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Nearby Enrollment Policy and School District Housing in Nanchang: The Prime Culprit of Irrationality and Educational Non-Equalization

1. Introduction

Being one of the families in China who can afford school district housing and enjoy the housing policy privilege, my family spent three hundred thousand yuan on a new apartment at Park Road in Nanchang, Jiangxi, when I was in second grade. The apartment was in an old neighborhood near the center of Nanchang and next to the second-best junior high school, Yuxin Junior High School, in the city. I did not quite understand why my family moved to a new apartment with everything older and smaller at the beginning. Later I knew my parents bought this apartment for me, more specifically, for me to attend Yuxin Junior High School in four years. After I graduated from junior high school, we again moved to a more modern neighborhood and sold the previous apartment with over one million yuan. My unimpeded path of education should credit to the nearby enrollment policy.

To ensure the equal education rights of children, nearby enrollment is a policy aimed at implementing compulsory education for primary and junior high school students. Under the policy, all students have the equal chance to enroll in different schools in the various district based on the location of their family's hukou (a system of household registration, which records the address of where people live). The government divides the city into many school districts, and those neighborhoods closer to the school are called "school district housing."

According to my research, I found evidence showing that the school district housing policy in my city neither tends to achieve education fairness nor social fairness; instead, it is

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Commented [MB1]: Very nicely titled, Chris – and nice use of a subtitle. I'm certainly eager to see where you'll go with and take this through the body of your paper.

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Commented [MB2]: Good: I'm glad you've created section headings/subtitles to identify the different parts of your research paper.

Commented [MB3]: And likewise, an engaging opening. Your reader can hear your voice from the start, and can see how and why the topic is important to you, the writer. I'm eager to read on, go from here.

Commented [MB4]: Will you come to clarify what this term means – school district housing?

Commented [MB5]: And so, one should thus, see [3]

Commented [MB6]: Honestly put. You might [2]

Commented [MB7]: And where/what is ... [3]

Commented [MB8]: Nice use of an appositive [4]

Commented [MB9]: Very nicely narrated, and [5]

Commented [MB10]: Interesting point

Commented [MB11]: And so, do you think this [6]

Commented [MB12]: Note the verb tense here. [7]

Commented [MB13]: And so, it is more ... [8]

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Commented [MB14]: The meaning here is not [9]

Commented [MB15]: An engaging, lively ... [10]

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Commented [MB16]: So, could you clarify what [11]

Commented [MB17]: Good point

Commented [MB18]: And this also comes down [12]

Commented [MB19]: Good: I'm glad you're [13]

Commented [MB20]: So, would this be the [14]

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Commented [MB21]: And thus, how does this [15]

Commented [MB22]: Interesting. Does this [16]

Commented [MB23]: Good use of the semi- [17]

causing problems, including people irrational attitude and unfair educational resources. The overpriced school district housing affects other people's decision and increases the cost of buying a home. The school district housing policy gave students whose family can afford to buy an apartment near such kind of high-quality junior high school the privilege, but the children in those ordinaries families, which account for the majority of Chinese families, could already lose at the starting line. To not let their kid fall behind, Chinese parents will do anything to get the school district housing, including the "fake divorce" gate which "allows" a family to buy two school district housing. Generally, the price of school district housing has a direct influence on most of the people, and the examples above will be discussed and analyzed later in this paper.

The rest of this paper is presented as follows. The second section introduces the background information of the policy and concepts related to school district housing. The third section will analyze the Donghu District school district housing data from Chinese Real Estate Association. The fourth section will discuss and analyze the irrationality and unfair education. The fifth section will draw the conclusion.

2. Context

2.1 Nearby enrollment policy and school district

Nearby enrollment has been playing an essential role in Chinese compulsory education for a long time. According to Wen, who studies the school district and housing price in Hangzhou, "in the early 1980s, the Chinese government issued 'the decision on universal primary education,' aiming to make the school layout and education form fit the people's way of life, and enable students to effortlessly attend a nearby school" (73). This act represents the beginning of the implementation of the educational system, and also built the foundation for Compulsory Education Law, which regulates the basic procedure of primary and junior high

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Commented [MB24]: Who thus determines then the cost of housing, or is it simply determined through competition?

Commented [MB25]: Yes.

Commented [MB26]: An important point. I'm wondering though if you might bring in a source reference here, to tie this back to something in your research?

Commented [MB27]: Could you clarify this? Do you mean lower income families? I'm not entirely clear as to ordinary.

Commented [MB28]: The term kid is slang in academic writing

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Commented [MB29]: Wow.

Commented [MB30]: Lots of good points and background here in this section, Chris – again, I'd recommend you bring in at least one source to your work here.

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Commented [MB31]: There are lots of different ways and approaches to position a thesis and a statement of purpose. For your paper, I can see why you lay it out this way. How might you give your reader an even clearer sense here though as to the "so what" of your paper, as to the point you are ultimately making?

Commented [MB32]: Good.

Commented [MB33]: OK, good.

Commented [MB34]: You should provide the writer's full name here

Commented [MB35]: This is a nice quote you have included here.

Commented [MB36]: Do you think this was intended to disservice students from lower income homes?

Commented [MB37]: For the entire country?

school enrollment of students from the **first** to the ninth grade. The article twelve in the Higher Education Law, which was announced in 1998 by the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China, states that "school-age children will attend schools without examination, and the local government should ensure that school-age children attend schools based on the **hukou**."

The concept of a school district was derived from the nearby **enrollment** policy. In 2014, the Chinese **Education** Bureau issued "Implementation Suggestions on Further Ensuring Primary School Graduate Students Entering A Junior High School by Nearby Enrollment," which requires schools in all provinces and autonomous regions in China to implement the current nearby enrollment **policy** (1). The policy differs from provinces, dividing each city into different school district based on the location and density of primary and junior **high** schools. More specifically, the policy makes it completely clear that which student living in which building located on which road will attend which **primary** or junior high school. In the "Notice of the Nanchang municipal education bureau on the announcement of the 2018 Nanchang junior high school enrollment school district" issued by Education Bureau of Nanchang, it specifies the admission priority **as** follows:

All the students should be admitted if the number of students is in the range of the school's accommodating ability, **otherwise** students should be admitted in the specific order listed below:

1. The primary school graduate and her/his parents' hukou is within the school district. The homeowner must be her/his father or mother. The actual residence (housing property belongs to the primary school graduate or one of her/his parents) is within the **school** district.
2. The primary school graduate and her/his parents' hukou is within the school district. The homeowner must be her/his grandfather or grandmother. The

Commented [MB38]: Does this mean all young people are required to attend school, a school?

Commented [MB39]: Chris: you should provide an MLA citation here

Commented [MB40]: And so, it seems that hukou becomes something significant and noteworthy in terms of options and opportunities?

Commented [MB41]: OK

Commented [MB42]: And this body governs the entire country, yes?

Commented [MB43]: Good point and reference.

Commented [MB44]: And so, much of this then comes down to population?

Commented [MB45]: Yet everyone – regardless of their province – has the right to attend school? Only up through ninth grade, or? Might you clarify this a bit, Chris?

Commented [MB46]: Nicely introduced and integrated, Chris.

Commented [MB47]: Should there be a semi-colon here? Or was this not there in the original?

Commented [MB48]: Why do you think it is they felt compelled to describe the policies and laws in such detail?

actual residence (housing property belongs to the primary school graduate or one of her/his grandparents) is within the school district. The primary school graduate's parents have no **property** in the city.

3. The primary school graduate and her/his parents' hukou is not within the school district, but the actual residence (housing property belongs to the primary school graduate **or** one of her/his parent) is within the school district.
 4. The primary school graduate and her/his parents' hukou (including collective hukou) is within the school district. The actual residence is rental housing (needs housing rental contract) and is within the school district. The primary school graduate's parents have no property in the city.
 5. The primary school graduate and her/his parents' hukou (including collective hukou) is not within the school district. The actual residence is rental housing (needs housing rental contract) and is within the school district. The primary school graduate's parents have no property in the city.
 6. The primary school graduate and her/his parents' hukou (including collective hukou) is within the Nanchang city. The actual residence is rental housing (needs housing rental contract and residence permit) and is within the school district. The primary school graduate's **parents** have no property in the city.
- (3)

The policy acts strictly according to hukou, homeowner, actual **residence**, and **whether is within the school district** to make sure students are admitted properly. To ensure the research accuracy and validity, I will mainly focus on case of the particular school district I used to **live** in, Donghu District located at the center of **Nanchang**, and also several other representative examples in other city in China to prove Nanchang is not an outlier in **terms** of housing price.

Commented [MB49]: You're doing a nice job of organizing this long quote, Chris. And here you have an option – it's fine (given the length of your paper) to include this much material (as a long quote). You could also paraphrase it – alternatively, you could also include it in an appendix to your paper, and reference key points here in the body of your paper. Either option is fine in this case.

Commented [MB50]: Interesting.

Commented [MB51]: And so – it sounds like there is considerable detail regarding these policies. I'll be eager to see how you work with and examine them further in your analysis.

Commented [MB52]: OK, good point.

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Commented [MB53]: Good – I'm glad you're focusing on and examining something specific in your paper.

Commented [MB54]: Should you give your reader a sense, here or earlier in the paper, as to where Nanchang is?

Commented [MB55]: Interesting, important point.

2.2 High-quality schools

High-quality schools refer to those schools with better funding, running school conditions, teacher quality, and students' average performance. In Nanchang, high-quality schools are defined as key schools. Out of 220 primary schools in Nanchang, the top thirty primary schools are the so-called key schools, and seven of them are in Donghu District. Yuxin School of Nanchang, a nine-year compulsory education school with over sixty years of history, is located at the southeast corner of Donghu District and also next to the government of the province. Being regarded as the "urban garden," Yuxin School has an enormous scale among all primary and junior high schools in Nanchang. Since Yuxin School has both primary school and junior high school, after I spent nine years studying at the main campus, the junior high school moved to a new campus two blocks away because of the increasing number of upcoming school-age children in the primary school campus.

Because the only way to get into a high-quality school is to live in its school district, outstanding performance is no longer students' stepping stone to key schools, and students' parents start to play an important role in the success of nine-year education of their children. Seeing people are willing to pay a high price for housing, real estate companies consider it as a business opportunity and continue raising the price of school district housing. As housing price increases, buying a new house is still an easy way for rich families' children to attend better schools, but also a new prerequisite for ordinary families to enjoy the good education.

3. Data and Analysis

3.1 Study area and data source

Nanchang, the capital of Jiangxi Province, is located in the southeast of China. Nanchang has a population of 5.46 million people and covers a total area of 7400km². The city is made up

Commented [MB56]: Yes, good point.

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Commented [MB57]: Does this work in such a way then that some schools receive more funding than others? Or are funds distributed equally through public schools?

Commented [MB58]: Interesting point and nicely defined.

Commented [MB59]: Nicely/clearly stated and narrated.

Commented [MB60]: Wow.

Commented [MB61]: And so in a word or two, what is this district known for? It's obviously more costly to live there – yes?

Commented [MB62]: This is a good, useful (and focused) example for your paper, Chris

Commented [MB63]: Does this mean they had built more housing in this particular district?

Commented [MB64]: Yes – you've done a nice job of clarifying this for your reader, Chris.

Commented [MB65]: Good connection.

Commented [MB66]: And what does this come to mean then for those who cannot afford these prices?

Commented [MB67]: Could you use a more precise/descriptive term here other than good?

Commented [MB68]: Good.

Commented [MB69]: This is something you might wish to raise earlier in your paper.

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of six districts, including Donghu, Xihu, Qingyunpu, Qingshanhu, Wanli, and Xinjian districts.

This study selects one of the six districts, Donghu District, where Yuxin Schools is located. The data is obtained from the database of Chinese Real Estate Association. The housing data of school district housing in Donghu District covers the period from July 2010 to November 2018, containing the average housing unit price, total price, and housing area.

3.2 Exploratory data analysis

In this analysis, I will use the programming language Python and its data science libraries, including Numpy (linear algebra), Pandas (data preprocessing and manipulating), Matplotlib (data visualization). The overall data analysis procedure includes data preprocessing, statistical analysis, and data visualization. I will use the summary statistics provide an overview of the data and plots to represent the housing price trend.

3.2.1 Unit price

The housing unit price represents the price of the school district housing per square meter. The summary statistics of the unit price of school district housing in Donghu District is shown as follows. The data consists of 101 months, covering from July 2010 to November 2018. In eight years, the recent average school district housing price nearly doubled supply price in 2010. If compared to the “value” column, the minimum housing price is 5,546 yuan, which is about three hundred yuan less than the transaction price. When it comes to 2018, the difference between them is more than three thousand yuan. Since the value column represents the total rental housing price for thirty years, it means that if a family bought a school district housing with rather than renting it, they need to pay more than three thousand yuan for every square meter.

Table 1 Summary Statistics of Housing Unit Price

Characteristics	Supply (Yuan/m ²)	Value (Yuan/m ²)	Focus (Yuan/m ²)
Count	101.00	101.00	101.00

Commented [MB70]: Again, this is useful, but could be brought up earlier when you first mention Nanchang (or, at least earlier in your paper let your reader know where/what Nanchang is).

Commented [MB71]: Repetitive – you did mention this earlier.

Commented [MB72]: Interesting – I’m glad you’ve been digging and looking for this!

Commented [MB73]: Nicely explained, Chris.

Commented [MB74]: Wow – good. You’ve really done your work.

Commented [MB75]: Could you clarify what you’re doing as you develop this, Chris?

Commented [MB76]: OK, good point.

Commented [MB77]: Good: this means there is considerable data available across a significant period of time.

Commented [MB78]: And so, was there more housing available?

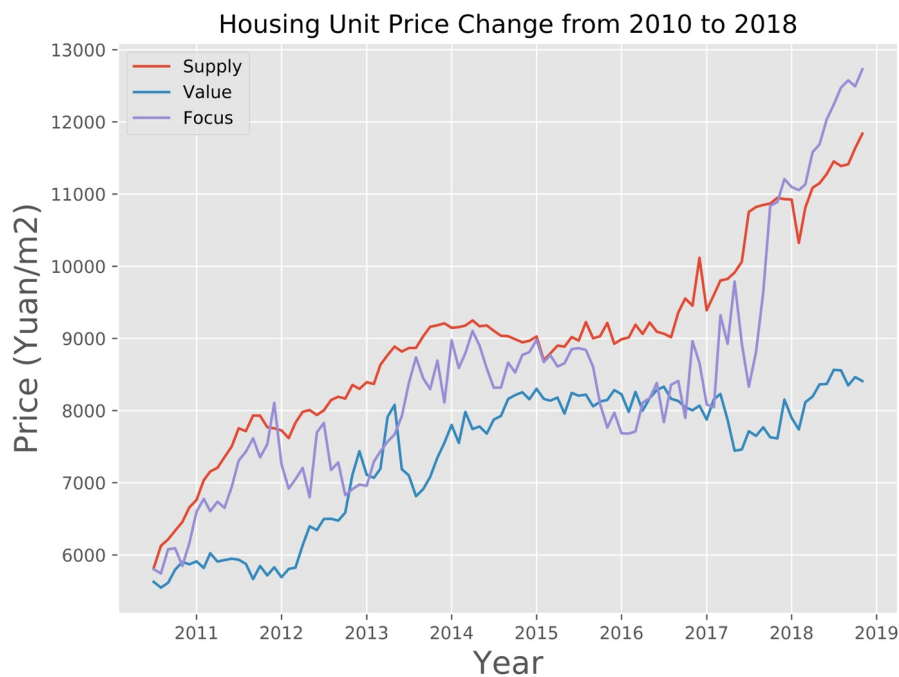
Commented [MB79]: Could you clarify what it is you mean by transition price, Chris?

Commented [MB80]: And in terms of U.S. dollars, what would this mean? How can you help your reader to better understand the significance of this?

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Mean	8959.33	7368.96	8431.27
Standard deviation	1302.79	956.23	1587.12
Minimum	5871.00	5546.00	5742.00
25%	8145.00	6497.00	7351.00
Median	9016.00	7767.00	8317.00
75%	9389.00	8156.00	8850.00
Maximum	11836.00	8564.00	12729.00

Note: "Supply" represents the actual transaction data. "Value" represents the estimated total value of the rental housing for thirty years. "Focus" represents the housing price data retrieved from city real estate website. Later data also applies.



The nearby enrollment policy change has a direct influence on school district housing price. The line plot above offers a more straightforward representation of the difference between the transaction price and total rental price. If we look more carefully at the line plot, most of the major changes of the transaction price happen during the middle of the year, when the

Commented [MB81]: You've done a nice job of organizing and presenting the data, Chris.

Commented [MB82]: Good description here, Chris

Commented [MB83]: Interesting point

government makes changes to the junior high school enrollment district (which usually happens in July). These changes usually include the redesign of the school district, rank of the school, and others. The obvious observation includes the year 2010, 2011, 2013, 2017, and 2018.

3.2.2 Total Price

Both the summary statistics and line plot of the total housing price change in Donghu District show that the price in the focus column is lower than the price in the supply column before late 2017. This means that people bought school district housing at a higher price than housing price shown on the real estate website. After late 2017, the price of real estate companies increases rapidly. According to the previous curve, when the focus price falls or stays unchanged, the transaction price is stable, but when the focus price increases, the transaction price increases shortly after. The significant change can be found in the year 2013 and 2017.

Table 2 Summary Statistics of Total Price

Characteristics	Supply (Thousand Yuan/m ²)	Focus (Thousand Yuan/m ²)
Count	101.00	101.00
Mean	918.22	873.56
Standard deviation	149.67	189.28
Minimum	590.00	560.00
25%	810.00	740.00
Median	900.00	840.00
75%	1010.00	920.00
Maximum	1230.00	1410.00

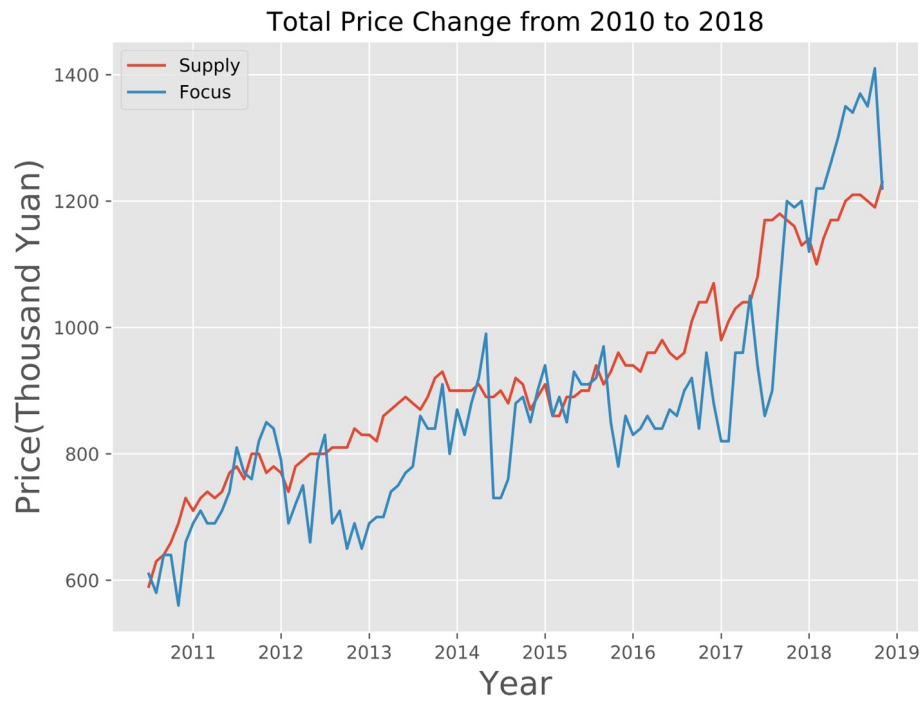
Commented [MB84]: Why would the (local?) government be making such changes? Are these political in nature? Something else?

Commented [MB85]: Good. You're developing a useful analytical discussion as to your data.

Commented [MB86]: And so, as people want to buy into the housing market, do they outbid one another when apartments are up for sale? Is it competitive?

Commented [MB87]: I'm a little unclear here as to companies. Real estate, or real estate companies?

Commented [MB88]: Good. You're guiding your reader through this nicely.



3.2.3 Housing Area

For the housing area, the summary statistics seems to be fairly normal.

Table 3 Summary Statistics of Housing Area

Characteristics	Supply (m ²)	Focus (m ²)
Count	101.00	101.00
Mean	101.34	102.23
Standard deviation	3.70	5.52
Minimum	95.51	83.14
25%	97.76	98.83
Median	100.77	102.87
75%	104.86	106.85
Maximum	109.39	111.10

4. Results and Discussions

4.1 Irrational people

The rapid increase of the school district housing price twists people's attitude toward "buying a house." Feng and Lu, who study the effect of 52 residential areas in Shanghai to analyze the effect of newly released information about designating high-quality schools on the housing price in Shanghai, describes the current phenomena as follows:

Parents with higher socioeconomic status are therefore much more likely to secure their choice of school directly by purchasing a house in a specific district or by bribing officials and teachers able to influence the admission decision, as opposed to seeking to exert political influence on the city's government's education policies. (296)

Because of the birth of school district housing and its rapidly increasing price, people's way to deal with similar types of problems has been twisted. They gradually realize that the only way to send their children to a good school is through buying school district housing, and that is true under the nearby enrollment policy. The idea that "using the money to solve the problem" is so deeply rooted in some people's mind that they are not willing to come up with the right way if the phenomena continue. Such injustice is derived from another injustice, and it will create more injustice. As a result, school enrollment will become a shadow market.

The increasing school **destring housing** price also affects people's decisions and makes people irrational about "buying a house." Gao mentions phenomena in his writing about Chinese real estate that "in newspaper and dinner table conversations, stories abound of husbands and wives filing fake divorces to get around stringent real estate purchasing restrictions for families" (Gao). Regarding the school district housing policy, a family can only buy one apartment. To buy multiple school district housing or to invest in them, parents are losing their minds. Using

Commented [MB89]: Interesting topic here, Chris.

Commented [MB90]: Yes, good connection.

Commented [MB91]: This seems useful, but in offering your reader further context, are conditions in Shanghai similar or different to those in Nanchang?

Commented [MB92]: Very nicely introduced/integrated, Chris.

Commented [MB93]: Another useful, telling quote.

Commented [MB94]: Might you use a slightly more descriptive term here than twisted?

Commented [MB95]: And so, this is something that occurs throughout China?

Commented [MB96]: Could you clarify this here just a bit more, Chris?

Commented [MB97]: What type? Is this what you see as the "so what" of your paper?

Commented [MB98]: agreement

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Commented [MB99]: OK – good connection here

Commented [MB100]: Full name when introducing

Commented [MB101]: Wow.

Commented [MB102]: Why are families so desperate for certain schools?

Commented [MB103]: Could you be a bit more concrete here? This reads a bit informal.

fake divorces to buy more district housing is neither rational nor legal, but more and more parents are willing to do so. Whether the divorce file is real or fake, such phenomena are disturbing the equilibrium of the enrollment system and even the whole society. Gao also states that “there are also tales of acrimonious disputes between the parents of divorcing couples when both sets claim ownership of the couple’s apartment because they contributed to the purchase” (Gao). Events like this never happened until the madness of school district housing happened. Parents’ kindness of buying housing in the school district finally results in family break-ups. Given all that, the cost of merely a school district housing seems to be too expansive. Worst of all, people are willing to pay such cost.

4.2 Educational non-equalization

Children from ordinary families who do not live in high-quality school districts are deprived of their rights to receive a better education under the policy, which can be defined as an indirect form of educational unfairness. Feng and Lu state that “if parents do not have hukou where they reside, or do not own housing in the area, their children can attend only ordinary public or private schools, but not any quality public schools nearby” (294). Since school district housing becomes the only variable regarding admission, the possibility of students living in other district attending a high-quality primary or junior high school drops from small to near zero. If this is the case, it seems buying a new school district apartment is the only way to better education.

The following evidence proves that is not a choice. The average disposable income of citizens of Nanchang in a year is 37,675 Yuan. In the previous data analysis, the average housing price in Donghu District in 2018 is about 1,230,000 Yuan. Assuming both a child’s parents make 37,675 Yuan in a year, we use the average housing price divide by two times the income, and the result is 32 years. Hard-working and never spending money for 32 years allows a family

Commented [MB104]: True. And you’re making it clear and evident that people are acting in ways that seem desperate.

Commented [MB105]: So, will you show how this effects other people?

Commented [MB106]: Another nice quote.

Commented [MB107]: And what does this ultimately mean then for lower income families?

Commented [MB108]: Chris: what is it you mean here by ordinary?

Commented [MB109]: This is an important point. What about making this a bit more evident in your paper’s thesis?

Commented [MB110]: Is this something the larger public examines, looks at?

Commented [MB111]: And again, I’m glad you defined/contextualized this earlier in your paper.

Commented [MB112]: True.

Commented [MB113]: Interesting.

Commented [MB114]: And does this mean then that most families simply can’t afford this?

Commented [MB115]: Good, thought provoking point.

Commented [MB116]: And what does this mean in terms of U.S. dollars?

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Commented [MB117]: Is this the standard globally for home ownership?

to buy an apartment with just the average price, which proves the theory that it is impossible for a family with average income to afford a school district housing for their children. It also proves that these children have little chance to be admitted to high-quality schools. Although we cannot assert that students attending regular schools will not be successful in the future, the difference in educational quality still has an incalculable influence on them, especially those gifted students. The finding in the previous data analysis may show that renting school district is a way for those children to attend good schools with a lower cost because the cost of renting a school district apartment for 30 years is 8564 yuan per square meter. The average area in the previous summary statistics of the supply housing area is about 101.34 square meter. Then, the cost of renting a school district housing is about 86788 yuan for three years after doing the calculation, which is way lower than buying a school district housing. However, based on the admission priority in the context, the priority of a family renting school district housing is only in the fourth position, which is not a priority with a high possibility to be admitted. It also proves that neither buying a school district housing nor renting one are solutions for ordinary families.

Compared to ordinary families, children born in wealthy families have unique advantages regarding school district housing. Wen, who conducted an empirical study on Hangzhou's educational facilities and housing price, found the advantage of students living in school districts as follows:

Living in an area adjacent to a school has two obvious advantages. First, less time is spent on traveling to school, indicating greater security for children. Second, fetching the children is convenient, giving the parents a greater opportunity to participate in their children's study and strengthening the communication between parents and teachers. (157)

Commented [MB118]: And so, does average income then mean ordinary?

Commented [MB119]: So are all schools private?

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Commented [MB120]: How are regular schools defined?

Commented [MB121]: The meaning here is not entirely clear – what exactly is rented?

Commented [MB122]: And so, what then exactly does this mean?

Commented [MB123]: OK, yes.

Commented [MB124]: Does this mean people have less priority than those who own homes? I'm a little confused here.

Commented [MB125]: Good, and nicely introduced/integrated.

Less time on traveling does not only mean **security** for children but also more time to focus on other things, such as studying, playing with friends, and the chance to learn how to manage the extra time. With the convenience of fetching children, parents who communicate more with teachers tend to get feedback about **their** children's performance on time, which allows them to supervise their children more often at home. These two advantages are creating more invisible **advantages**. Children growing up in such environment are more educated and intelligent, and the gap between students which already existed, in the beginning, became wider and wider day by **day**.

Commented [MB126]: True, good point.

Commented [MB127]: And so, does this mean those who come from homes that are lower income may have fewer opportunities to do this?

Commented [MB128]: Nicely put.

Commented [MB129]: So how does this play out in the long run?

5. Conclusion

In the context of this paper, I introduced the reason why nearby enrollment policy was issued and how school district housing was **formed** in Nanchang. The purpose of both of them is to achieve educational equalization, ensuring school-age children's right to receive the **education**. As a policy to bring equalization, it caused people's irrationality and more non-equalization. People are becoming more **irrational** about the school district housing because of the high competitiveness in the housing market and educational market, and educational non-equalization is due to the economic **inequality**. However, both of the two problems are not the root problem; instead, the root problem is the unfair school **quality**. On the one hand, as long as high-quality schools exist, the school district housing will always be there, and the price will never fall because every family is eager to offer their **children** a better education. But on the other hand, due to the large population, high-quality school is an inevitable trend of Chinese educational structure and a representation of the law **of** the jungle.

Commented [MB130]: Yes, true.

Commented [MB131]: Nicely stated.

Commented [MB132]: Again, maybe a more precise/descriptive term here?

Commented [MB133]: Good connection.

Commented [MB134]: Thought provoking, Chris – you're leading your reader through an important discussion here.

Commented [MB135]: True.

Commented [MB136]: Is there where it sits though? Is it at all possible to challenge this?

Commented [MB137]: A more descriptive word here than thing?

Struggling with the school district housing **thing** not only will not change the current situation but also will cause more social issues. Since such "unfair" educational structure is

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unchangeable, what people can do is to unite and negotiate with the policy maker, the government or the education bureau of Nanchang, to see if the local government can improve the average school quality, or to give high-quality school quotas, which allows students from ordinary families to take their examination. If the Nanchang government and every family can participate in helping improve the policy and average school quality, people will surely calm down and look at the overpriced school district problem more rationally, and the housing price will fall without the current meaningless hype.

Commented [MB138]: Interesting point.

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Commented [MB139]: What do you mean by calm down?

Commented [MB140]: Thoughtfully concluded.

Works Cited

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Writing 2

Fall 2018

Research paper evaluation sheet: Writing the Urban Landscape

1. Does the writer engage the reader from the start of the paper?

Yes No Developing

2. Does the paper have a clear sense of purpose, articulated in a thesis statement/statement of purpose that is evident to the reader?

Yes No Developing

3. Does the paper engage the requisite number of sources (7-8), including a minimum of three scholarly journal articles, one book, one primary source?

Yes No

4. Is MLA formatting correct/accurate?

Yes No Developing

5. Are paragraphs focused, clear, coherent?

Yes No Developing

6. Are quotes introduced by and integrated into signal phrases?

Yes No Developing

7. Is the paper effectively edited and proofread?

Yes No Developing

8. Does the writer synthesize and bring together material, draw conclusions, develop the “so what” of the paper?

Yes No Developing

9. General comments about development of ideas and analysis.

A thorough and engaging paper, Chris – this is thoughtfully developed (and rich with details, description, context, etc.). You’ve done a fine job in terms of presenting the problem in terms of the rising price of real estate as such pertains to school access. You’re also starting to look at (in your analysis) what this means for families with lower incomes.

10. General thoughts/comments/responses

Chris: You have written a thought provoking and engaging paper. You have a very good and important sense as to your topic and the issues surrounding it. And without question, you’re once again committed to your topic and focus, to exploring complex ideas in writing. You effectively engage your reader from the start and along with this you give your reader an important sense as to how and why the topic is of importance to you, and likewise why it is worthy of further research and consideration. Through the paper itself you also provide your reader with useful context (you’re defining terms clearly). And you’re making very good use of your sources. Through your presentation of data and your analysis of it, you give your reader a clear sense as to the significance of home (apartment) prices, along with how and in what ways the rising price of real estate affects people. You’ve also done a nice job of focusing your paper around the Donghu district. In all, your paper is rich with very good ideas.

I think you’re just about therewith this paper. The is purposeful, though I do think you could give your reader a slightly more concrete sense as to the “so what” of your paper and your research (please see my comments and questions along the way). I also think you could provide your reader with a contextual overview (at least in terms of the basics) regarding Nanchang earlier in the paper. This would help your reader know – right from the start – where/what Nanchang is, along with significant information as to the city itself (population, etc.). Later in your discussion you could then go into greater detail as to the districts, the housing prices, etc. In terms of the development of your ideas and your analysis, what do you see as the root problem that those who are lower income face? Is it about lack of educational opportunity for lower income/working class families, or something else? I wasn’t entirely clear on this. I think it’s important and significant to your topic, so you would want to provide your reader with clearer connections in this regard. Likewise, is this an issue that the country needs to consider? Does it suggest that families who are unable to be competitive in terms of the purchase of real estate stay in lower income positions? Is this something that can be challenged – socially, culturally, politically, economically – in the culture and society?

You bring a nice sense of your own voice to your paper. As I noted above, documentation formatting is excellent. There are some sentence level editing errors/concerns I have marked and

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would like you to address in revision (word choice, verbs, minor sentence structure/clarity/organization).

In all though, a fine job. I can tell you worked very hard on this. I enjoyed reading your paper!
-Mark

11. Does this paper meet passing standards for a Writing 2 research paper?

Very high pass High pass Standard pass Needs improvement

*Please revise for final portfolio

Page 1: [1] Commented [MB5]	Mark Baker	11/21/18 10:50:00 AM
And so, one should thus see this as a privilege?		
Page 1: [2] Commented [MB6]	Mark Baker	11/21/18 10:50:00 AM
Honestly put. You might wish to give your reader a sense as to how much this would be in U.S. dollars		
Page 1: [3] Commented [MB7]	Mark Baker	11/21/18 10:51:00 AM
And where/what is Nanchang?		
Page 1: [4] Commented [MB8]	Mark Baker	11/21/18 10:51:00 AM
Nice use of an appositive to define, Chris		
Page 1: [5] Commented [MB9]	Mark Baker	11/21/18 10:51:00 AM
Very nicely narrated, and certainly engaging, Chris		
Page 1: [6] Commented [MB11]	Mark Baker	11/21/18 10:52:00 AM
And so, do you think they actually did not want to move, that moving was not part of their plan? Where was your family living before this?		
Page 1: [7] Commented [MB12]	Mark Baker	11/21/18 10:52:00 AM
Note the verb tense here, the -ed ending		
Page 1: [8] Commented [MB13]	Mark Baker	11/21/18 10:52:00 AM
And so, it is more expensive to live in certain districts, simply because of the schools?		
Page 1: [9] Commented [MB14]	Mark Baker	11/21/18 10:53:00 AM
The meaning here is not entirely clear, Chris.		
Page 1: [10] Commented [MB15]	Mark Baker	11/21/18 10:54:00 AM
An engaging, lively opening paragraph, Chris – you’ve done a nice job bringing your reader into your paper.		
Page 1: [11] Commented [MB16]	Mark Baker	11/21/18 10:54:00 AM
So, could you clarify what nearby enrollment means, is?		
Page 1: [12] Commented [MB18]	Mark Baker	11/21/18 10:57:00 AM
And this also comes down to the price of property, or something else?		
Page 1: [13] Commented [MB19]	Mark Baker	11/21/18 10:57:00 AM
Good: I’m glad you’re defining this here		
Page 1: [14] Commented [MB20]	Mark Baker	11/21/18 10:57:00 AM
So, would this be the local government, the city government, or something else?		
Page 1: [15] Commented [MB21]	Mark Baker	11/21/18 10:58:00 AM
And thus, how does this come down then to economic matters, to the cost of living, etc.? Is that something you will come to clarify in your paper?		
Page 1: [16] Commented [MB22]	Mark Baker	11/21/18 10:58:00 AM
Interesting. Does this mean that those over income will have less educational opportunity?		

Good use of the semi-colon, Chris!