

## NEW STUDY ON HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

From: Council for American Private Education

A new study that examined data from the Educational Longitudinal Study of 2002 found what it calls the private school “effect” on student growth between 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade “substantial in size”. The study used “T” scores where the mean is set to 50 and virtually all students score between 25 and 75. The study found that students attending private schools grew “an additional point out of 50.” To help understand this figure, consider the following:

- Racial and ethnic differences= 1 point of growth
- Parents making more than \$15,000= 1 point of growth
- Parental education= 0.7 point of growth
- Having both parents at home= 0.3 point of growth.

The potential growth of a student attending private school for 12 years as compared to a student who attends a public school can be significant. The student who attends private school for 12 years could potentially reach a level of achievement 6 points higher out of 50 (possibly 12% better achievement).

This study focused on results in math achievement in order to isolate the effect of school quality from any other factors such as reading achievement since those scores are influenced by demographic factors more than math scores. The study also found that private school students had almost the same number of close friends of various races as those in public schools and that drop out rates were less for private school students.

As a whole private schools provide parents with an alternative to public schools in which students can grow toward their full potential academically and socially. At Prattville Christian Academy we also provide an environment where students will grow toward their full academic and social potential, but also, and most importantly in their relationship with Jesus as our mission and vision state.

For more information on this study, please see *Monopoly Versus Markets: The Empirical Evidence on Private Schools and School Choice*. This is available on the web site of the Friedman Foundation at <http://www.friedman-foundation.org>.