



ARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS MORE PARENT FRIENDLY?

Private schools are better at increasing parental involvement and have been better at reaching out to all parents at their schools. As a result, voucher parents report a higher level of satisfaction with their schools than their public school counterparts.

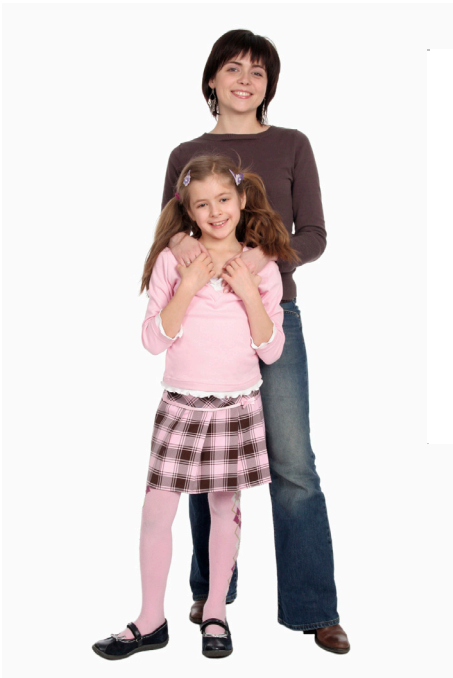
FACT: PARENTS WHO USE A VOUCHER ARE MORE SATISFIED WITH THEIR PRIVATE SCHOOLS THAN PARENTS WHO CHOOSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Parents of students who use private school vouchers have more opportunities to become involved in, and have been more satisfied with, their child's schooling than public school parents.

behavior for the first time, and a nine percentage point increase in the probability of being informed about student progress halfway through the grading period (Wahlberg 2007).

According to a study comparing voucher parents' and public school parents' experiences in New York City, Dayton, and Washington, D.C. (see the table below), parents of voucher students experienced a 15 percentage point increase in the probability of receiving notes from teachers, a 20 percentage point increase in the probability of receiving newsletters about the school, a 15 percentage point increase in the probability of being notified when their child was sent to the office because of disruptive

Parents of private school students also are more satisfied with their children's schooling when compared to public school parents (Wahlberg 2007). A United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) report finds that parents of voucher students are significantly more likely to give their voucher school an "A" (on a grading scale of A-F) than were public school parents. They also were more likely to report being "very satisfied" with curricula and safety at



Outreach Method	Private School %	Public School %
Parents receive notes from teachers	93	78
Parents receive newsletters about the school	88	68
Parents are notified when the child is first sent to office because of disruptive behavior	93	78
Parents are informed of student progress halfway through the grading period	93	84

their school, as well as with the school's teaching methods, than were parents of public school students.

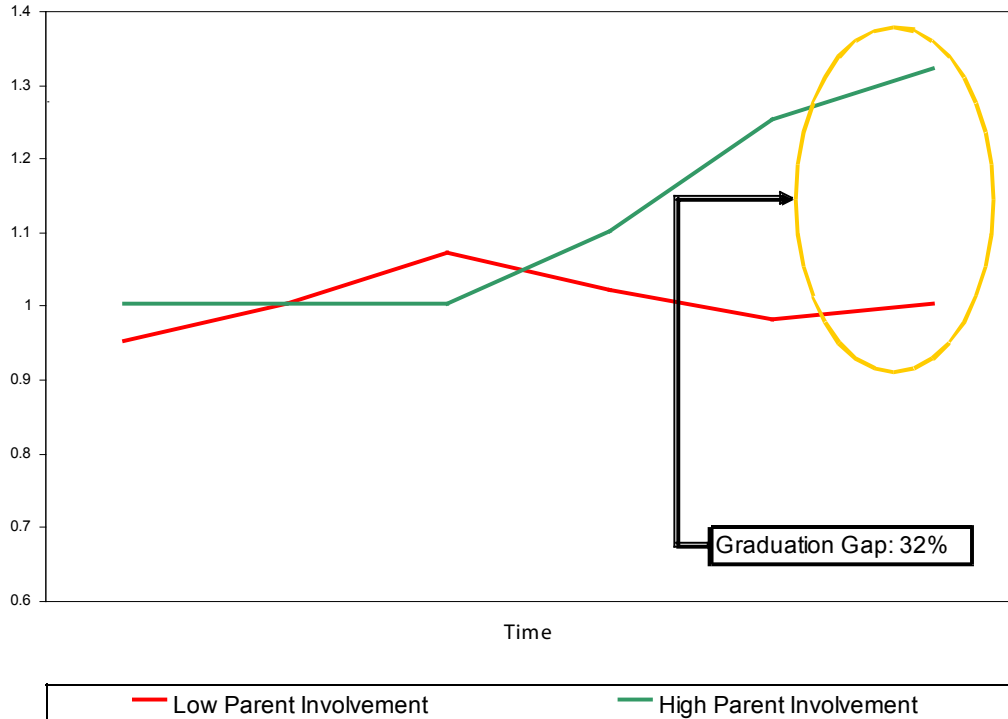
Given that the best predictor of a child's educational attainment is the level of parental involvement in their education, empirical findings suggest that Utah's voucher program will not only help parents become more involved in their child's educa-

tion, but also will improve educational outcomes for those who use them (see the chart below).

ENDNOTE

Wahlberg, Herbert J. 2007. *School Choice: The Findings*. Cato Institute, Washington, D.C. 42-43, 49-50.

Effects of Parent Involvement on Graduation



Data Source: Barnard, Wendy Miedel. 2004. Parent involvement in elementary school and educational attainment. *Children and Youth Services Review*. 26 (January): 39-62.