School choice programs produce strong levels of academic achievement for participating students.

- **Milwaukee, Wisconsin**: Eighth-grade students in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP)—the nation’s longest-running school voucher program—performed 9 to 12 percentage points higher in a statewide math, reading, and science test than their similarly disadvantaged peers. That represents an improvement of as many as 39 percentage points over the performance of fourth-grade MPCP students compared with their similarly disadvantaged peers (School Choice Demonstration Project, 2010).

- **Cleveland, Ohio**: Sixth-grade scholarship students who have participated in the Cleveland Scholarship...
and Tutoring Program (CSTP)—a voucher program for children in Cleveland, Ohio—demonstrate statistically significant academic growth. Specifically, these students outperformed public school comparison groups in language, social studies, and science (Center for Evaluation and Education Policy, 2006).

**Florida:** Florida’s highly successful Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program is providing dramatic educational benefits to children who encountered significant problems in public schools. A recent study found that students receiving scholarships perform just as well as—if not better than—students nationally. “The typical student participating in the program tended to maintain his or her relative position in comparison with others nationwide. It is important to note that these ... comparisons pertain to all students nationally, and not just low-income students,” the study’s author, David Figlio, said. Per-pupil spending on the scholarship program is about one third of per-student spending in traditional public schools (Northwestern University, 2009–2010).

**Washington DC:** Students who received DC school vouchers demonstrated “the largest achievement impact of any education policy program yet evaluated” by the U.S. Department of Education, according to studies released in 2008 and 2009 by the Institute for Education Sciences (IES) and Education Next. Specifically, students who received vouchers made statistically significant gains in reading. In fact, voucher students gained approximately 3.1 months of additional learning in reading over their public school peers (Institute for Education Sciences; 2008, 2009).

**School choice programs improve the performance of public schools.**

**Florida:** Florida public school students with special needs who were exposed to more nearby options because of the McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program posted higher math and reading scores than their peers in other public schools who had fewer options nearby (Manhattan Institute, 2008).

**Florida:** The study conducted by Professors David Figlio and Cassandra Hart found that the passage of the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship program in 2001 led to standardized test score gains in the public schools most likely to lose students to private schools (Northwestern University, 2009).

**Ohio:** Ohio’s Educational Choice (EdChoice) Scholarship Program is a successful catalyst for improving the performance of failing public schools, according to a study released in 2008 by the Indiana-based Foundation for Educational Choice and cosponsored by the Alliance for School Choice. The study found that in failing schools serving voucher-eligible children, math and reading scores improved as a result of voucher competition. Furthermore, no negative effects were detected for public schools (Foundation for Educational Choice, 2008).

**Washington DC:** Twenty-eight percent of DC public schools reported innovating as a result of the creation of the Washington DC Opportunity Scholarship Program—a voucher program for low-income children—graduated at a rate of 91 percent, more than 21 percentage points higher than their public school counterparts (Institute of Education Sciences, 2010).

**Milwaukee, Wisconsin:** Student participants in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) post graduation rates that are 18 percent higher than those of students in the Milwaukee Public Schools. Job-related productivity from those additional graduates would have also resulted in approximately $4.2 million in additional tax revenue. The Milwaukee Parental Choice Program costs the state less than half the cost of educating a child in traditional public schools (John Robert Warren, University of Minnesota study of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, 2009).
Parents are overwhelmingly satisfied with private school choice programs.

- New Orleans, Louisiana: Two consecutive surveys of low-income parents with children participating in the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence (SSEE) Program demonstrated satisfaction rates of over 90 percent (Black Alliance for Educational Options; 2009, 2010).
- Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Fifty-three percent of parents with children in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program would give their child’s current school an “A,” compared with 34 percent of Milwaukee public school parents and 19 percent of average American parents. In particular, “MPCP parents are most satisfied with what is taught in school, school safety, and the amount their child has learned” (School Choice Demonstration Project, 2008).
- Utah: A recent Legislative Audit report of the Carson Smith Special Needs Scholarship Program demonstrated 100 percent satisfaction with the program—from both past and present scholarship recipients (Utah Department of Education, 2009).
- Washington DC: Four consecutive studies from Georgetown University and the University of Arkansas found that parents are very satisfied, more involved in their children’s education, and becoming savvy educational consumers (School Choice Demonstration Project, 2005–2010).

School choice programs are inclusive, predominantly benefiting low-income students and children with disabilities. These programs are in no way discriminatory.

- School choice programs across America are benefiting primarily low- and middle-income children. In fact, of the 20 private school choice programs in existence today, 18 are either designed specifically for children with special needs or have income requirements to ensure that lower-income children receive help first (School Choice Yearbook 2010–2011, Alliance for School Choice).
- Far from discriminating against children with special needs, nearly half of the private school choice programs in America today are specifically designed to provide scholarships to children with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) (School Choice Yearbook 2010–2011, Alliance for School Choice).
- Each of the 20 school choice programs in operation today is required—by law—to adhere to nondiscrimination protocols, accreditation, or civil rights statutes, ensuring that children applying to those schools and children in those schools are protected (School Choice Yearbook 2010–2011, Alliance for School Choice).

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