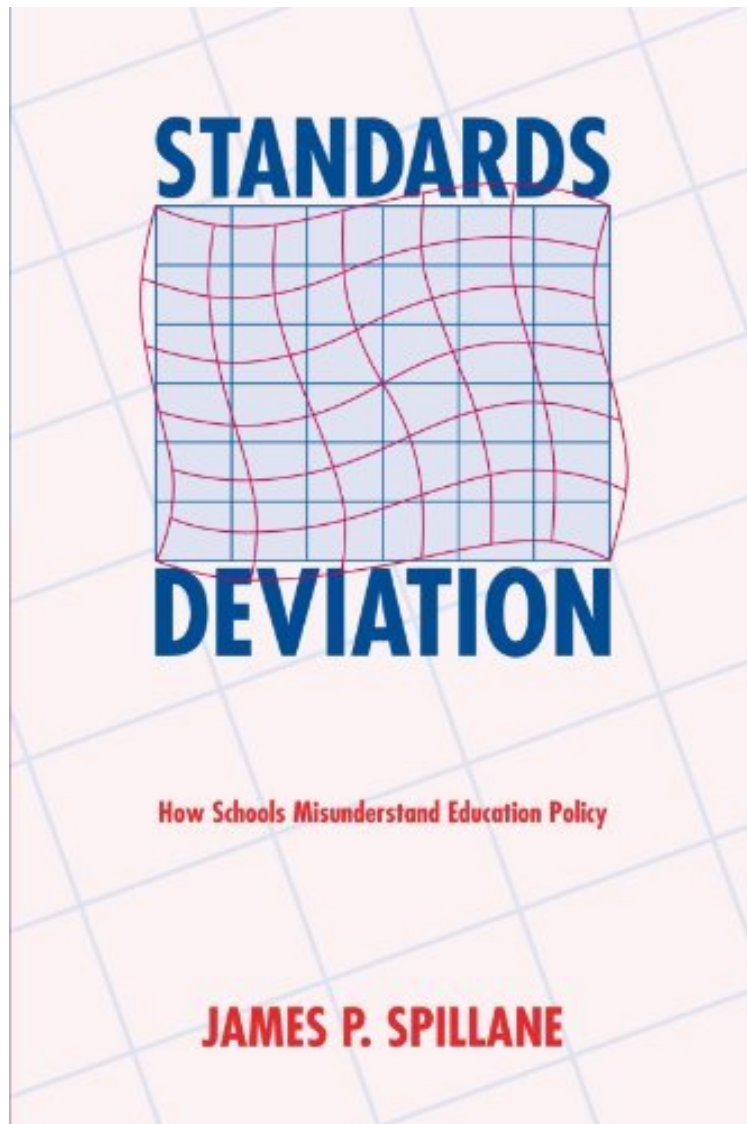


## Standards Deviation

*James P. Spillane*

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**James P. Spillane : Standards Deviation** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Standards Deviation:

What happens to federal and state policies as they move from legislative chambers to individual districts, schools, and, ultimately, classrooms? Although policy implementation is generally seen as an administrative problem, James Spillane reminds us that it is also a psychological problem. After intensively studying several school districts'

responses to new statewide science and math teaching policies in the early 1990s, Spillane argues that administrators and teachers are inclined to assimilate new policies into current practices. As new programs are communicated through administrative levels, the understanding of them becomes increasingly distorted, no matter how sincerely the new ideas are endorsed. Such patterns of well-intentioned misunderstanding highlight the need for systematic training and continuing support for the local administrators and teachers who are entrusted with carrying out large-scale educational change, classroom by classroom.

Table of Contents: Acknowledgments 1. Making Education Policy Here, There, and Everywhere 2. Doing Standards: Content and Context 3. Interactive Policymaking 4. Making Policy, Making Sense 5. Resources for Sense-Making 6. The Schoolteacher and Interactive Policymaking 7. Policy in Practice 8. Implementation Reconsidered Appendix: Research Methods References Index

Policy implementation is like the telephone game. . . . the player at the start of the line tells a story to the next person in line, who then relays the story to the third person in line. . . . by the time the story is retold by the final player, it is very different from the original.-- chapter 1

"Policy implementation is like the telephone game...The player at the start of the line tells a story to the next person in line, who then relays the story to the third person in line...By the time the story is retold by the final player, it is very different from the original." - from chapter 1

From the Back Cover Policy implementation is like the telephone game. . . . the player at the start of the line tells a story to the next person in line, who then relays the story to the third person in line. . . . by the time the story is retold by the final player, it is very different from the original. (chapter 1)

About the Author James P. Spillane is Professor of Human Development, Social Policy, and Learning Sciences, at Northwestern University.