FTC ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT

2017-2018

Introduction

This school report looks at characteristics of private schools that enrolled students receiving a Florida Tax Credit scholarship through Step Up For Students during the 2017-2018 school year. In particular, the report examines the distribution of private schools by various characteristics and calculates graduate rates for 12th grade scholarship students enrolled in these schools.

This report is modeled after the National Center for Education Statistics' (NCES) biennial report: "Characteristics of Private Schools in the United States: Results from the 2015-2016 Private School Universe Survey (PSS)." The mandate of the NCES is to collect, analyze, and report on education throughout the U.S. and abroad. The PSS serves as their primary source of data on private schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. This report is focused on private schools in Florida that serve students who receive a Florida Tax Credit (FTC) scholarship through Step Up For Students.

Data

In examining these private schools, data from the Florida Department of Education was utilized along with data collected by Step Up For Students through surveys of schools and students' primary guardians. In doing so, data was collected at the school level concerning grades served, number of students, accreditation status, religious affiliation, and Success Partners Program participants. At the student level, information was obtained in relation to the students' gender, race/ethnicity, single parent household status, scholarship award amount, and graduation status.

Private schools that had Step Up For Students participants enrolled in the 12th grade during the 2017-2018 school year were surveyed online to determine the exit status of these students at the end of the academic year. Schools that did not respond to the online survey received follow-up phone calls and emails. For the remaining schools that did not respond to requests for exit status information, we contacted the parents of scholarship students enrolled in the 12th grade during the 2017-2018 school year to obtain the exit status for these students. This resulted in a 95.2% response rate.[1]

Similar to the NCES report, we calculate the graduation rate for FTC students enrolled at these schools by focusing on FTC students who were enrolled in the 12th grade at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year and compared that number to how many of these students graduated at the end of the school year. A graduate is defined as those 12th grade students who received a standard diploma, special education diploma, or other certificate or diploma by the end of the academic year.[2] Those students who dropped out or otherwise failed to complete the 12th grade were calculated as not graduating.[3] This resulted in a total of 2,770 12th grade students included in this analysis.

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[1] One hundred and forty-four students with no response concerning exit status were not included in the analysis.
[2] Five students received a GED but were excluded from the analysis.
[3] One hundred and six students who transferred out of a private school to a public school were excluded from the private school analysis.

Selected Findings

- At the end of Fall 2017-2018 school year, there were 1,802 private schools serving 106,649 FTC students.[4]
- Of these, there were 510 schools with 3,025 FTC students enrolled in the 12th grade.
- 1,174 of these private schools were religious schools and 80.5% of scholarship students attended one of these schools.
- Step Up For Students scholarship students who were enrolled in the 12th grade during the 2017-2018 school year had a high school graduation rate with 2,633 students or 95.1% of all students included in the analysis graduating from a private school.
- During the 2017-2018 school year, most scholarship students (60.6%) were enrolled in schools located in Southeast Florida.
- In terms of demographics, there were slightly more female scholarship students than male scholarship students.
- More scholarship students were Hispanic than any other ethnicity/race. However, a large percentage of scholarship students were also black and white.
- 1,178 of these private schools were not accredited.
- 444 schools were deemed Success Partner Schools, as they had participated in the Step Up For Students 2-year professional development program.

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[4] There was a total of 106,649 FTC students enrolled in private schools during the 2017-2018 school year. Of these students, 2,198 were enrolled in more than one private school resulting in 108,847 entries for FTC students for the 2017-2018 school year.

Appendix A

Table 1: Number and percentage distribution of private schools and students by selected characteristics (2017-2018)[5]

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS	SCHOOL NUMBER	SCHOOL PERCENT	STUDENT NUMBER	STUDENT PERCENT
TOTAL	**1,802**	**100%**	**106,649**	**100%**
Private School Typology				
Religious	1,174	65.1%	85,819	80.5%
Non-Religious	628	34.8%	20,830	19.6%
Religious School Type				
Assemblies of God	33	2.8%	3,777	4.4%
Baptist	177	15.1%	16,358	19.1%
Catholic	191	16.3%	19,281	22.5%
Church of God	21	1.8%	1,538	1.8%
Episcopalian	18	1.5%	717	0.8%
Islamic/Muslim	20	1.7%	2,491	2.9%
Jewish	42	3.6%	2,777	3.2%
Lutheran	48	4.1%	2,404	2.8%
Multi/Inter/Trans-Denominational	29	2.5%	1,299	1.5%
Methodist	16	1.4%	745	0.9%
Nazarene	9	0.8%	458	0.5%
Non-Denominational	423	36.0%	24,727	28.8%
Other Religious	28	2.4%	2,194	2.6%
Pentecostal	51	4.3%	2,053	2.4%
Presbyterian	20	1.7%	1,660	1.9%
SDA	48	4.1%	3,340	3.9%
School Level				
Elementary	460	25.5%	12,695	11.9%
Secondary	56	3.1%	5,269	4.9%
Combined	1,285	71.3%	88,673	83.1%
N/A	1	0.001%	12	0.1%
Region				
NE	334	18.7%	20,046	18.8%
NW	96	5.3%	4,935	4.6%
SW	344	19.1%	17,010	16.0%
SE	1,028	57.0%	64,658	60.6%
Success Partner School				
Yes	444	24.6%	36,114	33.9%
No	1,358	75.4%	70,535	66.1%
Accredited				
Yes	624	34.6%	58,795	55.1%
No	1,178	65.4%	47,854	44.9%
MAP Participating School				
Yes	208	11.5%	17,046	15.9%
No	1,594	88.5%	89,603	84.0%

[5] Percentages in tables may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 2: Percentage distribution of FTC students, by racial/ethnic background and selected school characteristics (2017-2018)

Selected Characteristics	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Native American	Pacific Islander	Two or more races	Not Indicated
TOTAL	**27,916**	**31,754**	**40,825**	**1,844**	**117**	**154**	**3,905**	**134**
Private School Typology								
Religious	92.3%	79.8%	71.5%	93.8%	81.2%	91.6%	88.6%	85.1%
Non-Religious	7.7%	20.2%	28.5%	6.2%	18.8%	8.4%	11.5%	14.9%
Religious School Type								
Assemblies of God	3.1%	3.3%	6.7%	1.2%	3.2%	5.7%	4.3%	3.5%
Baptist	21.7%	18.7%	17.4%	11.3%	15.8%	14.9%	20.3%	15.8%
Catholic	16.7%	18.4%	31.0%	29.1%	24.2%	27.0%	20.3%	19.3%
Church of God	2.1%	2.2%	1.2%	0.6%	4.2%	1.4%	2.3%	1.8%
Episcopalian	1.2%	0.6%	0.8%	0.7%	3.2%	1.4%	0.9%	0.0%
Islamic/Muslim	5.5%	0.8%	0.4%	39.8%	5.3%	4.3%	2.3%	1.8%
Jewish	9.5%	0.1%	0.9%	0.2%	1.1%	1.4%	0.6%	2.6%
Lutheran	3.8%	2.3%	2.3%	2.0%	6.3%	0.7%	3.6%	6.1%
Methodist	0.7%	0.7%	1.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.9%
Multi/Inter/Trans-Denominational	1.4%	1.9%	1.4%	0.7%	2.1%	1.4%	1.5%	1.8%
Nazarene	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	1.1%	0.7%	0.6%	0.9%
Non-Denominational	27.6%	34.9%	25.3%	8.1%	20.0%	24.1%	33.2%	39.5%
Other Religious	2.5%	2.8%	2.4%	1.9%	1.1%	3.6%	3.3%	2.6%
Pentecostal	1.0%	4.1%	2.3%	0.4%	8.4%	0.7%	2.2%	1.8%
Presbyterian	1.8%	0.9%	3.1%	0.6%	3.2%	2.1%	1.3%	0.0%
SDA	1.0%	7.8%	3.3%	2.7%	1.1%	10.6%	2.6%	1.8%
School Level								
Elementary	6.0%	10.8%	17.8%	3.1%	10.3%	3.9%	5.9%	10.5%
Secondary	4.7%	4.3%	5.7%	5.0%	7.7%	6.5%	4.2%	2.2%
Combined	89.3%	84.9%	76.5%	91.9%	82.1%	89.6%	89.9%	87.3%
Unknown	0.0%	0.04%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Region								
NE	29.2%	20.4%	9.3%	22.2%	22.2%	26.6%	28.6%	21.6%
NW	7.8%	5.3%	1.5%	3.9%	6.8%	7.8%	9.4%	2.2%
SW	25.9%	9.5%	13.2%	21.0%	14.5%	19.5%	23.7%	14.1%
SE	37.2%	64.8%	76.0%	52.9%	56.4%	46.1%	38.3%	61.9%
Success Partner								
Yes	30.7%	41.6%	29.1%	52.1%	32.5%	41.6%	34.6%	33.6%
No	69.3%	58.4%	70.9%	47.9%	67.5%	58.4%	65.4%	66.4%
Accredited								
Yes	62.5%	47.2%	54.4%	71.6%	78.6%	67.5%	63.4%	45.5%
No	37.5%	52.8%	45.6%	28.4%	21.4%	32.5%	36.6%	54.5%
MAP Participating School								
Yes	15.2%	19.6%	13.0%	28.7%	22.2%	14.3%	16.8%	20.2%
No	84.8%	80.4%	87.0%	71.3%	77.8%	85.7%	83.2%	79.9%

Table 3: Percentage of private schools with 12th-graders, number of graduates, graduation rate, by selected school characteristics (2017-2018)

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS	PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOLS WITH FTC STUDENTS IN THE 12TH GRADE	NUMBER OF 2017-2018 FTC GRADUATES	2017-2018 FTC GRADUATION RATE*
TOTAL	**510**	**2,633**	**95.1%**
Private School Typology			
Religious	79.8%	2,383	95.8%
Non-Religious	20.2%	250	89.0%
Religious School Type			
Assemblies of God	3.2%	91	95.8%
Baptist	21.9%	414	96.7%
Catholic	8.9%	815	99.8%
Church of God	3.2%	56	96.6%
Episcopalian	1.7%	19	100.0%
Islamic/Muslim	1.5%	66	95.7%
Jewish	3.0%	65	100.0%
Lutheran	0.5%	4	100.0%
Methodist	0.0%	0	0.00%
Multi/Inter/Trans-Denominational	2.5%	32	97.0%
Nazarene	1.0%	11	91.7%
Non-Denominational	42.0%	611	90.7%
Other Religious	2.5%	37	88.1%
Pentecostal	5.4%	42	84.0%
Presbyterian	1.7%	48	98.0%
SDA	1.2%	72	98.6%
School Level			
Elementary	0.00%	0	0.00%
Secondary	9.8%	915	99.6%
Combined	90.2%	1,718	92.9%
Region			
NE	22.9%	551	94.0%
NW	6.3%	117	95.1%
SW	20.0%	432	93.9%
SE	50.8%	1,533	95.8%
Success Partner			
Yes	25.7%	752	94.7%
No	74.3%	1,881	95.2%
Accredited			
Yes	48.4%	1,997	97.5%
No	51.6%	636	88.3%
MAP Participating School			
Yes	9.2%	242	94.2%
No	90.8%	2,391	95.2%

Table 4: Selected Student Level Characteristics among 12th Graders, number of graduates, graduation rate (2017-2018)

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS	NUMBER OF 2017-2018 FTC GRADUATES	2017-2018 FTC GRADUATION RATE
TOTAL	**2,633**	**95.1%**
Sex		
Female	1,273	95.1%
Male	1,360	95.0%
Race		
White	756	95.6%
Black	717	93.7%
Hispanic	1,028	95.8%
Asian	49	100.0%
Native American	7	100.0%
Pacific Islander	2	100.0%
Two or More Races	74	91.4%
Not Indicated	0	0.0%
Single Parent Household		
Yes	1,415	94.0%
No	1,218	96.4%
Award Percentage		
100%	2,385	94.9%
88%	89	97.8%
74%	66	97.1%
60%	55	98.2%
50%	38	92.7%

Glossary

School level: Schools that served high school students along with students in the 6th grade or below were classified as combined schools. Those schools that only offered grades higher than the 6th grade were classified as secondary schools.

Success Partner Schools: Success partner schools are schools that participate in a comprehensive research-based professional development program offered by Step Up For Students.

Region: Schools were divided up into 4 regions based on the country that the school is located within. These regions are northeast, northwest, southeast, and southwest Florida. The northeast region is comprised of Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Marion, Nassau, Putnam, Seminole, St. Johns, Suwannee, Union, and Volusia County. The northwest region includes Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington County. In the southern part of Florida, the southwest region comprises Charlotte, Citrus, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Monroe, Pasco, Pinellas, Sarasota, and Sumter County. The remaining counties make up the southeast region and include Brevard, Broward, Dade, Indian River, Lake, Martin, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Polk, and St. Lucie County.

Award Percentage: The scholarship award percentage is based on the students' household income level. Households with higher incomes may receive a pro-rated scholarship of 88, 74, 60 or 50% of the maximum awards listed above.

MAP Participating School: MAP participating schools are schools that participated in the Mathematics Assessment Project. This program provides tools that assess students' mathematical knowledge and reasoning, which helps teachers monitor students' progress and guide them toward improvement.