

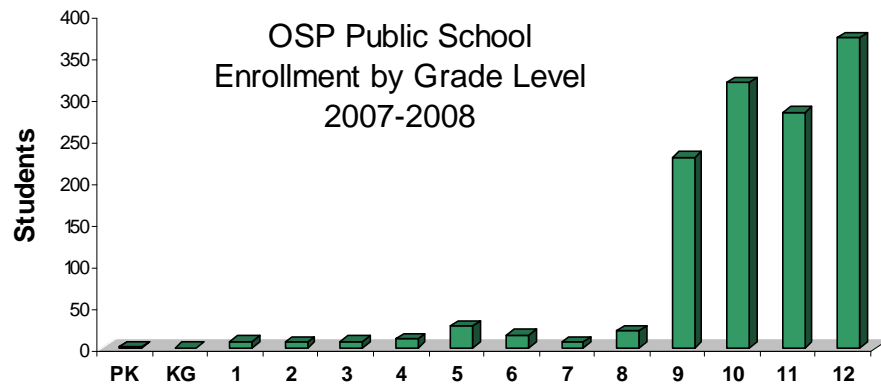


Florida Department of Education | Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice  
 Main Line: (850) 245-0502 | Toll-Free School Choice Hotline: (800) 447-1636 | <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org>

## Opportunity Scholarship Program Public School Option

The first program of its kind in the nation, the Opportunity Scholarship Program created under Florida's A+ Education Plan reflects Florida's commitment to higher educational standards for students. The Opportunity Scholarship Program launched the state's scholarship movement by allowing parents to choose a higher performing public school or an eligible private school of their choice if their children attend, or are assigned to attend, a failing Florida public school. Students entering kindergarten or first grade who have been notified by their school district that their assigned school is a failing school may also be eligible to participate.

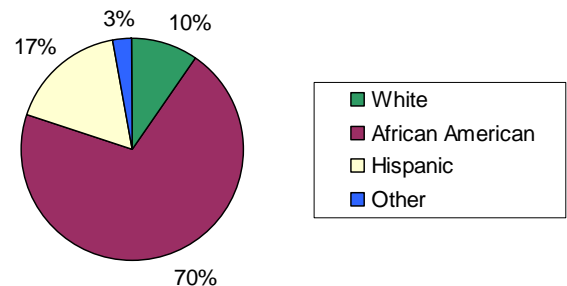
On January 5, 2006, the Florida Supreme Court issued a ruling declaring the private school option of the Opportunity Scholarship Program unconstitutional. Students assigned to a failing school are no longer offered the opportunity to transfer and enroll in a participating private school. The option to attend a higher performing public school remains in effect. The Opportunity Scholarship becomes available to students at a public school when that school has received two "F" grades within four school years, including the current year. A total of 1,305 students are enrolled in the public option of the Opportunity Scholarship Program for the 2007-08 school year. Of those students, 92% are enrolled in grades 9-12. Additional information about students meeting the eligibility criteria of this program within the public school choice option can be found at the local school district.



### 2007-2008 Student Demographics

African-American students are among the largest population to participate in the Opportunity Scholarship Program at 70%, followed by Hispanics at 17% participation. The Opportunity Scholarship Program allows these students to attend a higher performing public school.

### Student by Race/Ethnicity



## Opportunity Scholarship Program Statistics

<b>PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS</b>	<p><b>Eligibility Criteria</b></p> <p>A Florida student is eligible to participate in the Opportunity Scholarship Program if he/she is attending or is assigned to attend a Florida public school that has earned a school grade of "F" two years in a four-year period.</p> <p>Students are eligible during the year in which the school earns a second "F" grade.</p> <p><b>Deadline for Filing Student Intent: July 1</b></p>				
<b>STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>		<b>2006-2007</b>		
	<p><b>Race/Ethnicity</b></p> <p>White, Non Hispanic: 10%</p> <p>Black, Non Hispanic: 70%</p> <p>Hispanic: 17%</p> <p>Other: 3%</p>		<p><b>Race/Ethnicity</b></p> <p>White, Non Hispanic: 12%</p> <p>Black, Non Hispanic: 68%</p> <p>Hispanic: 18%</p> <p>Other: 2%</p>		
	<p><b>Lunch Status</b></p> <p>Did Not Apply: 48%</p> <p>Applied but Not Eligible: 3%</p> <p>Free Lunch: 41%</p> <p>Reduced Price Lunch: 9%</p>		<p><b>Lunch Status</b></p> <p>Did Not Apply: 40%</p> <p>Applied but Not Eligible: 4%</p> <p>Free Lunch: 46%</p> <p>Reduced Price Lunch: 10%</p>		
	<p><b>Gender</b></p> <p>Male: 51%</p> <p>Female: 49%</p>		<p><b>Gender</b></p> <p>Male: 51%</p> <p>Female: 49%</p>		
<b>NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING DISTRICTS, PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS</b>	<p><b>Districts:</b> 8</p> <p><b>Schools:</b> 21</p> <p><b>Students:</b> 1,305</p>		<p><b>Districts:</b> 5</p> <p><b>Schools:</b> 11</p> <p><b>Students:</b> 1,319</p>		
<b>PRIVATE SCHOOLS HISTORICAL DATA 1999 – 2006</b>	<b>School Year</b>	<b>Number of Participating Private Schools</b>	<b>OSP Students Enrolled in Participating Private Schools</b>	<b>Scholarship Payment</b>	
				<b>Average per Student</b>	<b>Annual Total</b>
	2005 – 2006	56	734	\$4,206	\$2,982,448
	2004 – 2005	45	763	\$4,098	\$3,126,618
	2003 – 2004	37	640	\$3,980	\$2,546,850
	2002 – 2003	27	556	\$3,702	\$2,058,600
	2001 – 2002	5	47	\$3,308	\$155,494
	2000 – 2001	5	51	\$3,469	\$176,900
1999 – 2000	5	57	\$3,074	\$175,205	
<b>STATUTORY REFERENCE</b>	s. 1002.38, Florida Statutes				