

8/11/95

Private School

Jeanne,

Here is the Charles O'Malley info back to you.

Although the following might not be appropriate for him, it might be interesting to do a comparison between public and private schools in selected locations -- particularly in urban areas -- along the line of Witte, only better -- broader, more comprehensive, more digestible and more relevant.

Things to compare:

Demographics of enrolled students: minorities, house-hold income, education of parents, ESL, etc. -- compare also such stats in choice cities/private schools vs. non-choice cities/private schools.

All the public v. private comparisons from our At-A-Glance Stats, but on a micro level: cost per student; administrator/teacher/student ratio; salaries; etc..

Curriculum offered and taken (ie. how many kids in AP English -- sort of like what we did on an informal scale for the achievement piece, between Boston public and Catholic schools offering Calculus / Algebra -- but more comprehensive). Could even get into phonics v. Whole Language, although that may be too "right" (but could be a funding-grabber?).

Graduation and dropout rates.

Standardized test score comparisons, if possible.

"Extras" offered: transportation, cafeteria, technology, library...
etc.

In light of the recent developments in Cleveland and Milwaukee, they would be good places, as well as East Coast cities with strong Catholic dioceses presences (particularly choice-active states like Newark, NJ, Bridgeport, CT, Philly, PA --- NYC too), and some of the cities with private scholarship schools (Indianapolis, San Antonio, Orange County). This may be done in part in various other studies -- Witte, the San Antonio study -- but you wouldn't have to limit it just to the choice participating schools. It could be helpful in beating back some of the "myths" with concrete stats, as well as seeing how choice does and doesn't effect both public and other private schools.

Both this and your idea on a comprehensive study of state funding of private schools would be great press-grabbers. (Is the latter already underway?)

Angela