Selecting The Best Choice of Education for Minority Children and Low-Income Families: Homeschool, Charter Schools or Public School. Which prepare Students Best for Post-Secondary Education and the Career Field?

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**Abstract**

In a major effort to decrease or eliminate the classroom to prison pipeline, Increase preparation for and attendance to post-secondary education in low-income and Minority families. This study is intended to identify measures that increase college completion rates, provide financial stability, improve standards of living and while also improving the socio-economic status of these minority populations. These factors will additionally our Countries ROI – Return On its Investment in our Children. The children are the future of our country.

# Objectives

This research study is for the purpose of identifying the ways in which Charter, Public and Home-schooling benefit the target population. In this case, the target population includes minorities (typically considered non-whites, with some exceptions) and low-income families inclusive of all racial makeup. Comparison is made to distinguish the pro’s, con’s, opinions and recent trends between the three school choice options. Additional factors include the measurement objectives of statistics on college attendance rates, career placement rates of graduates, the cycle of placed into the schooling option based on the perceived success rates of other students including parents who have more than one school-aged child. The end result of this study aims to provide options with proven statistics in order to educate and empower low-income and Minority families on the educational resources available to their communities when selecting K-12 educational options. This is done in an effort to help build strong communities and empower the people who often have little to no power in our country. The types of information that will be presented is statistical analysis, interviews, surveys and questionnaires as well as input from students directly influenced.

## Research Question

After Twenty years of Charter Schools in place; Observing the ways in which Charter schools improve High School graduation rates and lead to post-secondary education compared to Home-Schooling and Public Schools for low-income and Minority families? The study of this comparison will be conducted on various racial makeup of families within the low-income socio-economic status and includes input from parents, teachers and community leaders. There is not much research currently comparing these rates so the study is heavily dependent upon interviews, surveys and the raw data statistics. The number of participants is significantly smaller than 100 and warrants additional research and comparison.

## Background (relevance)

The importance of this study is trifold and founded in its Cultural relevance, an attempt to strengthen the socio-economic status of students from low-income families and minority communities as well as striving for a return on investment in our children for the betterment of the future of our country. This study in grounded in the background of traditional college preparation, increases in retention rates and seeks to institute creative measures to increase the potential for more students to continue to post-secondary educational achievements. All of these aspects improve our society on a whole while seeking to encourage financial stability for the poor and lower-middle class.

## Literature Review

Locating Chicago’s Charter Schools: A Socio-Spatial Analysis (2016).

Charter School Competition, Organization and Achievement in Traditional Public Schools (2013). An Analysis of Oppositional Culture Theory Applied to ONE Suburban Midwest HS (2014). Hispanic/Latino Student Success in Online Schools (2016). Improving Urban College Student Readiness as A Driver of HS Curriculum Enhancement (2013). In Their Own Voices: Adolescent African-American Males Experiences of the Achievement Gap (2015). A Family Study: How Money Might Matter for Academic Learning (2014). What Works Clearinghouse Quick Review: The Effects of School Vouchers on College Enrollment: Experimental Evidence for NYC (2012). Academic Performance Gaps & Family Income in a Rural Elementary School: Perceptions of Low-Income Parents (2015). Inequality & Educational Attainment: Evidence from Massachusetts (2013). College Readiness (2014) (Last Name, Year)

## Methodology

Information contained consists of interviews and questionnaires from Parents, Teachers, Community Leaders, some school-aged and recent high school graduate students (home-school only) and Charter School Administrators in the local area. Participants were selected specifically with the intention of gaining insight from those who either serve on the front lines of assisting students (directly and indirectly) or those whom are most greatly affected by the educational opportunities provided to the communities in which they live. Sample questions include: In what way do you prepare students for college? In what ways do you feel you are being prepared for college or other post-secondary options? What is your school’s retention rate for minority students?

## Limitations

Some factors that might impact the results of this study include the factor that there is not much research found currently with a comparison of the results for college preparation for the specific population that this study observes. Limited access to school-aged children from all educational experiences, as Charter & Public school limitations exist for ethical concerns regarding accessibility of student populations. Interviews and questionnaires were performed voluntarily from various audiences with no indication of bias in reason for views expressed. Some raw data included and meaning or application of data is according to the interpretation of the researcher.

## Timeline

## Ethical Considerations

Anonymity: any names used in this research study are pseudonyms, Questions of children are performed in the presence and with the permission of the parents, questions for children are worded carefully as to not make the child feel intimidated or short changed by whatever educational format they are enrolled in for their K-12 experience. The role and names of community leaders and administrative staff or Faculty as well as their places of employment are not divulged. Only information specifically relevant to the facts and figures of the study goals are included.

**References**

Locating Chicago’s Charter Schools: A Socio-Spatial Analysis (2016).

Charter School Competition, Organization and Achievement in Traditional Public Schools (2013).

An Analysis of Oppositional Culture Theory Applied to ONE Suburban Midwest HS (2014). Hispanic/Latino Student Success in Online Schools (2016).

Improving Urban College Student Readiness as A Driver of HS Curriculum Enhancement (2013).

In Their Own Voices: Adolescent African-American Males Experiences of the Achievement Gap (2015).

A Family Study: How Money Might Matter for Academic Learning (2014).

What Works Clearinghouse Quick Review: The Effects of School Vouchers on College Enrollment: Experimental Evidence for NYC (2012).

Academic Performance Gaps & Family Income in a Rural Elementary School: Perceptions of Low-Income Parents (2015).

Inequality & Educational Attainment: Evidence from Massachusetts (2013).

College Readiness (2014)