

RESEARCH ON THE IMPACTS *of* PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE

THE MAJORITY OF EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS:

- Save taxpayer money
- Improve academic outcomes for participating students
- Increase parental satisfaction and sense of safety
- Create more socio-economically and racially diverse schools
- Introduce competition and drive improvement for all schools

BY THE NUMBERS

17 empirical studies examined academic outcomes for students participating in private school choice using random assignment, the “gold standard” of social science research:



30 studies examined the competitive effects of introducing school choice on students in nearby public schools:



78 reports examined the financial impact for tax payers and public schools:



7 studies examine the impact on educational attainment, like graduating from high school or enrolling in college



TOP SCHOOL CHOICE RESEARCH

COMPETITIVE EFFECTS OF SCHOOL CHOICE

Florida Tax Credit Scholarship: One of the most consistent findings in all of school choice research is that the expansion of private school choice programs improve student outcomes in nearby traditional public schools. As Florida's tax-credit scholarship expanded over more than 15 years, students enrolled in local public schools with more competition from nearby private schools earned higher math and reading scores, received fewer suspensions, and were less likely to be absent.

Arizona Tax Credit Scholarships & Empowerment Scholarship Accounts: In Arizona – another state with long-standing school choice programs – a report from the Heritage Foundation found that students in rural areas grew in reading and math while rural student's nationally fell behind from 2007 to 2022. These data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) are consistent with the finding that states with more school choice improve faster over time.

Los Angeles Public School Zones of Choice (ZOC) Program – Consistent with what was found in the context of Florida, the introduction of competitive pressures for high schools in Los Angeles increased ZOC students' English test scores by approximately 6 percentile points and raised four-year college enrollment by roughly 5 percentage points, a 25 percent increase.

INCREASED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AND COLLEGE GOING

Florida Tax Credit Scholarship: Scholarship recipients are up to 99% more likely to enroll in 4-year colleges and up to 56% more likely to earn bachelor's degrees than their peers in public schools. The longer students participate in the scholarship program, the more likely they are to enroll in and graduate from college.

D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP): Scholarships were awarded by lottery, and so a randomized control trial study – the “gold standard” in social science research – found that 91% of OSP students graduated from high school – a 21-point increase over those who did not receive scholarships. This was despite OSP students receiving approximately \$10,000 scholarships as compared to the \$28,000 per year per pupil cost in D.C. public schools.

Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP): Participating students had higher on-time graduation rates - 76%, as compared to students in Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) - 69%. MPCP students are also more likely to enroll and persist in a 4-year college than MPS peers.

GREATER SAFETY, LESS CRIME, AND FEWER TEEN PREGNANCIES

A Review of 11 Studies on Safety in Private Schools: Every study included in this review find more positive reports of safety (as compared to public schools) from students, parents, and principals.

Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP): Utilizing the voucher program in 8th or 9th grade is associated with a 53% reduction in drug convictions, 86% reduction in property damage convictions, and a 38% decrease in paternity suits. Effects are largest for males and students with lower initial levels of academic achievement.

Promise Academy in the Harlem Children's Zone: A study of high performing charter schools in New York finds that female winners of the charter lottery are 59% less likely (10.1 percentage points) to report teenage pregnancy and male lottery winners were 100% less likely (4.4 percentage points) to be incarcerated.

