



Research Shows Favorable Impact of Private School Choice

The majority of credible evidence shows that private school choice programs:

- save taxpayers money,
- reduce racial segregation, and
- improve academic outcomes for not only the program participants but also their peers in public schools.

17 [empirical studies](#) examined **academic outcomes for students participating in private school choice** using random assignment, the “gold standard” of defensible social science:

- 11 found improved test scores for school choice participants
- 4 found no significant effect for school choice participants
- 2 found negative impact in the early years of study for school choice participants

21 [studies](#) examined school choice and how it impacts **academic outcomes in public schools**:

- 20 found that school choice improved public school academic outcomes
- 1 found no significant effect on academic outcomes from school choice

28 [studies](#) examined the **financial impact for the taxpayers and public schools**:

- 25 found that school choice programs save taxpayers money
- 3 found that school choice programs are revenue neutral
- None found that school choice programs have a negative fiscal impact

10 [studies](#) examined the impact of school choice on **racial segregation**:

- 9 found that school choice programs move students into less segregated schools
- 1 found that school choice programs have no net effect on racial segregation
- None found that school choice programs increase racial segregation

Top School Choice Research

Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) | [Higher Graduation Rates](#): MPCP students had higher on-time graduation rates—76%—than students in Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS)—69%. MPCP students are more likely to enroll as well as persist in a 4-year college than MPS peers. | [Increased Academic Achievement](#): MPCP students have higher achievement growth in reading and similar growth in math over four years. | [Reduced Crime](#): MPCP students had decreased rates of subsequent criminal activity, especially among males.

Washington, D.C., Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP) | [Higher Graduation Rates](#): OSP students graduated at a rate of 91%, a 21-point increase from those who didn’t receive scholarships. OSP graduation rate is more than 30% higher than D.C. Public Schools. | [Increased Academic Achievement](#): OSP boosted reading scores by 3.7 months of learning over 3 years.

Florida Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program | [Increased Academic Achievement](#): Annual evaluations show scholarship recipients—mostly low income, minority students—perform just as well or better than students of all incomes and races nationally. | [Better College Outcomes](#): Scholarship students are more likely to attend and graduate from college than their public school peers. | [Improved Public School Performance](#): Standardized test scores improved in public schools most likely to lose students to private schools.

New York City School Choice Scholarships Foundation Program | [Higher College Enrollment Rates](#): African American students who participated in the New York City program were 6% more likely to enroll in college and were 5% more likely to obtain a college degree. Additionally, the study found a 5% increase in college enrollment and a 3% increase for B.A. attainment for children of mothers born in the United States.