Quick Hits of Voucher Research
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Roadmap:
1. Early Studies Showed Some Success of Voucher Programs
2. Followed by Essentially Null Effects on Academics in Milwaukee and DC
3. And Largely Null Educational Attainment Impacts
4. Huge Negative Impacts Have Appeared in DC, Indiana, Louisiana and Ohio
5. Related Studies Show Most Disadvantaged Kids Less Likely To Use Vouchers, Less Likely To Stay
6. And They Do Better When Returning to Public School
7. Voucher Users Tend to Come From Private Schools Already
8. Voucher Application Data Tell us Parents Are Looking for Academic Rigor, But There is Limited Private School Capacity for Them
9. Accountability Similar to NCLB Appears to Strongly Improve Voucher Performance
10. Voucher Policies Prompt New School Openings—But Many Close Quickly—And Existing Private Schools Raise Tuition
11. There Is A Modest Case for Competitive or Systemic Effects

Criteria for Inclusion:
Peer-reviewed at a major US Journal OR a government report OR in one case a study by David Figlio because he’s David Figlio and this is my list! Note: No self-referencing “working papers,” no reports by EdChoice, Cato, Heritage.

1. Early Studies Showed Some Success of Voucher Programs


2. Followed by Essentially Null Effects on Academics in Milwaukee and DC


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1 Aka not an obscure US or international journal that solicits manuscripts and buys the author a peer-reviewed label, which is a favorite pro-voucher tactic to up the count of peer-reviewed articles on the pro-voucher side.
3. And Largely Null Educational Attainment Impacts


4. Huge Negative Impacts Have Appeared in DC, Indiana, Louisiana and Ohio


- Third Year Report (Null Results)


5. **Related Studies Show Most Disadvantaged Kids Less Likely To Use Vouchers, Less Likely To Stay**


6. **And They Do Better When Returning to Public School**


7. **Voucher Users Tend to Come From Private Schools Already**


8. Voucher Application Data Tell us Parents Are Looking for Academic Rigor, But There is Limited Private School Capacity for Them


9. Accountability Similar to NCLB Appears to Strongly Improve Voucher Performance


10. Voucher Policies Prompt New School Openings—But Many Close Quickly—And Existing Private Schools Raise Tuition


11. There Is A Modest Case for Competitive or Systemic Effects


**Disclaimer:** This list of studies was produced by Josh Cowen at Michigan State University. I have received no funding for this list, which was originally produced at the request of a scholar at a major research university. This list is ongoing and non-exhaustive, and represents my judgment as to the status of the voucher literature as of the updated date. Email [jcowen@msu.edu](mailto:jcowen@msu.edu) Twitter: [@joshcowenMSU](https://twitter.com/joshcowenMSU)