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## QuickPoint! – Children’s Scholarship Fund Closes the Achievement Gap for Low-Income Kids

By Kathryn Hickok

Since 1999, the nonprofit [Children’s Scholarship Fund](#) has empowered more than 152,000 low-income children nationwide to receive a quality education in private and parochial grade schools through privately funded partial-tuition scholarships.

Children’s Scholarship Fund parents value high-quality education as the way out of poverty for their children and sacrifice financially to give them that opportunity. It is a feature of the CSF program that [all families pay part of their tuition bill themselves](#), ensuring a family commitment to education.

The investments of both parents and scholarship benefactors are reaping great rewards. Over time, [studies of college enrollment and graduation rates](#) of scholarship alumni are showing that, despite coming from socioeconomic backgrounds associated with lower rates of college enrollment, CSF alumni enroll in college at an average rate that is similar to or higher than the general population.

In other words, these students’ education in private and parochial grade schools, [made possible by a relatively modest level of financial assistance](#), is closing the achievement gap for kids from less advantaged backgrounds.

[Children’s Scholarship Fund-Portland](#) is a “hand up” here in our state that helps Oregon kids to reach for success in school and in life. If you would like to help a lower-income Oregon child to get a better education today, contact the Children’s Scholarship Fund-Portland at [Cascade Policy Institute](#).

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*Kathryn Hickok is Publications Director and Director of the Children’s Scholarship Fund-Portland program at Cascade Policy Institute. CSF-Portland is a partner program of the New York-based Children’s Scholarship Fund.*