

CSF Studies Summary

Parental satisfaction, continued demand for our scholarships, and a growing donor base are key indicators of program success. We consistently conduct internal studies of our program to measure parental satisfaction. Parents are very satisfied with their children's progress and want to keep them in private school using scholarships. Besides the demand from current recipients to continue the scholarships, we receive requests for new scholarships on a daily basis.

Harvard Family Satisfaction study: In a 2001 evaluation of the Children's Scholarship Fund by Harvard University, 68% of CSF families indicated they were "very satisfied" with their chosen private schools' academic quality, safety, discipline, and the values taught in the school. Only 23% of their public school counterparts felt similarly. CSF parents were approximately five times more likely to rate their school an "A" than public school parents—72% versus 16% respectively.

Internal CSF parent surveys: During the past two years, CSF has conducted surveys of parents in New York and New Orleans, and many of the local programs (Newark and Omaha, among others) have done their own parent surveys. The results generally mirror the Harvard study results, showing that parents are genuinely appreciative of the chance to send their children to private schools and report that their children have made progress academically and socially and they are pleased with teachers and school staff. The gratitude of these families is humbling. For example, Juana Santiago from New York, whose son just started 2nd grade in a new private school with a CSF scholarship, told us that he has already improved academically. "I'm seeing the change in him every day," she said. "He's growing, he's learning more. I feel really thankful for the people who have given him this money. I appreciate it a lot."

Academic success: To date, several of our programs have been the subjects of studies that measure academic success or progress of scholarship recipients against families who applied but did not receive scholarships.

Harvard Test Score study: While CSF has not undertaken internal studies to measure the academic success of all of our recipients, Harvard evaluations of our program in three cities (New York, Washington, DC and Dayton, Ohio) show that scholarships narrow the achievement gap in math and reading between Black and White students by about half.

Philadelphia: CSF Philadelphia (CSFP) was the subject of a comprehensive program study by researchers from the University of Pennsylvania. The researchers surveyed participating schools, families, and students, as well as

conducting interviews with students and CSFP staff. The very positive study found that the vast majority of CSFP parents reported their children's academic achievement and behavior had improved since attending a private school with a CSF scholarship. Parents also reported higher letter grades than their children had received in public school. However, the researchers recommended a more scientific study of academic achievement, advising CSFP to begin gathering academic grades and standardized test scores from participating students on a regular basis.

Charlotte: A study of the Charlotte program found that CSF recipients showed gains in both math and reading scores after only one year of private school. The study, conducted by Jay Greene, reported that CSF recipients scored 5.9-6.2 points higher in math and 5.4-7.7 points higher in reading than children who had not been awarded a scholarship and remained in public school.

Memphis: Researchers at Christian Brothers University are conducting a three-year survey of Memphis Opportunity Scholarship Trust (MOST) scholarship recipients, measuring both academic achievement and parental satisfaction. During the 2001-2002 school year, their research compared standardized test scores of scholarship recipients with Memphis city public schools, and found that scholarship recipients had higher scores than public school students in both reading and math at every grade level.

Minneapolis: Our Minneapolis program conducted its own survey of standardized test scores among recipients, and found that 85% of scholarship recipients passed the Minnesota Basic Standards math test and 92% passed the reading test, significantly higher percentages than their public school counterparts.

Los Angeles: An independent researcher funded by the Broad Foundation has conducted a study of test scores and grades from a sample of children in our Los Angeles program. The study found that CSF recipients showed statistically significant growth in reading scores over a two-year period, and CSF recipients in general scored higher in reading than their public school counterparts.

Altruism Study: A team of researchers at Case Western Reserve University studied CSF recipients in Toledo, OH, and found that those who received the scholarship were significantly more likely to be altruistic towards charitable organizations that children whose parents had applied but had not been awarded a scholarship.