A WIN-WIN SOLUTION PART V: CIVIC VALUES AND PRACTICES

ed CHOICE

What opponents say: School choice [private schools] will not teach students the civic values and practices upon which democracy depends.

What the facts say: School choice strengthens democratic practices and values, such as respect for the rights of others and civic knowledge. School choice participants show modestly higher levels of political tolerance, civic skills, future political participation, and volunteering when compared to public school students.

What the studies show: There have been 11 empirical studies examining how school choice affects civic values and practices, such as toleration for the rights of others. Eight of those studies find school choice has a positive effect on these civic concerns. The remaining three studies find school choice has no visible effect on them. None finds choice has a negative effect on these values and practices.

Location	Author	Year	Results		
			Positive Effect	No Visible Effect	Negative Effect
Milwaukee	DeAngelis & Wolf	2016	X		
Louisiana	Mills et. al.	2016		X	
Milwaukee	Fleming et. al.	2014	X		
Nationwide	Campbell	2013	X		
Milwaukee	Fleming	2012	X		
Milwaukee	Fleming	2011	X		
Toledo	Bettinger & Slonim	2006	X		
D.C.	Howell & Peterson	2002		X	
Nationwide	Campbell	2002	X		
Nationwide	Peterson & Campbell	2001		X	
D.C.	Wolf et. al.	2001	X		

Note: This table shows all empirical studies using all methods.

Conclusion: School choice strengthens democracy by accommodating diversity, de-politicizing the curriculum, and allowing schools the freedom to sustain the strong institutional cultures that are necessary to cultivate democratic virtues such as honesty, diligence, achievement, responsibility, service to others, civic participation, and respect for the rights of others.

Source: Greg Forster, A Win-Win Solution: The Empirical Evidence on School Choice, 4th ed. (Indianapolis: Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, 2016).