

CAPE Outlook

December 2013

**Survey Identifies Reasons
Parents Choose Private
Schools**

Consider it a reason to press the pause button in the push to judge schools solely by test scores. A new survey of parents shows that assessment results are not even among the top ten reasons why families choose private schools.

Released last month by the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, the survey of parents participating in the Georgia GOAL Scholarship Program found, "Student performance on standardized test scores is one of the least important pieces of information upon which parents base their decision regarding the private school to which they send their children."

According to the report, more than 85 percent of parents said they chose a private school for a "better learning environment" for their child, whereas 81.3 percent said the choice was made for a "better education." The next two most common responses were "smaller class sizes" (80.5 percent) and "more individual attention for my child" (76.4 percent). Other reasons cited by a majority of parents were "religious education" (64.1 percent), "better preparation for college" (62.9 percent), "better student discipline" (61.7 percent), "more responsive teachers and administrators" (60.3 percent), and "improved student safety" (52.9 percent)."

"Higher standardized test scores" was the 15th highest-rated reason, with only 34.6 percent of respondents listing it at all, and only 10.2 percent listing it among their top five reasons.

Find out more about the study in the [December issue of Outlook](#).



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