Deani Van Pelt

President, Edvance Senior Fellow, Fraser Institute

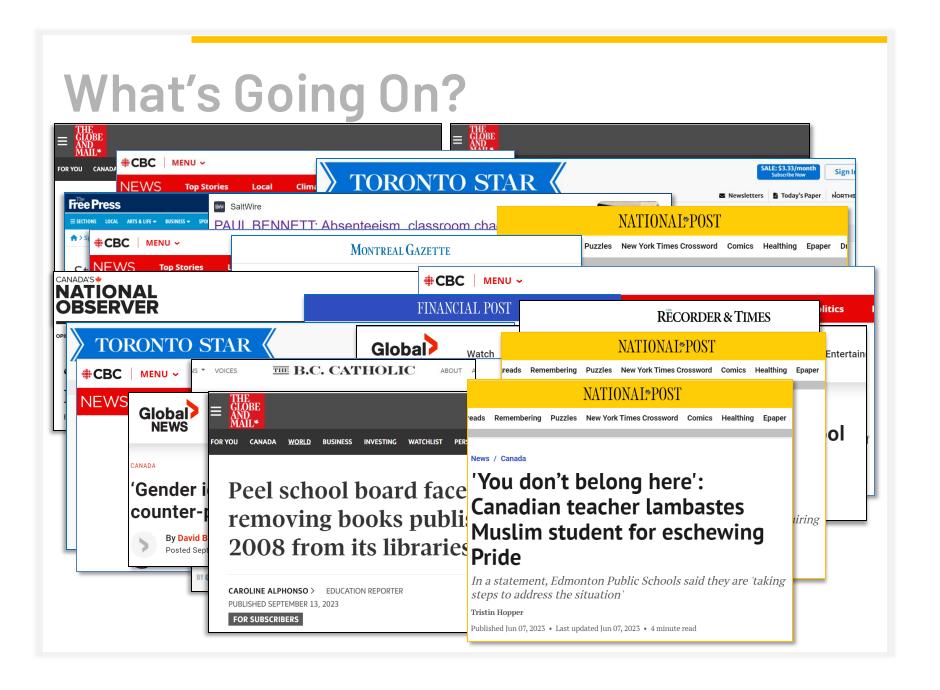
Charting New Horizons: Innovations in Christian Education in a Rapidly-Changing Context







TRENDS in Education



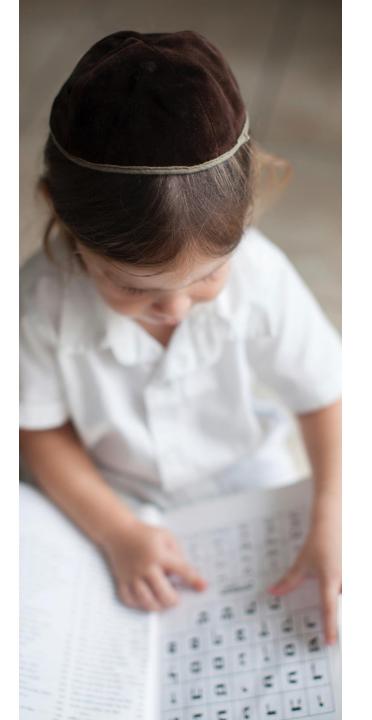


WITHIN SCHOOLS:

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Learning Loss **Achievement Declines** Absenteeism Increases **Escalation in Violence** Teacher Retention Realities Mental Wellbeing and Anxiety Dominant Ideologies **Book Bans**





Education is about personhood and formation

Education is about the formation of citizens who hold civic values

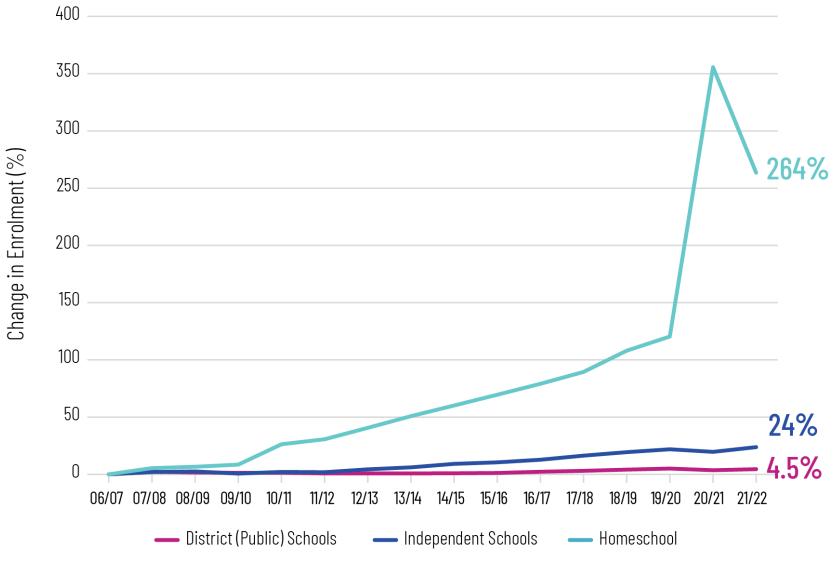
WHY Education Matters

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Percent Cumulative Change in Student Enrolments in Canada, 2006–2022



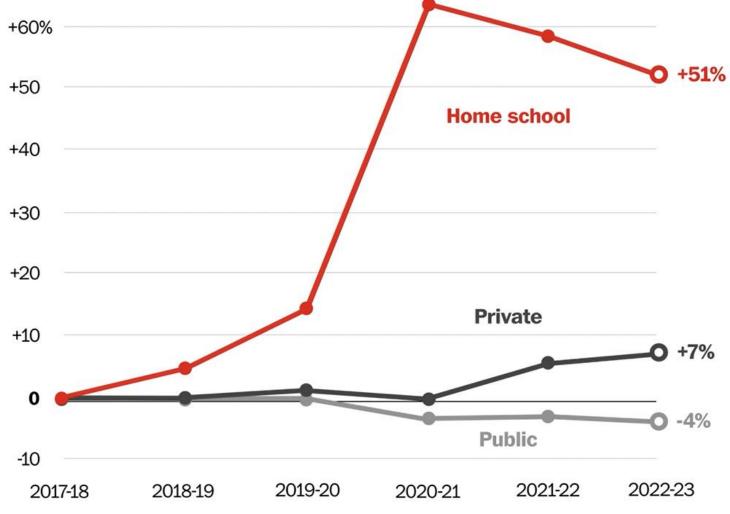


Source: Author's calculations from Statistics Canada, "Number of Students in Elementary and Secondary Schools, by School Type and Program Type," Table 37-10-0109-01, https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3710010901.

+60%

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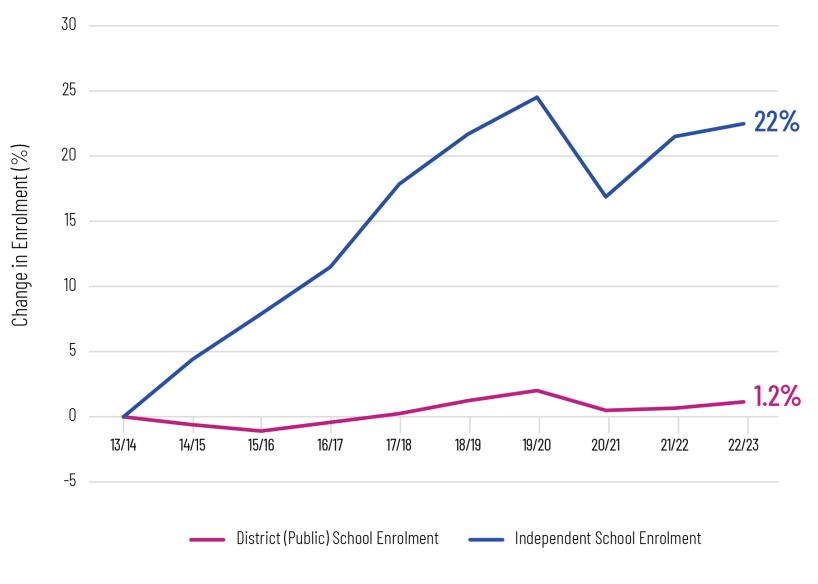
Percent Increase in Student Enrolment, USA, 2017-2023





Ontario Cumulative Percent Change in Enrolment, District and Independent Schools, 2013–2023

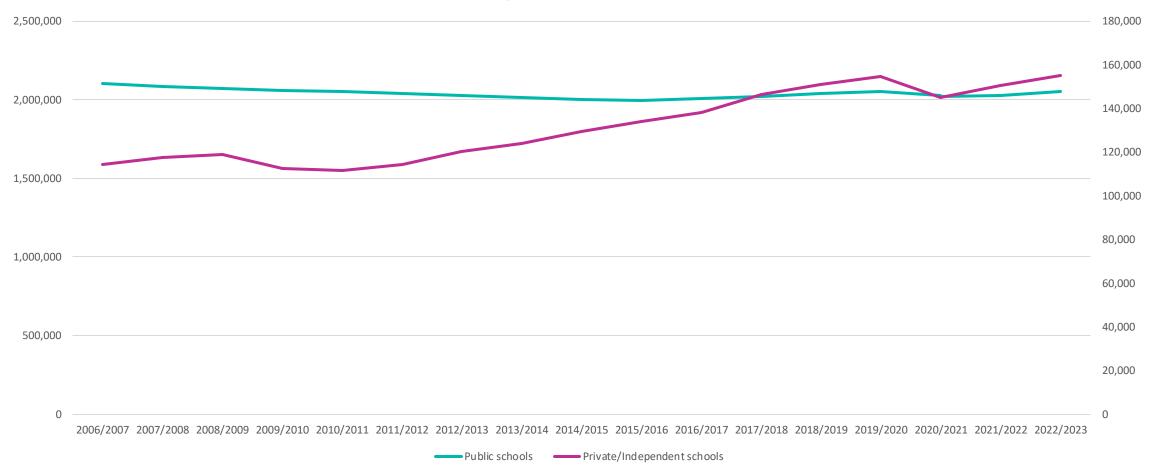
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Source: Author's calculations using data provided by the Ontario Ministry of Education, October 2023. Data is preliminary for 2021–2022 and incomplete for 2022–2023.

Ontario Enrolment Comparison, Public and Independent, 2006-2022



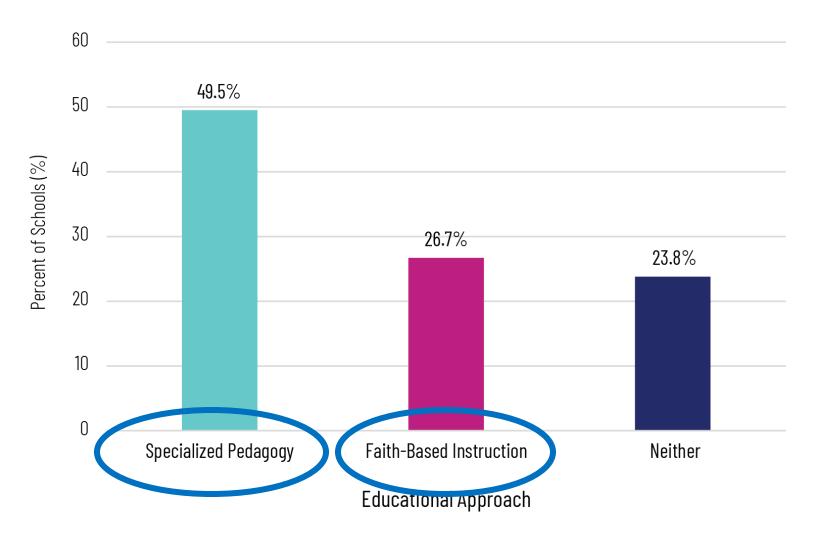






Educational Approaches of Current Microschools, USA, 2023

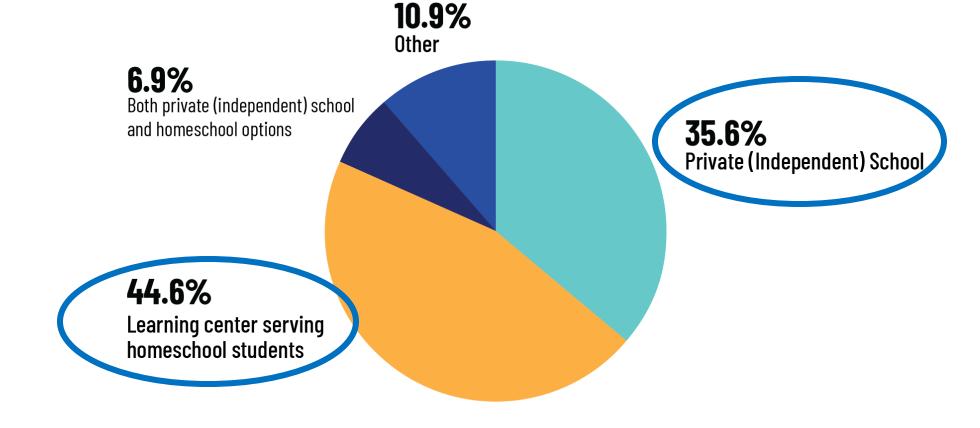
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Source: National Microschooling Center, "American Microschools: A Sector Analysis," April 2023, https://microschoolingcenter.org/american-microschools, schools.

Organization of Current Microschools, USA, 2023

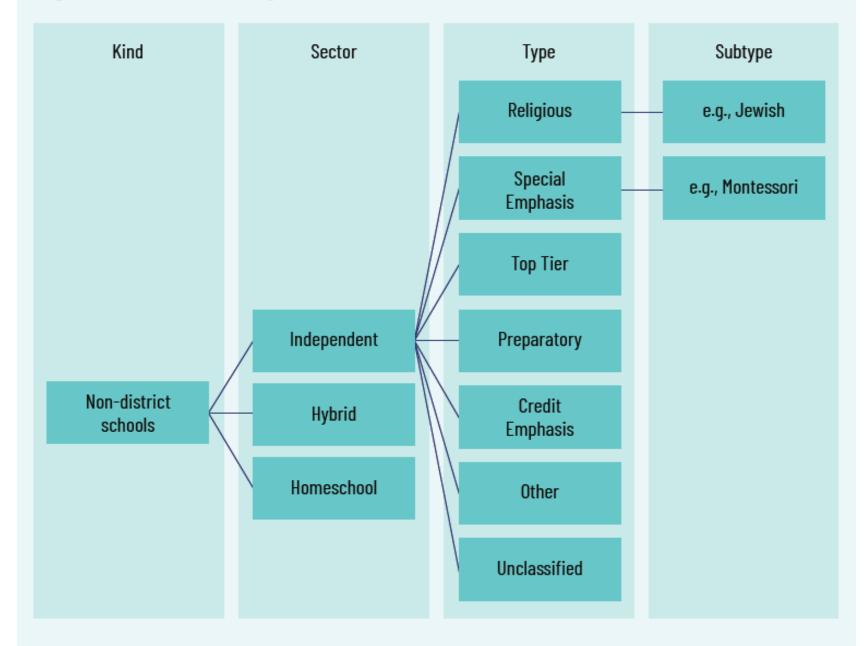


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Hunt, David,
Joanna VanHof,
Jenisa Los. (Nov 2022). Naturally
Diverse: The Landscape of
Independent Schools in Ontario.

Figure 1. General Taxonomy of Non-district Schools





Cardus

Note: The Auxiliary type is excluded from this figure, as it does not meet our definition of school.

Table 1. Independent Schools by School Type, Ontario, 2022

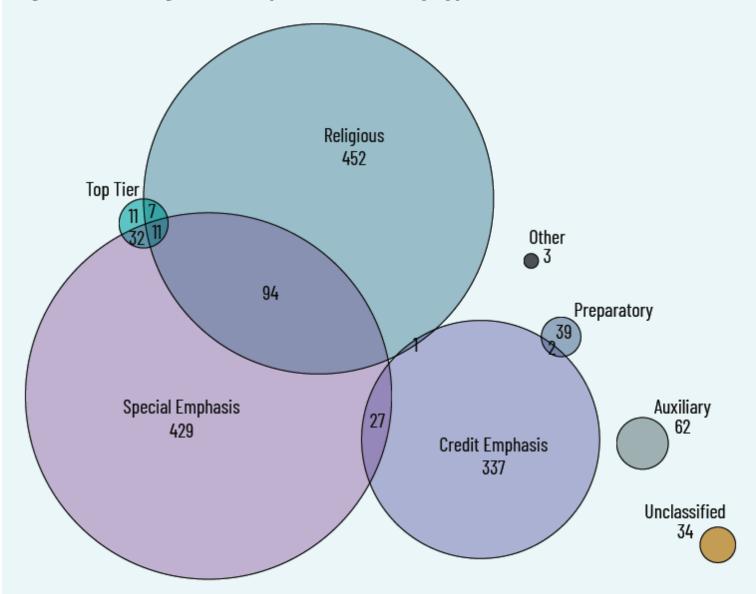
	School Count	Share of Schools
Religious	565	39.1%
Primary type	545	37.7%
Secondary type	16	1.1%
Tertiary type	4	0.3%
Special Emphasis	593	41.0%
Primary type	460	31.8%
Secondary type	126	8.7%
Tertiary type	7	0.5%
Top Tier	61	4.2%
Primary type	48	3.3%
Secondary type	13	0.9%
Preparatory	41	2.8%
Primary type	41	2.8%
Credit Emphasis	367	25.4%
Primary type	348	24.1%
Secondary type	19	1.3%
Other	3	0.2%
Primary type	3	0.2%
Total (Primary type)	1,445	100.0%

Note: Only the primary types (i.e. bold cells) sum to 100 percent, due to schools with more than one type.

Sources: Authors' calculation using the Open Data Catalogue provided by the Ontario Ministry of Education, "Private School Contact Information," Government of Ontario, April 2022; Ontario Ministry of Education, "Private Schools That Have Closed," Government of Ontario, July 2022.



Figure 3. Venn Diagram of Independent Schools by Type, Ontario, 2022



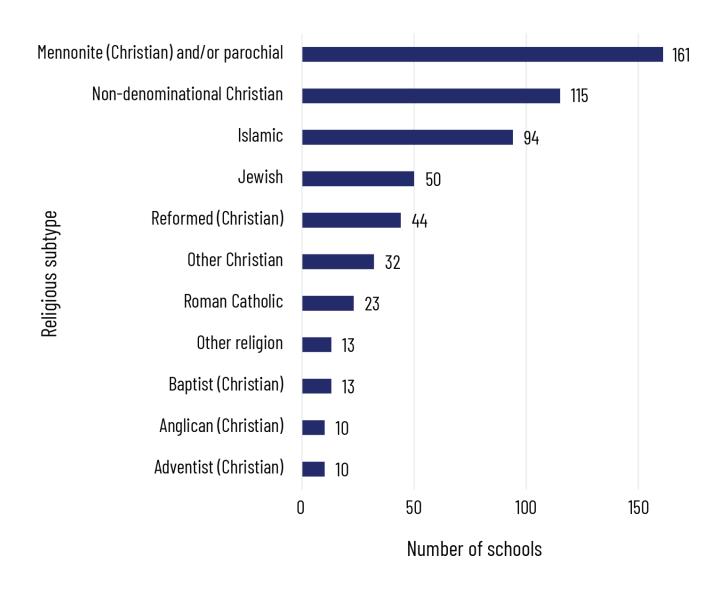
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Sources: Authors' calculation using the Open Data Catalogue provided by the Ontario Ministry of Education, "Private School Contact Information," Government of Ontario, April 2022; Ontario Ministry of Education, "Private Schools That Have Closed," Government of Ontario, July 2022.

Religious Independent Schools by Subtype, Ontario, 2022

73% are Christian

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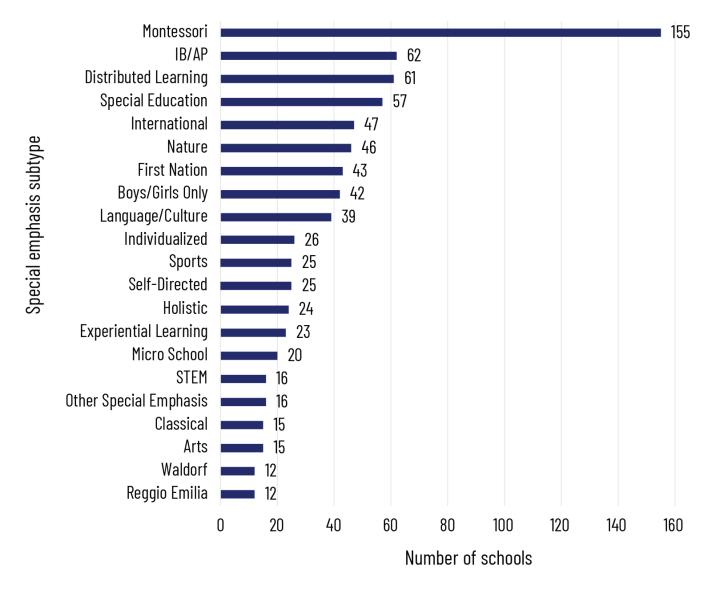




Source: David Hunt, Joanna DeJong VanHof and Jenisa Los, "Naturally Diverse: The Landscape of Independent Schools in Ontario," Cardus, 2022, https://www.cardus.ca/research/education/research-report/naturally-diverse/.

Special Emphasis Independent Schools by Subtype, Ontario, 2022

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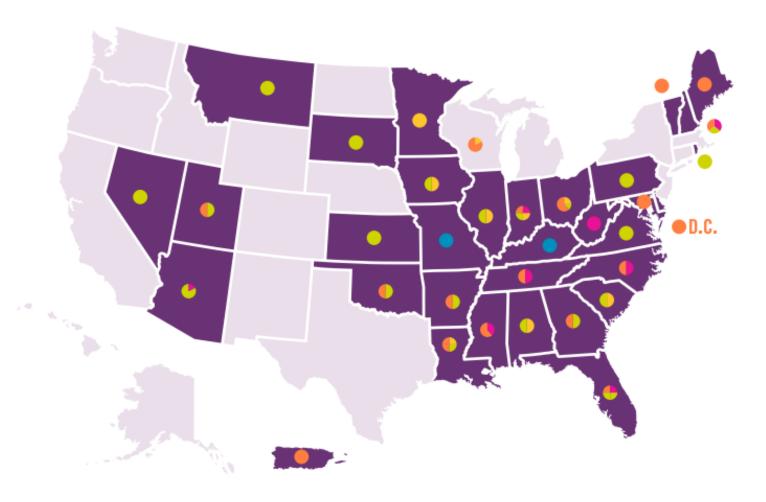
Source: David Hunt, Joanna DeJong VanHof and Jenisa Los, "Naturally Diverse: The Landscape of Independent Schools in Ontario," Cardus, 2022, https://www.cardus.ca/research/education/research-report/naturally-diverse/.



Distribution of School Choice Policies, EdChoice

32 STATES (plus Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico) are Using School Choice in 2023

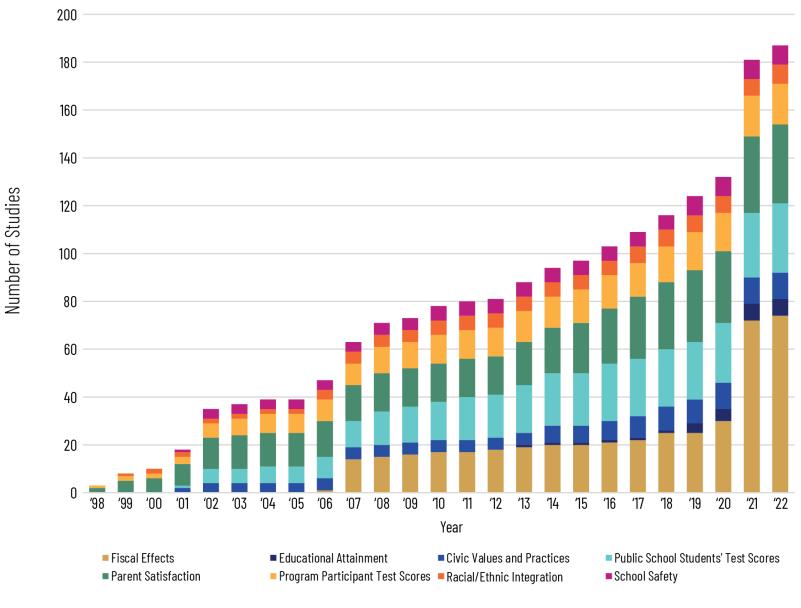
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Cumulative Research Publications by Outcome and Year, EdChoice

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Source: EdChoice, "The 123s of School Choice: What the Research Says about Private School Choice Programs in America, 2023 edition," 2023, https://www.edchoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2023-ABCs-WEB.pdf.



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5 CORE IDEAS

1. EDUCATION IS NEVER MORALLY NEUTRAL

Therefore, democracies should fund a variety of educational options that meaningfully differ from one another.

2. EDUCATION BELONGS WITHIN CIVIL SOCIETY

Therefore, neither the government nor individuals should have absolute control.

3. ALL FAMILIES SHOULD HAVE ACCESS

All families, not just well-off families, should have access to schools that fit their children's needs

4. EDUCATION OUTCOMES AFFECT ALL OF US

All aspects of society are touched by education outcomes—civil, employment, family, cultural—therefore, democracies should ensure that all schools meet high academic standards.

5. ALL KIDS BENEFIT

When democracies incentivize strong, distinctive school cultures and intellectually challenging curriculum.

A NEW ERA OF EDUCATIONAL PLURALISM



ELO Network

We are in a new era of educational pluralism

Definition:

Government funds and regulates education but does not deliver all forms of education.

Features:

Plural systems feature a diversity of providers and approaches to ²⁸education.



What can you do to support the flourishing of educational pluralism?







Unlock Access

Opening Doors for Christian Education in Canada