

# Children's Scholarship Fund *Portland*

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## **More metro kids get school choice**

### **Children's Scholarship Fund – Portland brings younger siblings on board**

Portland, OR, April 10, 2001 – Cascade Policy Institute today announced great news for participants of the Children's Scholarship Fund – Portland (CSF – P), the low-income scholarship program that the Institute administers. The program will be expanded to bring younger siblings on board, and scholarship amounts will increase for those who face higher tuition.

In the spring of 1999 approximately 500 Portland area children in grades K-8 (out of a pool of 6,639 applicants) were awarded four-year partial scholarships to attend the schools of their choice. Some of the families were poised to face tough decisions in 2001, as younger siblings reached school age, but their award money was limited. Others faced tuition increases, especially as their children entered high school, and worried about meeting their share of the costs.

"It's fantastic that these families will be able to keep their children together in the schools of their choice, instead of having to choose who will benefit from the private education because of the cost," said Tamar Hare, CSF – P executive director.

Each family is required to pay a minimum of \$500 toward tuition each year, as well as any other fees that aren't covered by tuition. "Considering that the average family's income in our program is \$25,000 and the average family contribution toward each child's tuition is \$1,500 a year, it's obvious that the families in the Children's Scholarship Fund are willing to make great sacrifices to have school choice," says Hare.

"The scholarship has been tremendously helpful for our older children, so I'm thrilled that my young daughter will benefit too," says CSF – P parent Amy Campbell.

The recipients, who are enrolled in grades K-9 this year, are part of a group of 40,000 kids nationwide whose names were drawn at random to receive scholarships. Cascade Policy Institute, a Portland think tank, facilitates Children's Scholarship Fund—Portland and is raising \$1 million locally, which is matched by another million dollars from the national program, founded by businessmen Ted Forstmann and John Walton.

The Portland program was open to all families meeting certain income requirements, generally those who are eligible for the federal school lunch program and reside in Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties. CSF – P enjoys the support of many local leaders, including City Commissioner Jim Francesconi, Tony Hopson, President of Self Enhancement, Inc., and Lorenzo Poe, Director, Multnomah County Department of Community and Family Services.