

Research Shows Favorable Impact of Private School Choice

The case for school choice is overwhelming. Despite a handful of self-selected negative data points by some in the media, the vast majority of credible evidence shows that school choice programs improve academic outcomes for not only the program participants but also the students in public schools; save taxpayers money; and reduce racial segregation.

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 first year 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. | [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.