



FTC ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT

2018-2019



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 2018-2019 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 2017-2018 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 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 school year to obtain the exit status for these students. This resulted in a 94.1% 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 2018-2019 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 2,814 12th grade students included in this analysis.

¹ Fifty-six students with no response concerning exit status were not included in the analysis.

² Four students received a GED but were excluded from the analysis.

³ Seventy-two 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 2018-2019 school year, there were 1,802 private schools serving 99,735 FTC students.
- Of these, there were 505 schools with 2,946 FTC students enrolled in the 12th grade.
- 1,165 of these private schools were religious schools and 81.9% of scholarship students attended one of these schools.
- Step Up For Students scholarship students who were enrolled in the 12th grade during the 2018-2019 school year had a high graduation rate with 2,648 students or 94.1% of all students included in the analysis graduating from a private school.
- During the 2017-2018 school year, most scholarship students (59.9%) 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.
- 1,163 of these private schools were not accredited.
- 385 schools participated in one of our Office of Student Learning's professional development programs

Appendix A

Table 1: Number and percentage distribution of private schools and students by selected characteristics (2018-2019)⁴

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS	SCHOOL NUMBER	SCHOOL PERCENT	STUDENT NUMBER	STUDENT PERCENT
TOTAL	1,802	100%	99,735	100%
Private School Typology				
Religious	1,165	64.7%	81,688	81.9%
Non-Religious	637	35.3%	18,047	18.1%
Religious School Type				
Assemblies of God	40	3.4%	3,609	4.4%
Baptist	171	14.7%	15,473	18.9%
Catholic	192	16.5%	19,137	23.4%
Church of God	17	1.5%	1,389	1.7%
Episcopalian	19	1.6%	604	0.7%
Islamic/Muslim	22	1.9%	2,439	3.0%
Jewish	39	3.3%	2,654	3.2%
Lutheran	48	4.1%	2,397	2.9%
Multi/Inter/Trans-Denominational	31	2.7%	1,383	1.7%
Methodist	17	1.5%	583	0.7%
Nazarene	6	0.5%	262	0.3%
Non-Denominational	423	36.3%	23,726	29.0%
Other Religious	18	1.5%	1,149	1.4%
Pentecostal	50	4.3%	2,218	2.7%
Presbyterian	23	2.0%	1,617	2.0%
SDA	49	4.2%	3,048	3.7%
School Level				
Elementary	447	24.8%	9,848	9.9%
Secondary	54	3.0%	5,066	5.1%
Combined	1,301	72.2%	84,821	85.1%
Region				
NE	332	18.4%	18,918	19.0%
NW	93	5.2%	4,510	4.5%
SW	352	19.5%	16,567	16.6%
SE	1,025	56.9%	59,740	59.9%
OSL Program Participants				
Yes	366	20.3%	25,877	26.0%
No	1,436	79.7%	73,858	74.1%
Accredited				
Yes	637	35.3%	56,675	56.8%
No	1,163	64.5%	43,052	43.2%
Unknown	2	0.11%	8	0.01%
MAP Participating School				
Yes	346	19.2%	24,352	24.4%
No	1,456	80.8%	75,383	75.6%

⁴ 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 (2018-2019)

Selected Characteristics	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Native American	Pacific Islander	Two or more races	Not Indicated
TOTAL	26,408	29,370	38,202	1,753	116	158	3,671	57
Private School Typology								
Religious	92.7%	80.6%	73.9%	94.4%	83.6%	93.0%	91.2%	87.7%
Non-Religious	7.3%	19.4%	26.1%	5.7%	16.4%	7.0%	8.8%	12.3%
Religious School Type								
Assemblies of God	3.0%	3.4%	6.7%	0.9%	3.1%	7.5%	4.5%	0.0%
Baptist	21.6%	19.0%	16.8%	12.6%	15.5%	12.2%	21.5%	12.0%
Catholic	17.7%	19.0%	32.0%	28.7%	19.6%	29.3%	21.1%	22.0%
Church of God	2.1%	2.0%	1.1%	0.7%	2.1%	0.0%	2.2%	0.0%
Episcopalian	1.0%	0.5%	0.7%	0.9%	1.0%	0.7%	1.1%	0.0%
Islamic/Muslim	5.7%	0.7%	0.4%	40.8%	7.2%	2.7%	2.1%	4.0%
Jewish	9.7%	0.0%	0.9%	0.1%	0.0%	2.0%	0.8%	2.6%
Lutheran	3.8%	2.5%	2.5%	1.7%	6.2%	0.7%	4.1%	4.0%
Methodist	0.8%	0.2%	1.2%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.4%	2.0%
Multi/Inter/Trans-Denominational	1.8%	2.6%	0.9%	0.4%	5.2%	3.4%	1.8%	0.0%
Nazarene	0.5%	0.2%	0.3%	0.7%	0.0%	0.7%	0.2%	0.0%
Non-Denominational	26.7%	35.8%	26.3%	7.2%	25.8%	27.2%	32.4%	34.0%
Other Religious	1.9%	1.1%	1.2%	1.5%	1.0%	2.0%	1.6%	4.0%
Pentecostal	1.1%	4.4%	2.9%	0.6%	6.2%	0.7%	1.9%	10.0%
Presbyterian	1.8%	0.8%	3.3%	0.4%	4.1%	2.0%	1.7%	4.0%
SDA	0.9%	7.6%	3.1%	2.8%	2.1%	8.8%	2.8%	2.0%
School Level								
Elementary	4.9%	8.8%	14.9%	2.6%	12.9%	3.8%	5.5%	3.5%
Secondary	4.7%	4.5%	5.9%	5.3%	3.5%	6.3%	4.3%	5.3%
Combined	90.5%	86.7%	79.2%	92.1%	83.6%	89.9%	90.2%	91.2%
Region								
NE	28.7%	20.5%	9.8%	23.5%	25.9%	27.2%	29.6%	15.8%
NW	7.7%	4.9%	1.6%	3.5%	4.3%	7.6%	9.2%	12.3%
SE	37.7%	64.2%	74.6%	51.4%	50.0%	41.8%	38.3%	52.6%
SW	25.9%	10.3%	14.1%	21.6%	19.8%	23.4%	22.9%	19.3%
Success Partner								
Yes	25.8%	32.3%	20.2%	37.8%	27.6%	32.3%	29.5%	35.1%
No	74.2%	67.7%	79.8%	62.2%	72.4%	67.7%	70.5%	64.9%
Accredited								
Yes	66.2%	47.3%	55.8%	76.7%	60.3%	65.8%	66.6%	64.9%
No	33.9%	52.7%	44.2%	23.3%	39.7%	34.2%	33.5%	35.1%
MAP Participating School								
Yes	24.6%	29.4%	19.5%	37.3%	27.6%	26.6%	27.9%	33.3%
No	75.4%	70.6%	80.5%	62.8%	72.4%	73.4%	72.1%	66.7%

Table 3: Percentage of private schools with 12th-graders, number of graduates, graduation rate, by selected school characteristics (2018-2019)

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS	PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOLS WITH FTC STUDENTS IN THE 12TH GRADE	NUMBER OF 2018-2019 FTC GRADUATES	2018-2019 FTC GRADUATION RATE
TOTAL	505	2,648	94.1%
Private School Typology			
Religious	81.7%	2,434	95.0%
Non-Religious	18.3%	214	84.6%
Religious School Type			
Assemblies of God	4.1%	85	95.5%
Baptist	21.0%	448	94.9%
Catholic	9.3%	848	97.8%
Church of God	2.9%	47	90.4%
Episcopalian	1.5%	22	100.0%
Islamic/Muslim	1.2%	36	100.0%
Jewish	2.4%	63	92.7%
Lutheran	0.5%	16	94.1%
Methodist	0.0%	0	0.00%
Multi/Inter/Trans-Denominational	3.4%	35	94.6%
Nazarene	0.1%	5	83.3%
Non-Denominational	43.2%	629	91.7%
Other Religious	1.5%	34	94.4%
Pentecostal	5.6%	48	88.9%
Presbyterian	1.5%	45	97.8%
SDA	1.2%	73	100.0%
School Level			
Elementary	0.00%	0	0.00%
Secondary	9.6%	927	97.9%
Combined	90.4%	1,721	92.2%
Region			
NE	22.9%	572	95.0%
NW	6.4%	128	92.8%
SW	20.9%	438	93.9%
SE	49.8%	1,510	94.2%
Success Partner			
Yes	18.3%	571	93.8%
No	81.7%	2,077	95.2%
Accredited			
Yes	51.4%	2,084	95.6%
No	48.6%	564	88.8%
MAP Participating School			
Yes	17.7%	562	93.8%
No	82.3%	2,086	95.4%

Table 4: Selected Student Level Characteristics among 12th Graders, number of graduates, graduation rate (2018-2019)

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS	NUMBER OF 2018-2019 FTC GRADUATES	2018-2019 FTC GRADUATION RATE
TOTAL	2,648	94.1%
Sex		
Female	1,309	94.8%
Male	1,339	93.4%
Race		
White	764	95.7%
Black	719	92.2%
Hispanic	1,029	94.2%
Asian	43	95.6%
Native American	1	100.0%
Pacific Islander	4	100.0%
Two or More Races	88	93.6%
Not Indicated	0	0.00%
Single Parent Household		
Yes	1,320	92.4%
No	1,328	95.8%
Award Percentage		
100%	2,378	93.8%
88%	99	96.1%
74%	67	97.1%
60%	68	98.6%
50%	36	97.3%

Appendix B

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.

OSL Program Participants: 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 county 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.