

Boosting Achievement and Changing Life Trajectories: Results from 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 External Evaluations

Citizen Schools is contracting with Policy Studies Associates (PSA)—a respected Washington, D.C.-based research firm—to conduct a multi-year, scientific evaluation of the Citizen Schools after-school apprenticeship program and 8th Grade Academy in Boston. The study compares the performance of Citizen Schools apprentices to a matched peer group of Boston Public School students not enrolled in Citizen Schools. These are highlights from PSA’s “Phase II Report” published on August 30, 2004.

Overall

PSA States: “Early evidence suggests that Citizen Schools has had a positive impact on the short-term outcomes that it seeks for its participants, and in so doing, has moved a group of low-income and educationally at-risk participants toward a trajectory of successful high school completion and advancement on to college.”

Sixth Grade Results

All Students. Sixth grade apprentices, regardless of program attendance level, significantly outperformed a comparison group on 4 out of 7 school-related indicators: attendance rates, decline in suspensions, scores on the Massachusetts state standardized test for Language Arts (MCAS), and promotion to the next grade.

High-Attending Students. Sixth grade apprentices attending Citizen Schools 80 percent or more program hours for the full academic year significantly outperformed a comparison group on 6 out of 7 school-related indicators: all of the above, plus English language arts and math grade point averages.

Grade 6 apprentices outperformed matched nonparticipants significantly on a host of school-related indicators. (School Years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003)

Indicators	Grade 6 Cohorts I and II	
	All Students	80%+ Attendance
Attendance Rate	▲	▲
Suspension Decline	▲	▲
MCAS Math		
MCAS ELA	▲	▲
Math grade		▲
English grade		▲
Promotion	▲	▲

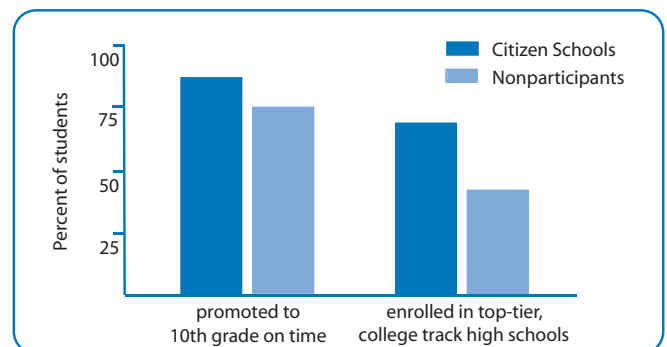
▲ Participants outperformed matched nonparticipants at a statistically significant level

Eighth Grade Results

On-Time Promotion. Earning promotion to tenth grade on-time is a key predictor of high-school graduation (i.e., preventing drop-out). **Eighty-seven percent of Citizen Schools eighth grade apprentices were promoted to tenth grade on time** while only seventy-four percent of nonparticipants achieved that objective.

On the College Track. In Boston, students and their families choose which high school to attend. Aided by data on high schools gathered during their apprenticeships, **70 percent of Citizen Schools eighth grade apprentices chose to enroll in top-tier, college-track high schools** compared to 46 percent of nonparticipants.

In Boston Public Schools, Citizen Schools apprentices show better prospects for high school completion and college attainment than nonparticipants.



Improving Learning and Strengthening Communities: Results from the 2003-2004 Internal Evaluation

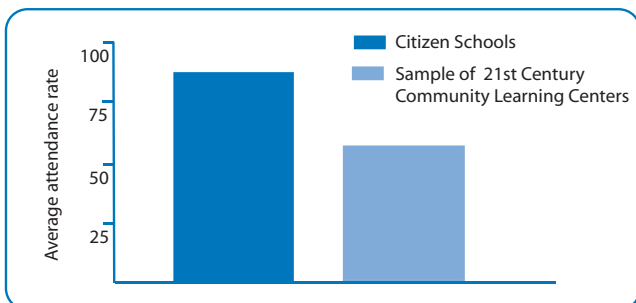
The mission of Citizen Schools is to educate youth and strengthen communities. We set ambitious goals for middle school students enrolled in our after-school apprenticeship program as well as for the organization as a whole. In summer 2004, Citizen Schools University—the research, innovation, and policy institute of Citizen Schools—examined data from our network of 20 school campuses nationwide for the 2003-2004 academic year. The data showed that Citizen Schools is making an impact across a broad array of indicators related to learning and community-building.

Attendance Evidence shows that the more students are exposed to quality after-school programming the more they are positively affected by it.

- Citizen Schools far exceeds the attendance rates of most after-school learning programs in the United States. **Citizen Schools' average daily attendance rate of 85 percent** compares to attendance rates at comparable programs of 57 percent.

Academic Achievement As a program that operates during out-of-school time, Citizen Schools has demonstrated its ability to help students boost their in-school performance, countering the academic “slide” most middle school students experience.

Citizen Schools exceeds student attendance rates of other after-school programs in the United States.



Sources: Citizen Schools Quality Rubric; Thomas J. Kane, “The Impact of After-School Programs,” William T. Grant Foundation, Working Paper, January 2004.

- **55 percent of Citizen Schools apprentices improved** a failing grade or maintained/improved a passing grade in both English Language Arts and Math.

Skill-Building Citizen Schools focuses on helping students improve academic skills and build “21st Century” skills—communication, teamwork, problem-solving.

- **65 percent of youth apprentices improved** their oral presentation skills over the academic year—these results were confirmed by an external evaluation.

Community-Building Citizen Schools works to deepen relationships young people have with adults around them, such as their families and community members.

- **80 percent of youth apprentices reported increased engagement** with their community as a result of the opportunities Citizen Schools provides, including visits to colleges and cultural centers.

Quality Programming Citizen Schools seeks feedback from constituents on their views of the Citizen Schools after-school apprenticeship program and its impact.

- **88 percent of parents rated the quality of Citizen Schools as “very good” or “excellent.”**
- **94 percent of program staff and volunteers reported** that they were having a positive impact on the life trajectory of youth apprentices.

Citizen Schools is a national network of after-school apprenticeship programs for young people ages 9-14. By connecting youth with trained after-school educators and adult volunteers from business and civic organizations, Citizen Schools offers safe, fun, and results-oriented learning opportunities that improve academic skills and promote positive relationships. Founded in 1995, Citizen Schools strives to change the long-term life trajectories of educationally at-risk students and help them become workforce and civic leaders. For more information, visit www.citizenschools.org.