and insignificant. An exception are the results for “school type recommendation” for boys, where the point estimates are statistically significant at 2.7 and 3.4 percentage points. The size of these effects is similar to the estimates in Table 7, hence not very large.

Similar to the results found in Table 7, the positive effects found for boys for having a male teacher on their school type recommendation do not have a real impact, because the estimates for actual school type choice in Table 8 (just as in Table 7) are close to zero and statistically insignificant. Hence, it seems any positive effects of male elementary school teachers or any negative effects of female elementary school teachers on boys are neutralized by the parents’ final word on their children’s school type choice. This situation exhibits the potential benefits to involve more than one party if a school type choice has to be made in an early tracking system such as the German one.

So far, all analyses estimated the effects of teacher gender in fourth grade on school type recommendation and choice. In Table A2 in the Appendix, I report  $F$ -statistics and their  $p$ -values from regressions that include teacher gender both in fourth and third grade (first four columns) and teacher gender in fourth, third, and second grade (last four columns). The  $F$ -statistics refer to the test of joint insignificance of the teacher gender variables in all grades included in the respective regression. Toward the bottom of the table, the correlation between the teacher gender variables in grades two and four and in grades three and four are reported: the teacher gender variables in grades three and four have a correlation of about 0.78, whereas the teacher gender variables in grades two and four have a correlation of around 0.61. The results show that in the fixed effects specifications, the teacher gender variables are mostly jointly statistically insignificant. For the school type choice outcome, however, in two specifications the  $F$ -statistic is statistically significant at the 10 percent and in one case at the 5 percent level for male

students. However, taking the specification with 5 percent significance as an example, it turns out that the coefficients for teacher male (not shown here) in grades three and four have opposite signs and net each other out: the coefficient on male teacher in third grade equals -0.044 (standard error 0.018), the coefficient on male teacher in fourth grade equals 0.049 (standard error 0.019). So the two coefficients add up to 0.005, but the  $F$ -statistic is statistically significant with a value of 3.48 ( $p$ -value of 0.03). This result thus seems evidence of collinearity of the teacher gender variables across school grades rather than substantial effects of teacher gender on school type choice. Similar arguments apply to the two cases of  $F$ -statistics significant at the 10 percent level.

### **3.3 Controlling for Sorting of Teachers into Specific Classrooms: Teacher Fixed Effects**

As explained in the Introduction, identifying the effects of teacher gender on students' school outcomes is subject to several problems, in particular (a) differences between male and female teachers in such characteristics as age and qualifications, (b) differences in the unobserved characteristics of students in schools with higher or lower shares of male teachers, and (c) the systematic sorting of male teachers into different kinds of classrooms *within* schools. The estimates so far, however, have only taken into account the first two problems, addressed by (a) controlling for the teacher characteristics age, pay level, qualification, citizenship, and work time and by (b) including school or school-by-year fixed effects. In fact, the similarity of the regression results for school to those for school-by-year fixed effects could be interpreted to mean that in this case, problem (c) is not an issue. That is, whereas school fixed effects use teacher gender variation within schools both *between classrooms* and *over time* (as teachers rotate between grades), school-by-year fixed effects only exploit variation *between classrooms*. Hence, if there were any bias from systematic sorting of male teachers into different kinds of classrooms *within* schools, the estimates using school-by-year fixed effects should exhibit a

larger bias than those using school fixed effects. As these two types of estimates are very similar in all results so far, it is doubtful that any such bias exists of quantitative importance.

Nevertheless, as outlined in Section 3.1, the study data allow estimation of models with either (c1) teacher or (c2) teacher-by-school fixed effects to directly address systematic sorting of male teachers into different classroom types *within* schools. This calculation is expressed in equation (2) of Section 3.1. As also discussed in that section, when teacher fixed effects are included in the regression, only the coefficient on the impact variable “teacher of opposite gender” is identified and such identification must rest on the assumption that this effect is identical for male and female students.

The estimation results are reported in Table 9, where, as in previous tables, the outcome variables are “school type recommendation” and “school type choice”. The results for the two different specifications of teacher fixed effects—simple teacher fixed effects (specification c1) and teacher-by-school fixed effects (specification c2)—are reported in the first and second rows, respectively. The second specification accounts for the fact that teachers may switch schools and the match between the same teacher and a different school may imply a different teacher fixed effect. As Table 9 clearly shows, having a teacher of the opposite gender has no effect on either school type recommendation or school type choice: the point estimates are virtually zero and also statistically insignificant. This finding holds for both kinds of fixed effect specifications: teacher fixed effects and teacher-by-school fixed effects.<sup>10,11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> In Table 9, because students may have different teachers in different subjects, the data are collapsed on the course and not the student level, which explains the larger number of observations.

<sup>11</sup> It should be kept in mind, however, that the identification of the “teacher of opposite gender” effect is only possible in the teacher fixed effects models under the assumption that this effect is identical for male and female students. The previous estimates based on school and school-by-year fixed effects suggest that such is not the case, at least not when “school type recommendation” is the outcome variable.



### **3.4 Teacher Gender Effects on Tracking Deferral, Grade Repetition and Track Change in Middle School**

Even though virtually no effects of teacher gender on school type recommendation and school type choice are detectable, there still remains the possibility that teacher gender might affect other outcomes such as “grade repetition” in the last year of elementary school or “tracking deferral” by two school years to attend a so-called support stage school (Mühlenweg, 2008). Table 10 reports the effects on these two outcomes of having a male teacher. None of the fixed effects models exhibit any statistically significant coefficients, and all the point estimates in these models are very close to zero.

Nevertheless, in theory, it is possible that male and female teachers do have different effects on the study progress of male and female students but that these effects are neutralized by teachers’ grading habits and subsequent school type recommendation (Ouazad and Page, 2013). Hence, to obtain a more objective outcome that is outside the elementary teachers’ control, Table 11 reports outcomes determined in middle school and thus by different teachers. Because of their panel nature, the data allow follow-up of students over time to identify the grade (e.g., 6th or 7th) three years after the school type choice, which amounts to a cumulative measure of grade repetition. They also allow generation of an indicator for school type change (re-tracking) two years after the initial tracking decision, denoted by  $-1$  for a downgrade,  $0$  for no change, and  $1$  for an upgrade. Because the data set includes 5 school years of observations, however, looking ahead from grade 4 to (assumedly) grade 7 reduces the number of analyzable cohorts to just two and shrinks the population/sample size accordingly. Nevertheless, the standard errors of the estimates using these outcome variables are not very large (a little more than half a percentage point) and no estimates are statistically significant (see Table 11). Therefore, teacher gender has virtually no effect on the student outcomes considered in this study.

### **3.5 Other Teacher and Classroom Characteristics' Effects on School Type Recommendation and School Type Choice**

Even though the effects of teacher gender on school type recommendation or school type choice seem minimal, it is worth investigating whether these outcomes can be explained by any of the other control variables not yet discussed. Table 12 and Table 13 display the full regression results for the school fixed effect regressions reported in Table 5. The  $R^2$  at the bottom of the tables indicate that the regressors explain about 20 percent of the variation in the (binary) outcome school type recommendation and about 16 percent of the (binary) outcome school type choice. About half of the explained variation is due to school fixed effects and the other half to the regressors, whose coefficients are given in the tables. One particularly interesting result is that virtually none of the other teacher characteristics—neither teacher age, pay level, qualifications, citizenship, nor work hours—has any effect on school type recommendation or school type choice. The few teacher characteristics that are significant usually have very small point estimates, around 2 or 3 percentage points, so no systematic pattern is derivable.

The explanatory power of these models, however, derives not only from the school fixed effects but also from the individual student and the enrollment/classroom characteristics. In both Table 12 and Table 13, student gender, age, and citizenship are highly significant, with large point estimates for age and student citizenship. As regards the first, older students are less likely to be recommended to the higher school type or to choose that school type because it is the less proficient students who usually enter school later (Mühlenweg and Puhani, 2010). Likewise, students with foreign citizenship, whether male or female, are significantly less likely to attend or be recommended to the higher school type. Nevertheless, unlike the estimates for teacher characteristics, which may be interpreted as causal under the conditions discussed above because of school fixed effects, the estimates for student age and citizenship are unlikely to carry any causal implication.

Another interesting finding, one that echoes Lavy and Schlosser (2011), is that a higher share of female students in the classroom benefits male students. This finding holds true regardless of whether the outcome variable is school type recommendation (Table 12) or school type choice (Table 13). The effect, however, is not very large: the share would need to rise from 0 to (almost) 100 percent in order to generate a 6 percentage point increase in the probability that a male student be recommended to or attend the higher school type. No such effect is found for female students. It is also noteworthy that the share of non-European students in the classroom is not significant in these regressions, with point estimates close to zero.

#### **4 Conclusions**

The scarcity of male teachers in elementary school is leading to debate across the globe on whether young boys require more male role models in school and whether boys might be discriminated against by female teachers. This present analysis takes advantage of administrative data on the population of students and teachers in the German state of Hesse to estimate teacher gender effects on elementary school outcomes.

The evaluation of within school variation, however, which controls for school fixed effects, identifies virtually no effects of teacher gender at the end of elementary school (grade 4, age 10) on either the teachers' recommendations for middle school type choice or the actual school type choice (in Germany's early tracking system). The one exception is that boys might benefit slightly in terms of a higher school type recommendation when taught by a male teacher, although there is no such effect on actual school type choice, probably because parents have the final word on this latter. Nor do the teacher fixed effects models reveal any effects of being taught by a teacher of the opposite gender on either outcome variable. The findings in this paper,

therefore, should allay the concerns expressed in the global press that the increasing feminization of elementary school education might harm boys.

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## Tables and Figures

**Table 1: School Type Attendance Middle School in Percent (Grades 5 Through 9)**

Grade/School Type	5	6	7	8	9
<b>Boys</b>					
<b>Non Higher School Types of which:</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>65</b>
Lower School Type	4	6	15	18	19
Support Stage	18	20	0	0	0
Comprehensive School	18	18	17	16	16
Medium School Type	17	16	28	29	30
<b>Higher School Type</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>
Number of Students	30,372	29,518	29,236	30,634	30,642
<b>Girls</b>					
<b>Non Higher School Types of which:</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>61</b>
Lower School Type	3	4	12	14	15
Support Stage	17	18	0	0	0
Comprehensive School	18	17	16	15	16
Medium School Type	17	16	28	28	30
<b>Higher School Type</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>39</b>
Number of Students	28,892	27,741	27,704	29,025	29,928

*Source:* Administrative Teacher and Student Data Set for the State of Hesse 2007/08-2011/12 (*Lehrer- und Schülerdatenbank, LUSD*).

**Table 2: Overlap Between School Type Recommendation and School Type Choice**

School Type Recommendation	School Type Choice	
	Not Higher	Higher
Not Higher	42.7	5.3
Higher	3.4	48.5

*Note:* The figures represent percentages.

*Source:* Administrative Teacher and Student Data Set for the State of Hesse 2007/08-2011/12 (*Lehrer- und Schülerdatenbank, LUSD*).

**Table 3: Sample Means by Teacher Gender**

	Total Sample	Teacher is Male	Teacher is Female
<b><i>Outcome Variables</i></b>			
Teachers' Recommendation	0.51	0.50	0.52
Higher School Type Attendance	0.44	0.42	0.45
Grade 4 Elementary School Repetition	0.01	0.02	0.01
Tracking Deferral (Support Stage Attendance)	0.16	0.18	0.16
<b><i>Teacher Characteristics</i></b>			
Teacher is Male	0.10	1.00	0.00
<b><i>Teacher Age Group</i></b>			
20-30	0.10	0.05	0.12
30-40	0.26	0.24	0.25
40-50	0.22	0.25	0.22
50-60	0.34	0.36	0.34
60-70	0.08	0.10	0.08
<b><i>Teacher Pay Level</i></b>			
Public Employee (BAT III)	0.07	0.03	0.05
Civil Servant (A12)	0.75	0.66	0.77
Civil Servant (A13)	0.09	0.19	0.08
Other	0.08	0.12	0.09
<b><i>Teacher Qualification Level</i></b>			
Below Elementary	0.10	0.13	0.11
Elementary	0.77	0.72	0.79
Above Elementary	0.09	0.09	0.07
Other	0.04	0.06	0.03
<b><i>Teacher Working Hours</i></b>			
0-20	0.14	0.03	0.15
20-26	0.22	0.07	0.24
26-50	0.64	0.90	0.61
Teacher Not a German Citizen	0.004	0.005	0.004
<b><i>Course Characteristics</i></b> (not used in the main regressions)			
<b><i>Subject Taught</i></b>			
German	0.37	0.32	0.37
Mathematics	0.32	0.38	0.32
General Studies	0.31	0.30	0.31
<b><i>Enrollment/Classroom Characteristics</i></b>			
Share Female	0.51	0.51	0.51
Share Non-European	0.08	0.08	0.07
Enrollment Size	58.5	57.9	58.3
Class Size (not used in the regressions)	20.2	20.0	20.2
<b><i>Student Characteristics</i></b>			
Student is Male	0.51	0.51	0.51
Student's Age	9.86	9.88	9.86
<b><i>Student Citizenship</i></b>			
German	0.87	0.88	0.88

Turkish	0.05	0.05	0.04
European, North American, Aus./NZ	0.05	0.05	0.05
Other	0.03	0.03	0.03
# Schools Years	4	4	4
# Schools	1,145	717	1,142
# Classrooms	10,247	2,100	9,900
# Teachers	11,901	1,193	10,708
# Courses	34,276	3,926	31,088
# Students	198,155	37,904	190,733
# Observations	694,429	72,512	621,917
# Obs. with Valid Teachers' Recommendation	449,867	46,107	403,760

*Source: Administrative Teacher and Student Data Set for the State of Hesse 2007/08-2011/12 (Lehrer- und Schülerdatenbank, LUSD).*



**Table 4: Within Variation in the Data for Different Types of Fixed Effects**

	Mean	Std. Dev.	Within School Std. Dev.	Within School By Year Std. Dev.
<b><i>Outcome Variables</i></b>				
Teachers' Recommendation	0.52	0.50	0.45	0.44
Higher School Type Attendance	0.45	0.50	0.46	0.45
Tracking Deferral (Support Stage Attendance)	0.16	0.37	0.30	0.29
Grade Repetition (Elementary School Attendance)	0.01	0.12	0.11	0.11
<b><i>Teacher Characteristics</i></b>				
Teacher is Male	0.10	0.24	0.21	0.17
<b><i>Teacher Age Group</i></b>				
20-30	0.10	0.24	0.17	0.14
30-40	0.25	0.36	0.26	0.21
40-50	0.22	0.35	0.26	0.21
50-60	0.35	0.40	0.28	0.22
60-70	0.08	0.23	0.17	0.14
<b><i>Teacher Pay Level</i></b>				
Public Employee (BAT III)	0.07	0.21	0.18	0.14
Civil Servant (A12)	0.77	0.33	0.18	0.14
Civil Servant (A13)	0.09	0.21	0.18	0.14
Other	0.07	0.19	0.15	0.12
<b><i>Teacher Qualification Level</i></b>				
Below Elementary	0.09	0.20	0.16	0.13
Elementary	0.78	0.33	0.20	0.16
Above Elementary	0.10	0.25	0.20	0.16
Other	0.03	0.14	0.12	0.10
<b><i>Teacher Working Hours</i></b>				
0-20	0.14	0.29	0.23	0.18
20-26	0.22	0.36	0.31	0.24
26-50	0.64	0.40	0.31	0.24
Teacher Not a German Citizen	0.004	0.05	0.04	0.04
<b><i>Enrollment/Classroom Characteristics</i></b>				
Share Female	0.51	0.11	0.10	0.07
Share Non-European	0.08	0.11	0.06	0.05
Enrollment/10 in Grade 4	5.9	2.6	0.25	0.00
<b><i>Student Characteristics</i></b>				
Student is Male	0.51	0.50	0.49	0.49
Student's Age	9.85	0.50	0.48	0.47
<b><i>Student Citizenship</i></b>				
German	0.87	0.33	0.20	0.20
Turkish	0.05	0.22	0.20	0.20
European, North American, Aus./NZ	0.05	0.21	0.21	0.20
Other	0.03	0.16	0.16	0.15

*Note:* Because the data are collapsed at the student level, the teacher dummy variables are not binary any more in this format, because a typical student has more than one teacher in the three main subjects Mathematics, German, and General Studies. Sample/population size: 198,155.

*Source:* Administrative Teacher and Student Data Set for the State of Hesse 2007/08-2011/12 (*Lehrer- und Schülerdatenbank, LUSD*).

**Table 5: Regression Results: Coefficient of Teacher Male**

	All Students		Male Students		Female Students	
	School Type Recommendation	School Type Choice	School Type Recommendation	School Type Choice	School Type Recommendation	School Type Choice
No Controls	-0.023*	-0.043**	-0.020	-0.044***	-0.024*	-0.041***
(s.e.)	(.012)	(.009)	(.013)	(.010)	(.014)	(.011)
# obs	129,326	198,155	65,183	100,550	64,143	97,605
Other Teacher Vars.	-0.017	-0.032***	0.012	-0.031***	-0.019	-0.031***
(s.e.)	(.012)	(.009)	(.01)	(.01)	(.014)	(.011)
# obs	129,326	198,155	65,183	100,550	64,143	97,605
School Fixed Effects	0.013*	-0.005	0.014	0.000	0.012	-0.010
(s.e.)	(.008)	(.005)	(.01)	(.007)	(.011)	(.008)
# obs	129,326	198,155	65,183	100,550	64,143	97,605
School-By-Year FE	0.014	-0.002	0.012	0.007	0.016	-0.010
(s.e.)	(.009)	(.007)	(.011)	(.009)	(.013)	(.01)
# obs	129,326	198,155	65,183	100,550	64,143	97,605
# School Years	4	4	4	4	4	4
# Schools	1,105	1,145	1,088	1,145	1,086	1,145
# Classrooms	8,187	10,247	8,005	10,230	8,000	10,206
# Students	129,326	198,155	65,183	100,550	64,143	97,605

Note: \*Significant at the 10 percent level. \*\*Significant at the 5 percent level. \*\*\*Significant at the 1 percent level.

Source: Administrative Teacher and Student Data Set for the State of Hesse 2007/08-2011/12 (*Lehrer- und Schülerdatenbank, LUSD*).

**Table 6: Robustness of Regression Results with Respect to Missing Observations for School Type Recommendation: Coefficient of Teacher Male**

	All Students		Male Students		Female Students	
	School Type Choice	School Type Choice	School Type Choice	School Type Choice	School Type Choice	School Type Choice
	Sample with Recommendation Not Missing	Population	Sample with Recommendation Not Missing	Population	Sample with Recommendation Not Missing	Population
No Controls	-0.028**	-0.043***	-0.029**	-0.044***	-0.026*	-0.041***
(s.e.)	(.013)	(.009)	(.014)	(.010)	(.014)	(.011)
# obs	129,326	198,155	65,183	100,550	64,143	97,605
Other Teacher Vars.	-0.022*	-0.032***	-0.024	-0.031***	-0.021	-0.031***
(s.e.)	(.013)	(.009)	(.015)	(.01)	(.014)	(.011)
# obs	129,326	198,155	65,183	100,550	64,143	97,605
School Fixed Effects	0.005	-0.005	0.005	0.000	0.005	-0.010
(s.e.)	(.008)	(.005)	(.01)	(.007)	(.01)	(.008)
# obs	129,326	198,155	65,183	100,550	64,143	97,605
School-By-Year FE	0.004	-0.002	0.007	0.007	0.003	-0.010
(s.e.)	(.008)	(.007)	(.012)	(.009)	(.012)	(.01)
# obs	129,326	198,155	65,183	100,550	64,143	97,605
# School Years	4	4	4	4	4	4
# Schools	1,105	1,145	1,088	1,145	1,086	1,145
# Classrooms	8,187	10,247	8,005	10,230	8,000	10,206
# Students	129,326	198,155	65,183	100,550	64,143	97,605

Note: \*Significant at the 10 percent level. \*\*Significant at the 5 percent level. \*\*\*Significant at the 1 percent level.

Source: Administrative Teacher and Student Data Set for the State of Hesse 2007/08-2011/12 (*Lehrer- und Schülerdatenbank, LUSD*).

**Table 7: Robustness of Regression Results Considering Only Students with Teachers of Same Gender in Core Subjects: Coefficient of Teacher Male**

	All Students		Male Students		Female Students	
	School Type Recommendation	School Type Choice	School Type Recommendation	School Type Choice	School Type Recommendation	School Type Choice
No Controls	0.002	-0.025**	0.009	-0.017	-0.004	-0.033**
(s.e.)	(.014)	(.011)	(.015)	(.012)	(.016)	(.013)
# obs	109,478	167,673	55,174	85,020	54,304	82,653
Other Teacher Vars.	0.005	-0.002	0.012	0.003	0.015	-0.011
(s.e.)	(.014)	(.007)	(.016)	(.009)	(.015)	(.01)
# obs	109,478	167,673	55,174	85,020	54,304	82,653
School Fixed Effects	0.021**	-0.002	0.019	0.004	0.019	-0.008
(s.e.)	(.01)	(.007)	(.012)	(.009)	(.014)	(.011)
# obs	109,478	167,673	55,174	85,020	54,304	82,653
School-By-Year FE	0.024*	0.003	0.014	0.014	0.036*	-0.007
(s.e.)	(.013)	(.009)	(.015)	(.012)	(.019)	(.014)
# obs	109,478	167,673	55,174	85,020	54,304	82,653
# School Years	4	4	4	4	4	4
# Schools	1,076	1,134	1,059	1,134	1,060	1,133
# Classrooms	6,927	8,703	7,682	8,683	6,768	8,661
# Students	109,478	167,673	55,174	85,020	54,304	82,653

Note: \*Significant at the 10 percent level. \*\*Significant at the 5 percent level. \*\*\*Significant at the 1 percent level.

Source: Administrative Teacher and Student Data Set for the State of Hesse 2007/08-2011/12 (*Lehrer- und Schülerdatenbank, LUSD*).

**Table 8: Robustness of Regression Results Considering Teachers of All Subjects Taught:  
Coefficient of Teacher Male**

	All Students		Male Students		Female Students	
	School Type Recommendation	School Type Choice	School Type Recommendation	School Type Choice	School Type Recommendation	School Type Choice
No Controls	-0.048**	-0.074***	-0.039*	-0.073***	-0.057***	-0.073***
(s.e.)	(.02)	(.016)	(.022)	(.017)	(.021)	(.017)
# obs	129,326	198,155	65,183	100,550	64,143	97,605
Other Teacher Vars.	-0.036*	-0.005	-0.026	0.009	-0.046**	-0.019
(s.e.)	(.02)	(.008)	(.022)	(.011)	(.021)	(.011)
# obs	129,326	198,155	65,183	100,550	64,143	97,605
School Fixed Effects	0.014	-0.006	0.027*	0.007	0.000	-0.018
(s.e.)	(.012)	(.008)	(.014)	(.011)	(.016)	(.012)
# obs	129,326	198,155	65,183	100,550	64,143	97,605
School-By-Year FE	0.021	-0.006	0.034**	0.010	0.007	-0.020
(s.e.)	(.013)	(.01)	(.017)	(.014)	(.019)	(.015)
# obs	129,326	198,155	65,183	100,550	64,143	97,605
# School Years	4	4	4	4	4	4
# Schools	1,105	1,145	1,088	1,145	1,086	1,145
# Classrooms	8,187	10,247	8,005	10,230	8,000	10,206
# Students	129,326	198,155	65,183	100,550	64,143	97,605

Note: \*Significant at the 10 percent level. \*\*Significant at the 5 percent level. \*\*\*Significant at the 1 percent level.

Source: Administrative Teacher and Student Data Set for the State of Hesse 2007/08-2011/12 (*Lehrer- und Schülerdatenbank, LUSD*).

**Table 9: Regression Results with Teacher Fixed Effects: Coefficient of Teacher of Opposite Gender**

	All Students	
	School Type Recommendation	School Type Choice
Teacher Fixed Effects	0.001	-0.001
(s.e.)	(0.004)	(0.003)
# obs	449,867	694,429
Teacher-By-School FE	0.001	-0.001
(s.e.)	(0.004)	(0.003)
# obs	449,867	694,429
# School Years	4	4
# Schools	1,105	1,145
# Classrooms	8,187	10,247
# Teachers	9,933	11,901
# Students	129,326	198,155

Note: \*Significant at the 10 percent level. \*\*Significant at the 5 percent level. \*\*\*Significant at the 1 percent level.

Source: Administrative Teacher and Student Data Set for the State of Hesse 2007/08-2011/12 (*Lehrer- und Schülerdatenbank, LUSD*).

**Table 10: Teacher Gender's Effect on Other Outcomes: Grade Repetition and Tracking Deferral**

	All Students		Male Students		Female Students	
	Grade Repetition	Tracking Deferral	Grade Repetition	Tracking Deferral	Grade Repetition	Tracking Deferral
No Controls	0.003**	0.037***	0.004**	0.036***	0.002	0.038***
(s.e.)	(.001)	(.013)	(.002)	(.014)	(.002)	(.013)
# obs	198,155	198,155	100,550	100,550	97,605	97,605
Other Teacher Vars.	0.003*	0.029**	0.003*	0.027*	0.002	0.031**
(s.e.)	(.001)	(.013)	(.002)	(.014)	(.002)	(.013)
# obs	198,155	198,155	100,550	100,550	97,605	97,605
School Fixed Effects	0.002	-0.004	0.002	-0.008	0.003	0.002
(s.e.)	(.001)	(.004)	(.002)	(.006)	(.002)	(.006)
# obs	198,155	198,155	100,550	100,550	97,605	97,605
School-By-Year FE	0.003	-0.004	0.003	-0.007	0.002	-0.001
(s.e.)	(.002)	(.005)	(.003)	(.006)	(.003)	(.007)
# obs	198,155	198,155	100,550	100,550	97,605	97,605
# School Years	4	4	4	4	4	4
# Schools	1,145	1,145	1,145	1,145	1,145	1,145
# Classrooms	10,247	10,247	10,230	10,230	10,206	10,206
# Students	198,155	198,155	100,550	100,550	97,605	97,605

Note: \*Significant at the 10 percent level. \*\*Significant at the 5 percent level. \*\*\*Significant at the 1 percent level.

Source: Administrative Teacher and Student Data Set for the State of Hesse 2007/08-2011/12 (*Lehrer- und Schülerdatenbank, LUSD*).

**Table 11: Teacher Gender's Effect on Other Outcomes: Middle School Grade Retention and School Type Change**

	All Students		Male Students		Female Students	
	Grade 3 Years After	School Type Change	Grade 3 Years After	School Type Change	Grade 3 Years After	School Type Change
No Controls	-0.005	0.003	-0.004	0.009	-0.005	-0.002
(s.e.)	(.004)	(.007)	(.005)	(.007)	(.004)	(.008)
# obs	99,727	99,727	50,410	50,410	49,317	49,317
Other Teacher Vars.	-0.003	0.001	-0.002	0.008	-0.004	-0.005
(s.e.)	(.004)	(.007)	(.005)	(.007)	(.005)	(.008)
# obs	99,727	99,727	50,410	50,410	49,317	49,317
School Fixed Effects	-0.004	-0.005	-0.004	-0.001	-0.005	-0.008
(s.e.)	(.004)	(.004)	(.006)	(.007)	(.005)	(.005)
# obs	99,727	99,727	50,410	50,410	49,317	49,317
School-By-Year FE	-0.002	-0.003	0.002	0.001	-0.003	-0.006
(s.e.)	(.005)	(.005)	(.007)	(.007)	(.006)	(.006)
# obs	99,727	99,727	50,410	50,410	49,317	49,317
# School Years	2	2	2	2	2	2
# Schools	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130
# Classrooms	5,147	5,147	5,137	5,137	5,124	5,124
# Students	99,727	99,727	50,410	50,410	49,317	49,317

Note: \*Significant at the 10 percent level. \*\*Significant at the 5 percent level. \*\*\*Significant at the 1 percent level.

Source: Administrative Teacher and Student Data Set for the State of Hesse 2007/08-2011/12 (*Lehrer- und Schülerdatenbank, LUSD*).



**Table 12: Full Regression Results for School Type Recommendation as the Outcome and School Fixed Effects (cf. Table 5)**

	All Students School Type Recommendation		Males School Type Recommendation		Females School Type Recommendation	
	Coeff.	(s.e.)	Coeff.	(s.e.)	Coeff.	(s.e.)
Teacher is Male	0.01*	(.008)	0.01	(.010)	0.01	(.011)
<i>Teacher Age Group (40-50)</i>						
20-30	-0.02**	(.009)	-0.02	(.011)	-0.02	(.012)
30-40	-0.01*	(.006)	-0.01	(.008)	-0.01	(.008)
50-60	-0.01	(.006)	0.00	(.007)	-0.01	(.008)
60-70	0.00	(.010)	0.01	(.013)	-0.02	(.013)
<i>Teacher Pay Level (Civil Servant A12)</i>						
Public Employee (BAT)	0.01	(.009)	0.01	(.012)	0.01	(.012)
Civil Servant (A13)	-0.01	(.009)	0.01	(.012)	0.00	(.011)
Other	0.02**	(.010)	0.02	(.014)	0.02	(.013)
<i>Teacher Qualification Level (Elementary)</i>						
Below Elementary	0.00	(.010)	0.01	(.014)	0.00	(.013)
Above Elementary	0.00	(.009)	0.00	(.011)	-0.01	(.012)
Other	-0.02	(.013)	-0.03**	(.017)	-0.01*	(.019)
Teacher Not German	0.00	(.038)	0.00	(.040)	-0.01	(.053)
<i>Teacher Working Hours (26-50)</i>						
0-20	0.00	(.007)	0.00	(.009)	0.01	(.010)
20-26	-0.01	(.005)	0.01	(.007)	0.01	(.007)
Share Female in Classroom	0.02	(.016)	0.06***	(.021)	-0.01	(.022)
Share Non-Europ. in Classr.	0.01	(.030)	0.03	(.039)	-0.01	(.037)
Enrollment/10	-0.01	(.007)	-0.01	(.009)	0.00	(.009)
Enrollment Squared/1000	0.01	(.005)	0.01	(.006)	0.01	(.006)
Student Male	-0.02***	(.003)	-	-	-	-
Student Age	-0.22***	(.003)	-0.23***	(.004)	-0.21*	(.004)
<i>Student Citizenship</i>						
Turkish	-0.25***	(.007)	-0.23***	(.009)	-0.26***	(.010)
Europ., North Am.,	-0.16***	(.007)	-0.16***	(.010)	-0.15***	(.010)
Other	-0.18***	(.010)	-0.17***	(.013)	-0.19***	(.013)
<i>School Year (2008/09)</i>						
2007/08	-0.01*	(.005)	-0.01	(.006)	-0.01	(.007)
2009/10	0.01	(.005)	0.00	(.006)	0.01	(.007)
2010/11	0.01	(.006)	0.01	(.008)	0.00	(.007)
Constant	2.72***	(.039)	2.75***	(.050)	2.66***	(.052)
R <sup>2</sup>	0.21		0.21		0.19	
# School Years	4		4		4	
# Schools	1,105		1,088		1,086	
# Classrooms	8,187		8,005		8,000	
# Students	129,326		65,183		64,143	

Note: \*Significant at the 10 percent level. \*\*Significant at the 5 percent level. \*\*\*Significant at the 1 percent level.

Source: Administrative Teacher and Student Data Set for the State of Hesse 2007/08-2011/12 (*Lehrer- und Schülerdatenbank, LUSD*).

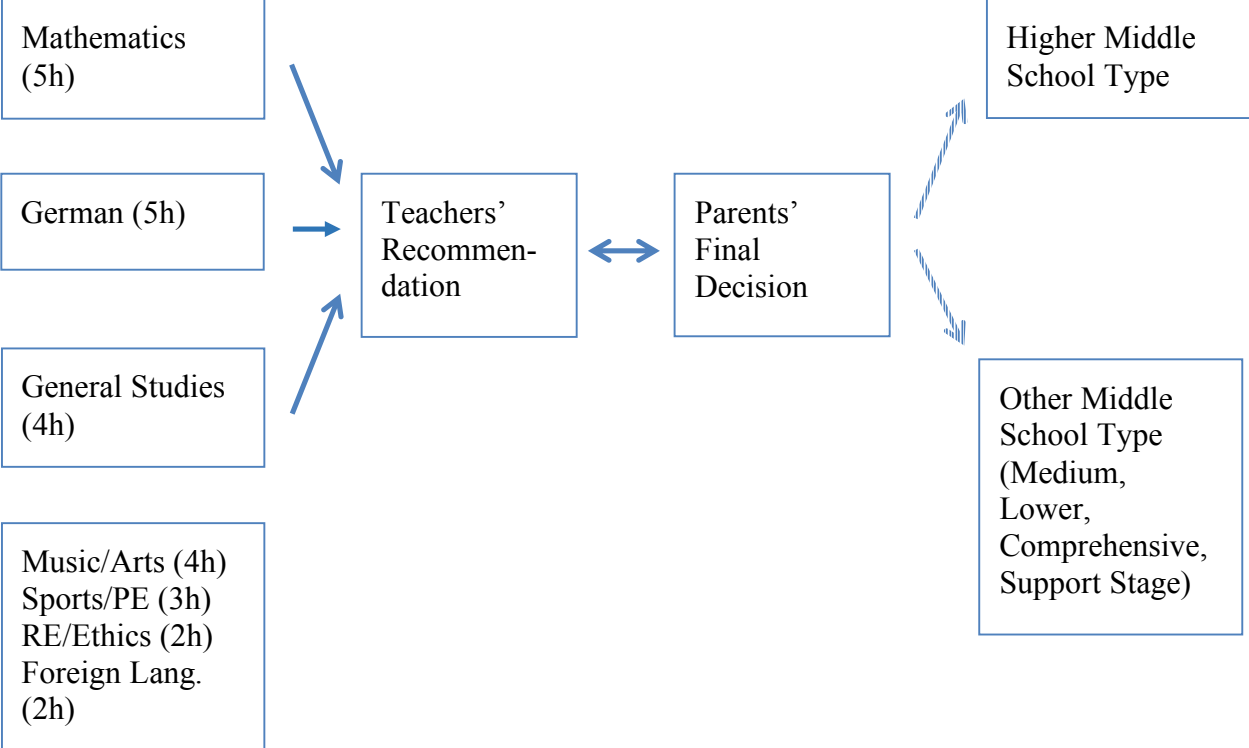
**Table 13: Full Regression Results for School Type Choice as the Outcome and School Fixed Effects (cf. Table 5)**

	All students		Males		Females	
	School Type Choice	School Type Choice	School Type Choice	School Type Choice	School Type Choice	School Type Choice
	Coeff.	(s.e.)	Coeff.	(s.e.)	Coeff.	(s.e.)
Teacher is Male	0.00	(.005)	0.000	(.007)	-0.01	(.008)
<i>Teacher Age Group (40-50)</i>						
20-30	0.00	(.006)	0.013	(.009)	-0.01	(.009)
30-40	0.00	(.005)	0.005	(.006)	-0.01	(.007)
50-60	0.00	(.004)	0.001	(.006)	-0.01	(.006)
60-70	0.00	(.007)	0.013	(.009)	-0.01	(.010)
<i>Teacher Pay Level (Civil Servant A12)</i>						
Public Employee (BAT III)	0.00	(.007)	0.005	(.009)	0.00	(.009)
Civil Servant (A13)	0.00	(.006)	-0.009	(.009)	0.00	(.009)
Other	0.01	(.008)	0.007	(.010)	0.02	(.010)
<i>Teacher Qualification Level (Elementary)</i>						
Below Elementary	-0.01	(.007)	-0.003	(.010)	-0.01	(.010)
Above Elementary	0.00	(.006)	0.004	(.008)	0.00	(.008)
Other	0.00	(.009)	-0.011	(.013)	0.00	(.014)
Teacher Not German	-0.04	(.026)	-0.017	(.035)	-0.07*	(.038)
<i>Teacher Working Hours (26-50)</i>						
0-20	0.00	(.005)	-0.006	(.007)	0.01	(.007)
20-26	0.00	(.004)	0.001	(.005)	0.01	(.005)
Share Female in Classroom	0.02	(.012)	0.06***	(.017)	-0.02	(.017)
Share Non-Europ. in Classr.	-0.01	(.021)	0.01	(.029)	-0.03	(.028)
Enrollment/10	-0.01	(.005)	-0.01*	(.007)	0.00	(.007)
Enrollment Squared/1000	0.00	(.004)	0.01	(.005)	0.00	(.005)
Student Male	-0.01***	(.002)	-	-	-	-
Student Age	-0.23***	(.003)	-0.23***	(.003)	-0.22***	(.003)
<i>Student Citizenship (German)</i>						
Turkish	-0.15***	(.006)	-0.14***	(.007)	-0.15***	(.008)
Europ., North Am., Aus./NZ	-0.11***	(.006)	-0.11***	(.008)	-0.10***	(.008)
Other	-0.09***	(.008)	-0.09***	(.010)	-0.10***	(.011)
<i>School Year (2008/09)</i>						
2007/08	-0.01***	(.003)	-0.01***	(.004)	0.00	(.005)
2009/10	0.00	(.003)	-0.00	(.005)	0.00	(.005)
2010/11	0.00	(.004)	0.00	(.005)	0.00	(.005)
Constant	2.71***	(.034)	2.75***	(.042)	2.66***	(.042)
R <sup>2</sup>	0.16		0.17		0.16	
# School Years	4		4		4	
# Schools	1,145		1,145		1,145	
# Classrooms	10,247		10,230		10,206	
# Students	198,155		100,550		97,605	

Note: \*Significant at the 10 percent level. \*\*Significant at the 5 percent level. \*\*\*Significant at the 1 percent level.

Source: Administrative Teacher and Student Data Set for the State of Hesse 2007/08-2011/12 (*Lehrer- und Schülerdatenbank, LUSD*).

**Figure 1: School Choice After Final Year (Grade 4) of Elementary School**



Source: Ministry of Culture and Education (*Kultusministerium*) of the state of Hesse; own illustration.

## Appendix

**Table A1: Sample Sizes**

School Year	# Students in 4th Grade Elementary School	# Students Present in Hesse in the Following School Year	# Students After Merging Student Data with School Data	# Students After Merging with Course and Teacher Data	# Students by Courses in Math, German, and General Studies
2007/08-2008/09	58,473	54,523	53,019	50,070	175,419
2008/09-2009/10	57,562	53,916	52,495	49,657	177,374
2009/10-2010/11	55,976	53,921	52,409	50,341	160,380
2010/11-2011/12	54,136	51,170	49,520	48,087	168,788
Total	226,147	213,530	207,443	198,155	694,429

Source: Administrative Teacher and Student Data Set for the State of Hesse 2007/08-2011/12 (*Lehrer- und Schülerdatenbank, LUSD*).

**Table A2: F-Statistics and P-Values on Joint Effects of the Male Teacher Variables in School Grades 2, 3, and 4**

	Teacher Gender in Grades 3 and 4				Teacher Gender in Grades 2, 3 and 4			
	Male Students		Female Students		Male Students		Female Students	
	Track Re- commen- dation	Track Choice	Track Re- commen- dation	Track Choice	Track Re- commen- dation	Track Choice	Track Re- commen- dation	Track Choice
No Controls	1.75	8.65**	2.13	7.51***	2.06	5.05***	1.13	4.61***
(p-value)	(.17)	(.00)	(.12)	(.00)	(.10)	(.00)	(.34)	(.00)
# obs	44,659	70,082	44,032	68,337	27,416	43,294	26,845	42,006
Other Teacher Vars	0.61	3.29**	1.77	4.29**	0.76	2.34*	1.40	4.66***
(p-value)	(.54)	(.04)	(.17)	(.01)	(.51)	(.07)	(.24)	(.00)
# obs	44,659	70,082	44,032	68,337	27,416	43,294	26,845	42,006
School Fixed Effects	0.18	2.38*	0.32	0.86	0.12	2.54*	0.44	0.94
(p-value)	(.84)	(.09)	(.73)	(.42)	(.95)	(.06)	(.72)	(.42)
# obs	44,659	70,082	44,032	68,337	27,416	43,294	26,845	42,006
School By Year FE	0.69	3.48**	0.46	0.44	0.07	1.39	0.34	1.58
(p-value)	(.50)	(.03)	(.63)	(.64)	(.98)	(.24)	(.80)	(.19)
# obs	44,659	70,082	44,032	68,337	27,416	43,294	26,845	42,006
Corr. (TG2, TG4)	-	-	-	-	0.6087	0.6137	0.6069	0.6079
Corr. (TG3, TG4)	0.7762	0.7802	0.7793	0.7816	0.7743	0.7823	0.7799	0.7844
# School Years	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2
# Schools	1,052	1,196	1,030	1,165	939	1,130	928	1,124
# Classrooms	5,639	7,432	5,635	7,411	3,613	4,822	3,616	4,825
# Teachers	6,802	9,350	6,687	9,117	4,299	5,936	4,250	5,822
# Students	44,659	70,082	44,032	68,337	27,416	43,294	26,845	42,006

Note: \*Significant at the 10 percent level. \*\*Significant at the 5 percent level. \*\*\*Significant at the 1 percent level. Corr. (TG2, TG4) is the correlation of the male teacher variables relating to grades 2 and 4. Corr. (TG3, TG4) is the correlation of the male teacher variables relating to grades 3 and 4.

Source: Administrative Teacher and Student Data Set for the State of Hesse 2007/08-2011/12 (*Lehrer- und Schülerdatenbank, LUSD*).