

Noncognitive Outcomes and Academic Effects of School Choice

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How Might Choice Change Things?

Choice Outcomes



■ Attainment

■ Health

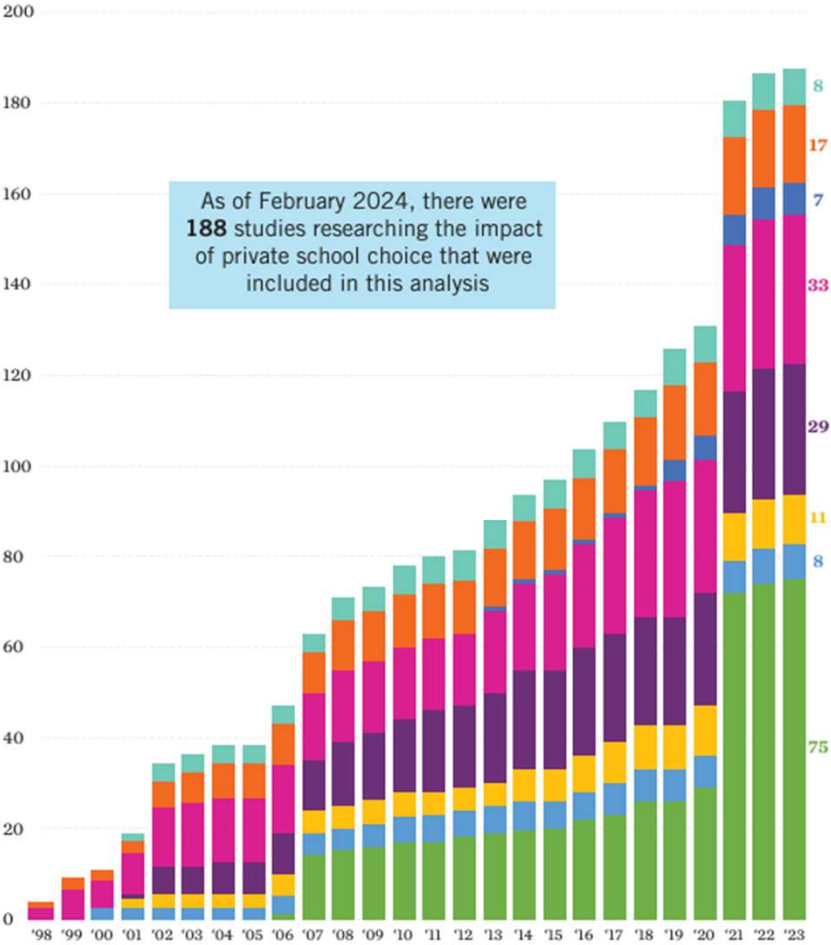
■ Competition

■ Civic/Character

■ Achievement

■ Integration

Cumulative Studies by Outcome and Year



- Fiscal Effects
- Racial/Ethnic Integration
- Civic Values and Practices
- Public School Students' Test Scores
- Parent Satisfaction
- Educational Attainment
- Program Participant Test Scores
- School Safety

Rules of the Road



Limited to rigorous “Gold Standard” studies when available



“Stoplight” color coding of **positive**, **neutral**, **negative**



No cherry-picking

Test Score Outcome of Participants from Random Assignment Studies

Author(s)	Location	Program Type	Year	Program Name	Any Positive Effect		No Visible Effect		Any Negative Effect		RCT
					All students (full sample)	Some students (subsample)	All students (full sample)	Some students (subsample)	All students (full sample)	Some students (subsample)	
Erickson, Mills and Wolf	Louisiana	V	2021	Louisiana Scholarship Program					X	X	✓
Webber et al.	Washington, D.C.	V	2019	Opportunity Scholarship Program			○	○			✓
Abdulkadiroglu, Pathak, and Walters	Louisiana	V	2018	Louisiana Scholarship Program					X	X	✓
Wolf et al.	Washington, D.C.	V	2013	Opportunity Scholarship Program	✓	✓					✓
Lamarche	Milwaukee, WI	V	2008	Milwaukee Parental Choice Program		✓					✓
Greene, Peterson, and Du	Milwaukee, WI	V	1999	Milwaukee Parental Choice Program	✓						✓
Rouse	Milwaukee, WI	V	1998	Milwaukee Parental Choice Program	✓	✓					✓
Bitler et. al.	New York, NY	P	2015				○	○			✓
Jin, Barnard, and Rubin	New York, NY	P	2010			✓					✓
Cowen	Charlotte, NC	P	2008		✓						✓
Bettinger and Slonim	Toledo, OH	P	2006				○				✓
Krueger and Zhu	New York, NY	P	2004				○	○			✓
Barnard et al.	New York, NY	P	2003			✓	○				✓
Howell et al.	Washington, D.C.	P	2002		✓	✓					✓
Howell et al.	New York, NY	P	2002		✓	✓					✓
Howell et al.	Dayton, OH	P	2002			✓	○				✓
Greene	Charlotte, NC	P	2001		✓						✓

V = Voucher; P = Private Scholarship

Notes: Table includes only random assignment studies, the gold-standard of research methods. A study by Howell, Wolf, Campbell, and Peterson (2002) included three distinct analyses of three different voucher programs. We report results from each analysis separately.

If a study's analysis produced any positive or negative results or both, we classify those studies as positive, negative or both. Studies that did not produce any statistically significant results for any subgroup are classified as "no visible effect."

For Lamarche (2008) we removed the negative indicator because it was brought to our attention that the negative estimation in the paper was not a program effect. Rather, it was making a comparison between high-income and low-income groups of students.



Attainment Outcomes of Participants from All Empirical Studies

Author(s)	Location	Program Type	Year	Program Name	Any Positive Effect		No Visible Effect		Any Negative Effect		RCT
					All students (full sample)	Some students (subsample)	All students (full sample)	Some students (subsample)	All students (full sample)	Some students (subsample)	
Chingos and Kisida	Washington, D.C.	v	2023	Opportunity Scholarship Program			○	○			✓
Austin and Pardo	Indiana	V	2021	Choice Scholarship Program	✓						
Erickson, Mills, and Wolf	Louisiana	V	2021	Louisiana Scholarship Program			○	○			✓
Chingos et al.	Milwaukee, WI	V	2019	Milwaukee Parental Choice Program	✓						
Wolf et al.	Washington, D.C.	V	2013	Opportunity Scholarship Program	✓	✓					✓
Chingos et al.	Florida	TCS	2019	Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program	✓	✓					
Cheng and Peterson*	New York, NY	P	2020			✓	○				✓

V=Voucher; TCS=Tax-credit scholarship; P=Private scholarship

Notes: This table shows all empirical studies using all methods. If a study's analysis produced any positive or negative results or both, we classify those studies as positive, negative or both. Studies that did not produce any statistically significant results for any subgroup are classified as "no visible effect." Two studies, on the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program and Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, used matching methods while all other analyses were based on random assignment.

*The sample and methods used in this study are the same as those used in Matthew M. Chingos and Paul E. Peterson (2015). Experimentally Estimated Impacts of School Vouchers on College Enrollment and Degree Attainment. Journal of Public Economics, 122, pp. 1–12. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jpubeco.2014.11.013>. Two main differences are framing across levels of disadvantage and more recent data added to the analysis.



FIGURE 7 PARENTS' REASONS FOR CHOOSING A SCHOOL

Safety and academic quality continue to be top priorities for private, homeschool, and charter school parents when choosing their child's school, while public school parents are more likely to consider location and socialization.

% of Current School Parents Providing Ranking 1, 2, or 3 by Experience With School Type

Factors	Public District School	Public Charter School	Private School	Homeschool
Location/Close to Home or Work	44%	25%	19%	19%
Socialization/Peers/Other Kids	34%	21%	19%	15%
Our Assigned District/Neighborhood School	31%	9%	9%	9%
Safe Environment	25%	37%	36%	53%
Academic Quality or Reputation	26%	36%	36%	23%
Extracurricular Activities	22%	20%	16%	10%
Diversity	17%	13%	9%	7%
Structure, Discipline	13%	21%	24%	24%
Morals/Character/Values Instruction	16%	23%	31%	30%
School Size	11%	18%	16%	9%
Individual/One-on-One Attention	11%	19%	20%	38%
Class Size	12%	21%	17%	14%
Test Scores	10%	16%	15%	11%
Religious Environment/Instruction	5%	8%	19%	13%

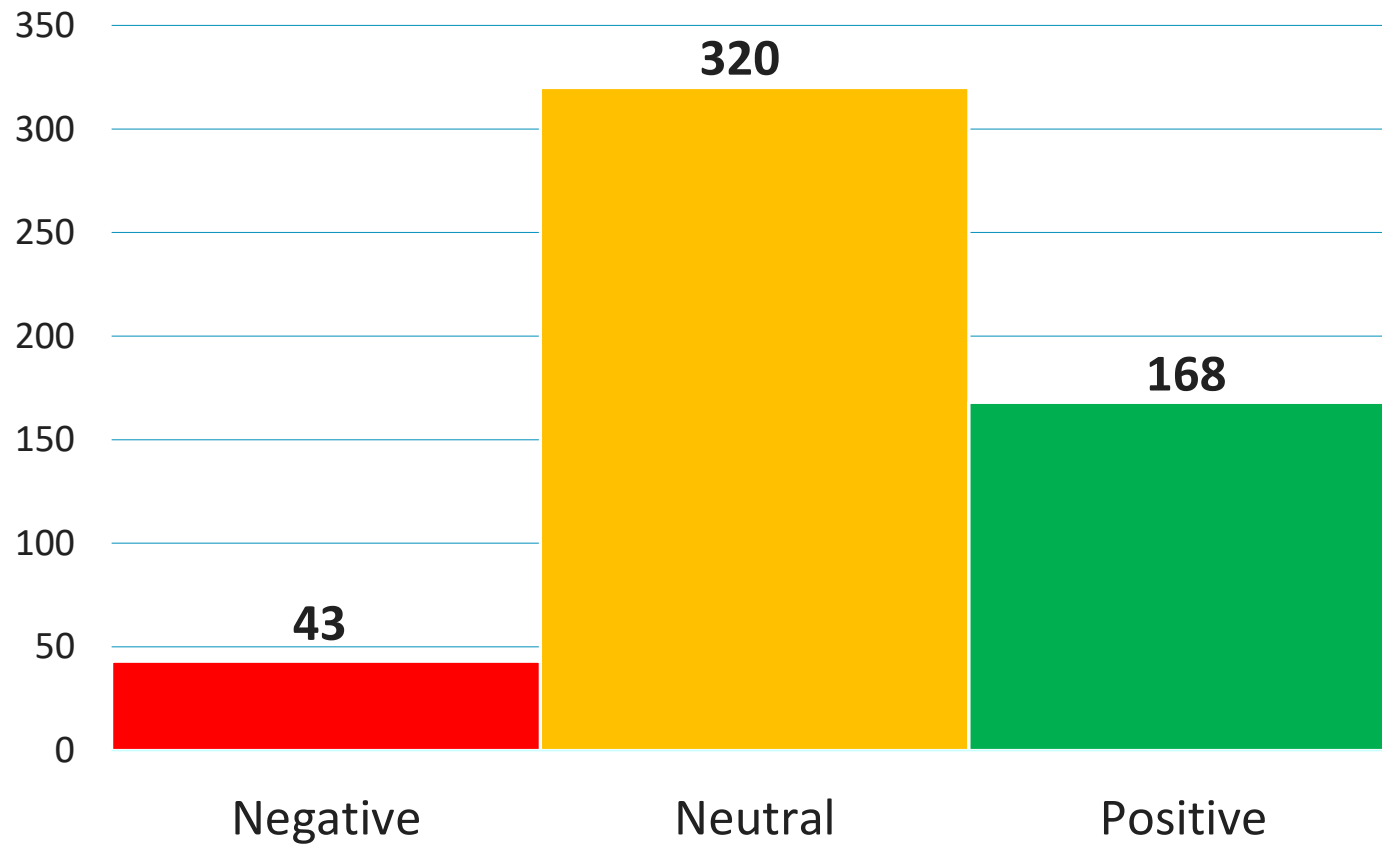
Note: For more information about school type subgroup samples, see the full report at EdChoice.org/SIAdashboard.
Source: EdChoice, 2024 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 9–April 30, 2024), Q5-8



Civic Outcomes of Private Schooling

- **Political Tolerance** – willingness to extend constitutional rights to disliked groups
- **Political Participation** – involvement in civic activities
- **Civic Knowledge and Skills** – familiarity with the workings of government & the ability to communicate with officials
- **Voluntarism and Social Capital** – unpaid involvement in improving one's community

Private Schooling Civic Effects



Source: Shakeel et al. 2024



Mental Health Effects of School Choice

- School choice is predictive of fewer adolescent suicides & mental health appointments (DeAngelis & Dills, 2018)
- Private schooling is predictive of fewer suicides & less depression (Watt, 2003)
- Catholic schooling effects on suicide attempts are neutral to positive (Mocan & Tekin, 2006)

society if there were no vouchers
(allegedly)



Academic Outcomes of Public Schools From All Empirical Studies

Author(s)	Location	Program Type	Year	Program Name	Any Positive Effect	No Visible Effect	Any Negative Effect
Lavertu and Gregg	Ohio	V	2022	Educational Choice Scholarship Program	✓		
Canbolat	Indiana	V	2021	Choice Scholarship Program			X
Egalite and Mills	Louisiana	V	2021	Louisiana Scholarship Program	✓		
Egalite and Catt	Indiana	V	2020	Choice Scholarship Program	✓		
Figlio and Karbownik	Ohio	V	2016	Educational Choice Scholarship Program	✓		
Bowen and Trivitt	Florida	V	2014	Opportunity Scholarship Program*			X
Chakrabarti	Florida	V	2013	Opportunity Scholarship Program*	✓		
Carr	Ohio	V	2011	Educational Choice Scholarship Program	✓		
Winters and Greene	Florida	V	2011	John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program	✓		
Mader	Milwaukee, WI	V	2010	Milwaukee Parental Choice Program	✓		
Greene and Marsh	Milwaukee, WI	V	2009	Milwaukee Parental Choice Program	✓		
Chakrabarti	Milwaukee, WI	V	2008	Milwaukee Parental Choice Program	✓		
Forster	Ohio	V	2008	Educational Choice Scholarship Program	✓		
Forster	Florida	V	2008	Opportunity Scholarship Program*	✓		
Carnoy et al.	Milwaukee, WI	V	2007	Milwaukee Parental Choice Program	✓		
Greene and Winters	Washington, D.C.	V	2007	Opportunity Scholarship Program		○	
Figlio and Rouse	Florida	V	2006	Opportunity Scholarship Program*	✓		
West and Peterson	Florida	V	2006	Opportunity Scholarship Program*	✓		
Greene and Winters	Florida	V	2004	Opportunity Scholarship Program*	✓		
Greene and Forster	Milwaukee, WI	V	2002	Milwaukee Parental Choice Program	✓		
Hammons	Maine	V	2002	Town Tuitioning Program	✓		
Hammons	Vermont	V	2002	Town Tuitioning Program	✓		
Hoxby	Milwaukee, WI	V	2002	Milwaukee Parental Choice Program	✓		
Greene	Florida	V	2001	Opportunity Scholarship Program*	✓		
Figlio et al.	Florida	TCS	2023	Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program	✓		
Figlio and Hart	Florida	TCS	2014	Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program	✓		
Rouse et al.	Florida	TCS	2013	Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program	✓		
Gray, Merrifield, and Adzima	San Antonio, TX	P	2016		✓		
Greene and Forster	San Antonio, TX	P	2002		✓		

V=Voucher; TCS=Tax-credit scholarship; P=Private scholarship

Notes: This table shows all empirical studies using all methods. If a study's analysis produced any positive or negative results or both, we classify those studies as positive, negative or both. Studies that did not produce any statistically significant results for any subgroup are classified as "no visible effect."

*The Florida Supreme Court declared that the private school voucher component of the program was unconstitutional in January 2006.

Segregation Effects, Possible Outcomes After Student Transferred via Choice Program

	Receiving school became MORE integrated	Receiving school became LESS integrated
Originating school became MORE integrated	Positive	Mixed
Originating school became LESS integrated	Mixed	Negative

Racial Integration From All Empirical Studies

Author(s)	Location	Program Type	Year	Program Name	Any Positive Effect	No Visible Effect	Any Negative Effect
Lavertu and Gregg	Ohio	V	2022	EdChoice Scholarship Program	✓		
Egalite, Mills, and Wolf	Louisiana	V	2017	Louisiana Scholarship Program	✓		
Greene, Mills, and Buck	Milwaukee, WI	V	2010	Milwaukee Parental Choice Program		○	
Greene and Winters	Washington, D.C.	V	2007	Opportunity Scholarship Program	✓		
Forster	Milwaukee, WI	V	2006	Milwaukee Parental Choice Program	✓		
Forster	Cleveland, OH	V	2006	Cleveland Scholarship Program	✓		
Fuller and Mitchell	Milwaukee, WI	V	2000	Milwaukee Parental Choice Program	✓		
Greene	Cleveland, OH	V	1999	Cleveland Scholarship Program	✓		

V=Voucher

Notes: This table shows all empirical studies using all methods; the total effect on segregation in all schools is referenced. Table excludes studies that do not adequately define segregation or fail to make appropriate comparisons. For example, comparing the racial makeup of a given school to the makeup of a larger administrative unit such as a school district or municipality can be misleading and fails to directly measure the effect of introducing a private school choice program. If a study's analysis produced any positive or negative results or both, we classify those studies as positive, negative or both. Studies that did not produce any statistically significant results for any subgroup are classified as "no visible effect."



Summary of School Choice Effects

- Positive on educational attainment
- Neutral to positive on most civic outcomes
- Neutral to positive on mental health
- Neutral to positive on achievement for participants
- Positive on achievement for affected non-participants
- Positive for racial integration

Questions?

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