



FTC ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT

2016-2017



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 2016-2017 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, proportion of FTC students, and Success Partners Program participants. At the student level, information was obtained in relation to the students' gender, race/ethnicity, and graduation status.

Private schools that had Step Up For Students participants enrolled in the 12th grade during the 2016-2017 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 2016-2017 school year to obtain the exit status for these students. This resulted in a 97.3% 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 2016-2017 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 2,299 12th grade students included in this analysis.

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

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

³ Sixty-seven students who transferred out of a private school to a public school were excluded from the private school analysis.

Selected Findings

- In Fall 2016, there were 1,721 private schools serving 97,927 FTC students.⁴
- Of these, there were 440 schools with 2,437 FTC students enrolled in the 12th grade.
- 1,139 of these private schools were religious schools and 80.7% of scholarship students attended one of these schools.
- Step Up For Students scholarship students who were enrolled in the 12th grade during the 2016-2017 school year had a high graduation rate with 2,174 students or 94.6% of all students included in the analysis graduating from a private school.
- During the 2016-2017 school year, most scholarship students (61.5%) 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 African-American and white.
- 1,147 of these private schools were not accredited.
- 447 schools participated in at least one of Step Up For Students' training sessions and were a part of the Success Partners Network, while 307 schools were deemed Success Partner Schools, as they had participated in the Step Up For Students 2-year professional development program.

⁴ There was a total of 97,927 FTC students enrolled in private schools during the 2016-2017 school year. Of these students, 2,053 were enrolled in more than one private school resulting in 99,980 entries for FTC students for the 2016-2017 school year.

Appendix A

Table 1: Number and percentage distribution of private schools and students by selected characteristics (2016-2017)⁵

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS	SCHOOL NUMBER	SCHOOL PERCENT	STUDENT NUMBER	STUDENT PERCENT
TOTAL	1,721	100%	97,927	100%
Private School Typology				
Religious	1,139	66.2%	79,042	80.7%
Non-Religious	579	33.6%	18,805	19.2%
N/A	3	.002%	80	.008%
Religious School Type				
Assemblies of God	33	2.9%	3,425	4.3%
Baptist	179	15.7%	15,326	19.4%
Catholic	190	16.7%	17,868	22.6%
Church of God	22	1.9%	1,699	2.1%
Episcopalian	19	1.7%	648	0.8%
Islamic/Muslim	16	1.4%	2,333	3.0%
Jewish	41	3.6%	2,550	3.2%
Lutheran	47	4.1%	2,396	3.0%
Multi/Inter/Trans-Denominational	25	2.2%	1,055	1.3%
Methodist	15	1.3%	636	0.8%
Nazarene	9	0.8%	411	0.5%
Non-Denominational	406	35.6%	22,733	28.8%
Other Religious	22	1.9%	1,442	1.8%
Pentecostal	46	4.0%	1,629	2.1%
Presbyterian	20	1.8%	1,540	1.9%
SDA	48	4.2%	3,334	4.2%
Unknown	1	0.09%	17	0.02%
School Level				
Elementary	427	24.8%	11,460	11.7%
Secondary	49	2.8%	4,139	4.2%
Combined	1,239	72.0%	82,009	83.7%
N/A	6	0.3%	319	0.3%
Region				
NE	321	18.7%	18,264	18.7%
NW	79	4.6%	3,847	3.9%
SW	330	19.2%	15,602	15.9%
SE	991	57.6%	60,214	61.5%
Success Partner School				
Yes	307	17.8%	26,352	26.9%
No	1,414	82.2%	71,575	73.1%
Accredited				
Yes	573	33.3%	50,244	51.3%
No	1,147	66.6%	47,680	48.7%
N/A	1	0.06%	3	0.00%

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 (2016-2017)

Selected Characteristics	White	African-American	Hispanic	Asian	Native American	Pacific Islander	Two or more races	Unknown
TOTAL	25,229	29,285	37,441	1,614	98	136	3,400	724
Private School Typology								
Religious	93.5%	81.0%	70.2%	94.9%	93.9%	88.2%	89.7%	88.8%
Non-Religious	6.5%	18.9%	29.6%	5.1%	6.1%	11.8%	10.3%	10.9%
Unknown	0.04%	0.08%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Religious School Type								
Assemblies of God	3.0%	3.3%	6.8%	1.0%	3.3%	2.5%	4.1%	3.4%
Baptist	21.4%	20.0%	17.6%	12.0%	18.5%	16.7%	20.3%	14.0%
Catholic	17.8%	18.1%	30.9%	29.8%	22.8%	31.7%	20.6%	16.8%
Church of God	2.8%	2.4%	1.3%	0.9%	2.2%	2.5%	3.0%	0.5%
Episcopalian	1.0%	0.7%	0.8%	0.9%	3.3%	1.7%	1.0%	0.8%
Islamic/Muslim	5.4%	0.7%	0.3%	39.3%	5.4%	5.8%	2.5%	19.4%
Jewish	9.3%	0.03%	0.9%	0.07%	1.1%	0.0%	0.8%	11.5%
Lutheran	4.0%	2.7%	2.4%	1.8%	2.2%	0.8%	4.0%	3.7%
Methodist	0.6%	0.7%	1.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.3%
Multi/Inter/Trans-Denominational	1.2%	1.7%	1.1%	0.8%	2.2%	1.7%	1.8%	1.6%
Nazarene	0.7%	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	1.1%
Non-Denominational	26.9%	35.1%	25.7%	9.3%	28.3%	22.5%	32.3%	20.7%
Other Religious	2.2%	1.7%	1.6%	0.5%	1.1%	1.7%	2.8%	1.1%
Pentecostal	0.8%	3.6%	2.1%	0.3%	3.3%	0.8%	1.5%	1.6%
Presbyterian	1.8%	0.9%	3.2%	0.5%	3.3%	3.3%	1.3%	0.9%
SDA	1.1%	8.2%	3.7%	2.7%	3.3%	9.2%	2.9%	2.6%
Unknown	0.0%	0.06%	0.01%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
School Level								
Elementary	5.3%	10.0%	18.4%	2.9%	6.1%	5.2%	6.4%	5.5%
Secondary	4.1%	3.6%	4.8%	4.3%	6.1%	6.6%	3.7%	5.5%
Combined	90.4%	86.0%	76.5%	92.9%	87.8%	88.2%	89.5%	88.7%
Unknown	0.2%	0.4%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.3%
Region								
NE	29.2%	20.5%	9.0%	22.6%	32.7%	20.6%	28.5%	16.3%
NW	6.4%	5.3%	1.0%	2.7%	5.1%	5.9%	7.0%	3.6%
SW	26.5%	9.4%	12.8%	21.7%	20.4%	28.7%	23.9%	18.1%
SE	37.9%	64.8%	77.2%	53.0%	41.8%	44.9%	40.7%	62.0%
Success Partner								
Yes	21.6%	34.1%	24.0%	41.8%	23.5%	33.8%	28.0%	33.4%
No	78.4%	65.9%	76.0%	58.2%	76.5%	66.2%	72.0%	66.6%
Accredited								
Yes	61.2%	42.3%	49.8%	71.6%	72.5%	59.6%	60.7%	56.5%
No	38.9%	57.7%	50.2%	28.4%	27.6%	40.4%	39.4%	43.5%
Unknown	0.0%	0.0%	0.01%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

**Table 3: Student-Level Characteristics: Gender and Selected School Characteristics
(2016-2017)**

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS	MALE	FEMALE
TOTAL	47,758	50,169
Private School Typology		
Religious	80.0%	81.4%
Non-Religious	19.9%	18.5%
Unknown	0.09%	0.08%
Religious School Type		
Assemblies of God	4.3%	4.4%
Baptist	19.6%	19.2%
Catholic	22.2%	23.0%
Church of God	2.2%	2.1%
Episcopalian	0.8%	0.8%
Islamic/Muslim	2.7%	3.2%
Jewish	3.2%	3.2%
Lutheran	3.2%	2.9%
Multi/Inter/Trans-Denominational	1.3%	1.3%
Methodist	0.8%	0.8%
Nazarene	0.5%	0.5%
Non-Denominational	29.1%	28.4%
Other Religious	1.7%	1.9%
Pentecostal	2.0%	2.1%
Presbyterian	1.9%	2.0%
SDA	4.3%	4.1%
Unknown	0.02%	0.02%
School Level		
Elementary	11.9%	11.5%
Secondary	4.5%	4.0%
Combined	83.3%	84.2%
Unknown	0.3%	0.3%
Region		
NE	18.5%	18.8%
NW	3.9%	3.9%
SW	15.7%	16.2%
SE	62.0%	61.1%
Success Partner		
Yes	26.2%	27.5%
No	73.8%	72.5%
Accredited		
Yes	50.8%	51.8%
No	49.2%	48.2%
Unknown	0.0%	0.0%

Table 4: Percentage of private schools with 12th-graders, number of graduates, graduation rate, by selected school characteristics (2016-2017)

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS	PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOLS WITH FTC STUDENTS IN THE 12TH GRADE	NUMBER OF 2016-2017 FTC GRADUATES	2016-2017 FTC GRADUATION RATE*
TOTAL	440	2,174	94.3%
Private School Typology			
Religious	84.8%	1,988	95.5%
Non-Religious	15.0%	183	85.9%
Unknown	0.02%	3	75.0%
Religious School Type			
Assemblies of God	2.9%	56	91.8%
Baptist	22.5%	334	93.8%
Catholic	9.1%	670	99.4%
Church of God	3.7%	56	84.9%
Episcopalian	1.6%	19	100.0%
Islamic/Muslim	1.3%	53	100.0%
Jewish	3.2%	63	90.0%
Lutheran	0.5%	2	100.0%
Methodist	0.0%	0	0.00%
Multi/Inter/Trans-Denominational	2.7%	19	95.0%
Nazarene	0.8%	5	71.4%
Non-Denominational	40.9%	522	93.7%
Other Religious	2.9%	42	95.5%
Pentecostal	4.3%	30	88.2%
Presbyterian	1.6%	52	98.1%
SDA	1.3%	63	98.4%
Unknown	0.5%	2	83.3%
School Level			
Elementary	0.00%	0	0.00%
Secondary	10.2%	672	98.4%
Combined	89.1%	1,494	93.0%
Unknown	0.68%	8	80.0%
Region			
NE	21.6%	469	95.1%
NW	6.6%	101	93.5%
SW	20.5%	349	96.1%
SE	51.4%	1,255	94.0%
Success Partner			
Yes	18.6%	397	95.4%
No	81.4%	1,777	94.4%
Accredited			
Yes	49.6%	1,579	96.5%
No	50.5%	595	89.9%
Unknown	0.0%	0	0.0%

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.

Proportion FTC: The proportion of FTC students is the number of students receiving a Florida Tax Credit scholarship through Step Up For Students in relation to the total number of students enrolled at the school.

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 southeast 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 southwest region and include Brevard, Broward, Indian River, Lake, Martin, Miami-Dade, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Polk, and St. Lucie County.