

Cities on a Hill

Education Freedom Index Released

Study Suggests Increased Competition Improves Test Scores

The Center for Civic Innovation at the Manhattan Institute is proud to announce the Education Freedom Index (EFI), the first-ever ranking of the 50 states according to how freely parents can choose the best way to educate their children.

Created by Manhattan Institute Senior Fellow Jay P. Greene, states were ranked by examining five types of educational options: (1) the availability of charter school options; (2) the availability of government assisted private school options such as vouchers and direct subsidies; (3) the strictness of regulations imposed on home schooling; (4) the ease with which one can relocate in order to choose a different public school district; and (5) the ease with which one can send a child to a different public school district without changing residence. Dr. Greene devised an equally weighted average of the measures of these five factors in order to create the index.

According to the EFI, Arizona ranks #1 in educational freedom. Rounding out the Top 10, in order, are: Minnesota, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Oregon, Texas, Delaware, Colorado, Maine, and Connecticut. The state with the least amount of educational freedom is Hawaii. Other bottom 10 states include

(cont'd on page 2)

Ranking the States by the Amount of Education Freedom

State	EFI Score	EFI Rank
Arizona	3.27	1
Minnesota	2.99	2
Wisconsin	2.74	3
New Jersey	2.59	4
Oregon	2.51	5
Texas	2.49	6
Delaware	2.43	7
Colorado	2.42	8
Maine	2.40	9
Connecticut	2.35	10
Georgia	1.69	41
Alaska	1.65	42
South Carolina	1.64	43
Virginia	1.59	44
Rhode Island	1.58	45
Maryland	1.55	46
Kentucky	1.49	47
Nevada	1.44	48
West Virginia	1.42	49
Hawaii	0.61	50

Contents

EDUCATION FREEDOM INDEX RELEASED	1
CCI TO ASSIST BALTIMORE MAYOR O'MALLEY	1
MAYOR GIULIANI AND CCI TEAM UP	2
ON SCHOOL CHOICE	
CCI HONORS MAYOR DALEY	3
OAKLAND MAYOR JERRY BROWN JOINS	4
CCI'S ADVISORY BOARD	

CCI to Assist Baltimore Mayor O'Malley

New Faith-based Initiatives Underway

CCI continues to be a laboratory where the best ideas for reviving America's cities not only take shape, but find opportunities for real-world application. To that end, Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley is actively consulting with Senior Fellow John DiIulio, director of CCI's Jeremiah Project, to determine ways that faith-based organizations can work with city government to improve educational opportunity, reduce youth crime, and help more young people find productive employment.



Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley

Programs emphasizing mentoring and literacy are currently being developed by DiIulio and Mayor O'Malley. These programs will start operation in early 2001.

Mayor O'Malley, who became the youngest mayor in the history of Baltimore when elected in 1999, has set out an ambitious reform agenda to make his city's streets safer and cleaner, its schools more effective, and its government more responsive to taxpayers. CCI is looking forward to an active and fruitful partnership with the Mayor.



(cont'd from page 1)

West Virginia, Nevada, Kentucky, Maryland, Rhode Island, Virginia, South Carolina, Alaska, and Georgia.

The report's most exciting finding is that increases in education freedom correlate with higher student achievement. Dr. Greene found that a one-point increase

in a state's EFI ranking increases the percentage of students who perform "proficiently" on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) test by 5.5 percent, and increases SAT verbal and math scores by a total of 48 points.

Given these important findings, it is no surprise that the EFI has been prominently cited in several national publica-

tions such as *The Washington Post*, *The Denver Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, and *The Arizona Republic*.

Copies of the Index are available free of charge from the "Publications" section of the Manhattan Institute website, www.manhattan-institute.org.

Mayor Giuliani and CCI Team Up on School Choice

Governors, Mayors Featured at National Conference on Vouchers

Education reform continues to be one of urban America's most important challenges. That is why, on December 13, 2000, the Manhattan Institute, together with the office of Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, proudly hosted the New York City Conference on School Choice.

This event clearly showed that parents are demanding more educational opportunities for their children and that school choice improves student achievement.

Leading political figures from across the nation came to explain why they support school choice. Mayor Giuliani and New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson described school choice as a way to promote competition between schools, thereby encouraging more "innovation" and "creativity." Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating noted the "empowerment" and "freedom" that comes along with giving parents a choice of what school is the best for their children. Mayor John Norquist of Milwaukee told about the "public education monopoly" that provides primary education at a lower quality.



Gov. Johnson addresses the crowd as CCI Director Olsen and Mayor Giuliani look on.



From left to right: Mayor Giuliani, Institute President Lawrence Mone, Jersey City Mayor Bret Schundler, New York Assemblyman John Faso, former Mass. Gov. William Weld, and CCI Director Henry Olsen

And finally, Mayor Bret Schundler of Jersey City defined school choice as the way in which parents can give their children the most appropriate education.

Former U.S. Labor Secretary Robert Reich was another notable speaker. Secretary Reich outlined his plan of "progressive vouchers," whereby students in families with the lowest incomes receive much larger vouchers than those in higher-income families. Other participants included Carol Reich of the Beginning with Children Foundation, Jeanne Allen of the Center for Education Reform, Bruno Manno of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Clint Bolick of the Institute of Justice, and syndicated columnist Matthew Miller.

An audio transcript of the entire conference is available from the Manhattan Institute's website. An edited volume of the proceedings will be available in late February.

CCI Honors Mayor Daley

Chicago Leader is an "Urban Innovator"

The ongoing revival of America's great cities is one of the most compelling stories of the last decade. Just as there was no shortage of blame to go around when our urban centers were in decline, the leaders who have guided the resurgence of our cities deserve recognition.

It was therefore CCI's great pleasure on August 9, 2000, to honor Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, whose singular focus on improving his city's schools has created an example for other large urban districts around the nation. CCI paid tribute to Mayor Daley in a breakfast ceremony at the Chicago Union League Club, before an audience of Chicago's business leaders. The event was underwritten by Beth Coolidge of Lehman Brothers and Ambassador Robert Stuart, Jr.



CCI Chair Stephen Goldsmith, Mayor Daley, Institute President Lawrence Mone and Chicago School Board President Gery Chico

Mayor Daley outlined what he views as the seven keys to the revival of Chicago's schools: giving the city's top elected official direct responsibility over the system through governance reform; establishing accountability by articulating and enforcing academic standards for each grade, and having real consequences when schools fail to meet those standards; eliminating social promotion; making capital improvements to schools; expanding educational options; promoting partnerships with the community—especially cultural institutions and businesses; and being unafraid to bring

new approaches to bear on seemingly entrenched problems, whether that means implementing a longer school day, a zero-tolerance policy for weapons possession, or a systemwide anti-truancy initiative.

Given the abysmal state of his city's schools in 1996—a dropout rate of over 50 percent, an average daily attendance rate of about 86 percent, and math and reading scores placing about three-quarters of Chicago public school students below the national average—no turnaround could possibly have happened overnight. But Chicago's strong progress over the last four years proves that no school system can be written off, no matter how daunting the challenge may seem.

Today, Chicago's test scores are rising in every category, at virtually every grade level. Attendance rates are 90 percent for the first time in fifteen years. And systemwide enrollment is up 30,000—indicating that par-

ents' confidence in neighborhood schools is growing. That is why Daley's blueprint for improving urban education is included as one of the reform plans outlined in CCI's recently published how-to handbook for urban innovators, *The Entrepreneurial City*. CCI Chairman



Mayor Daley addresses the crowd.

Stephen Goldsmith, himself introduced by one of Mayor Daley's most important partners in this resurgence, Chicago School Board President Gery Chico, introduced Mayor Daley. The significance of Goldsmith, former Republican Mayor of Indianapolis and a lead domestic policy advisor to President George W. Bush, praising a Democratic mayor with close ties to former Vice-President Al Gore, should be unmistakable. The best solutions to the problems faced by America's cities defy simple ideological labels, and the most effective leaders are those who put aside narrow-minded partisan politics and instead embrace promising new ideas—no matter what their source.

CCI is proud to be continuing discussions with Mayor Daley's administration on how best to confront Chicago's challenges in education and other areas of urban renewal.



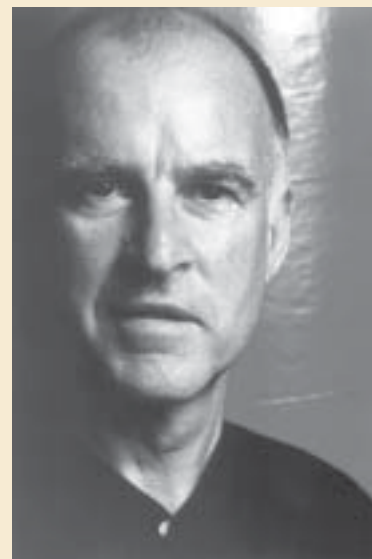
Mayor Daley discussing urban policy with attendees.

Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown Joins CCI's Advisory Board

Further proof of the non-partisan nature of civic innovation is the addition of Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown to CCI's Board of Advisors. Mayor Brown is transforming Oakland by improving the efficiency of government services, bringing order to crime-ridden streets, attracting businesses and residents to the city center, and ensuring that public schools focus relentlessly on results.

As Heather Mac Donald's *City Journal* profile persuasively articulated, since taking office in January 1998, Mayor Brown has exhibited a pragmatic and principled approach to his city's problems, many of which were caused or exacerbated by 30 years of standard liberal "solutions." In short, Mayor Brown respects private initiative—whether that means business investment, real estate development, or the creation of innovative new charter schools freed from the central Oakland school bureaucracy.

"We're thrilled that Mayor Brown is joining the CCI advisory board," said CCI Executive Director Henry Olsen. "His search for innovative solutions to supposedly intractable problems serves as a model for big-city leaders everywhere. In Oakland, he has shown a flair for innovation in the face of adversity—and a respect for private initiative that mayors across the nation would be well-advised to follow."



Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown

Today, thanks in no small part to Mayor Brown's courage, Oakland residents have a newfound sense of pride in their city and its potential. Oakland is beginning to become a full participant in California's booming economy rather than a laggard beset by crime and disorder.

As a CCI advisory board member, Mayor Brown will be able to sharpen the debate over the direction America's cities take, and help lead other cities to a new understanding of progressive urban politics.

Would you prefer to receive this publication via e-mail? If so, please contact us at mi@manhattan-institute.org or 212-599-7000 to register. Previous publications are also available.

4

CCI
CENTER FOR CIVIC INNOVATION
AT THE MANHATTAN INSTITUTE
52 Vanderbilt Avenue • New York, NY 10017
www.manhattan-institute.org

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit 04001
New York, NY