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### Private School Choice and Educational Outcomes in Metropolitan Hartford

Heather Moore  
*Trinity College*

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# Private School Choice and Educational Outcomes in Metropolitan Hartford

Heather Moore '08

Cities, Suburbs, and Schools research project

Trinity College, Hartford CT

[www.trincoll.edu/depts/educ/css](http://www.trincoll.edu/depts/educ/css)

July 18, 2005

Website: [www.ceoct.org](http://www.ceoct.org)



# CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

*Putting Children First*

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Our scholarship program gives elementary school children from low-income families the opportunity to attend the private or parochial school of their choice.



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201 Ann Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Hartford, CT 06103

860.524.1399 (Hartford)  
888.694.8321 (Toll Free)  
[director@ceoct.org](mailto:director@ceoct.org)



**CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**  
**FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT, INC.**

## **Eligibility Requirements**

- Students must reside in Hartford, Bridgeport, or New Haven
- Applicants must be within 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for their household size
- New Applicants must be in grades K-5; Renewal Applicants must be in grades K-8



**CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**  

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**FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT, INC.**

## **Scholarships to Private and Parochial Schools**

- Eligible applicants receive scholarships that are worth half of their annual tuition, up to a maximum of \$1,700 per student
- In 2004-2005, 567 students were provided scholarships to 24 Hartford-area schools, 16 Bridgeport-area schools, and 7 New Haven-area schools

# Research Questions

1. Who participates in the CEO program?

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2. What schools do CEO students attend?

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3. What are CEO students' school grades in comparison to their private and parochial peers?



1. Who participates in the CEO program?

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CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT  
201 Ann Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hartford, CT 06103

2005-2006 New Scholarship Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: Home: \_\_\_\_\_  
Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade as of Sept. '05: \_\_\_\_\_

Private School Selected for 2005-2006: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Household Income: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of persons in household: \_\_\_\_\_

**Eligibility Requirements:** You must currently reside in Hartford, Bridgeport or New Haven. Your student must be in grades K-5. Your household income must be at or below the limits listed for your household size:

Household Size 2 – Income Limit = \$26,000	Household Size 3 – Income Limit = \$33,000
Household Size 4 – Income Limit = \$40,000	Household Size 5 – Income Limit = \$47,000
(for larger households, add \$7,000 per person)	

**Instructions:** Complete, sign and mail this application to the address shown above. **Attach copies of all household wage earners' 2004 IRS 1040 forms.** If you did not file a 1040 form, you must provide us with a signed affidavit stating that no one in your household filed a 2004 Form 1040 and explaining the reason why no filing was made. Attach evidence of unemployment, copies of DSS or Social Security Administration budget sheets or checks, etc. **Please note that W-2 and pay stubs are not accepted.** Applications not accompanied by the required proof of income will be deemed to be incomplete and will not be considered until satisfactory income documentation is provided.

**Completed applications will be considered on a first-come first-serve basis. Incomplete applications will not be processed.** You will be notified in writing if you are awarded a scholarship. Scholarship awards are calculated as one half of actual annual tuition up to a maximum annual award of \$1,700 per student. Awards are paid directly to the schools.

**I agree to the following terms and conditions in the event that my child is awarded a scholarship by Children's Educational Opportunity Foundation of Connecticut:** 1) I will remain current on all tuition and fee payments to the school that my child attends; 2) Scholarship payments will continue only as long as my child is enrolled in a private or parochial school and attending school regularly; 3) All scholarships awards are made in the sole discretion of CEO Foundation of Connecticut; 4) I grant permission to the school I select to send CEO Foundation of Connecticut copies of my child's past, present and future school records; 5) I will promptly notify CEO Foundation of Connecticut of any change in address; and 6) I agree to release CEO Foundation of Connecticut from any liability in its efforts to provide this scholarship.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to child

# 1. Who participates in the CEO program?

## CEO Students 2004-2005

City	Total	Percent
Hartford	331	58%
Bridgeport	172	30%
New Haven	59	10%
Other	5	1%
Grand Total	567	100%

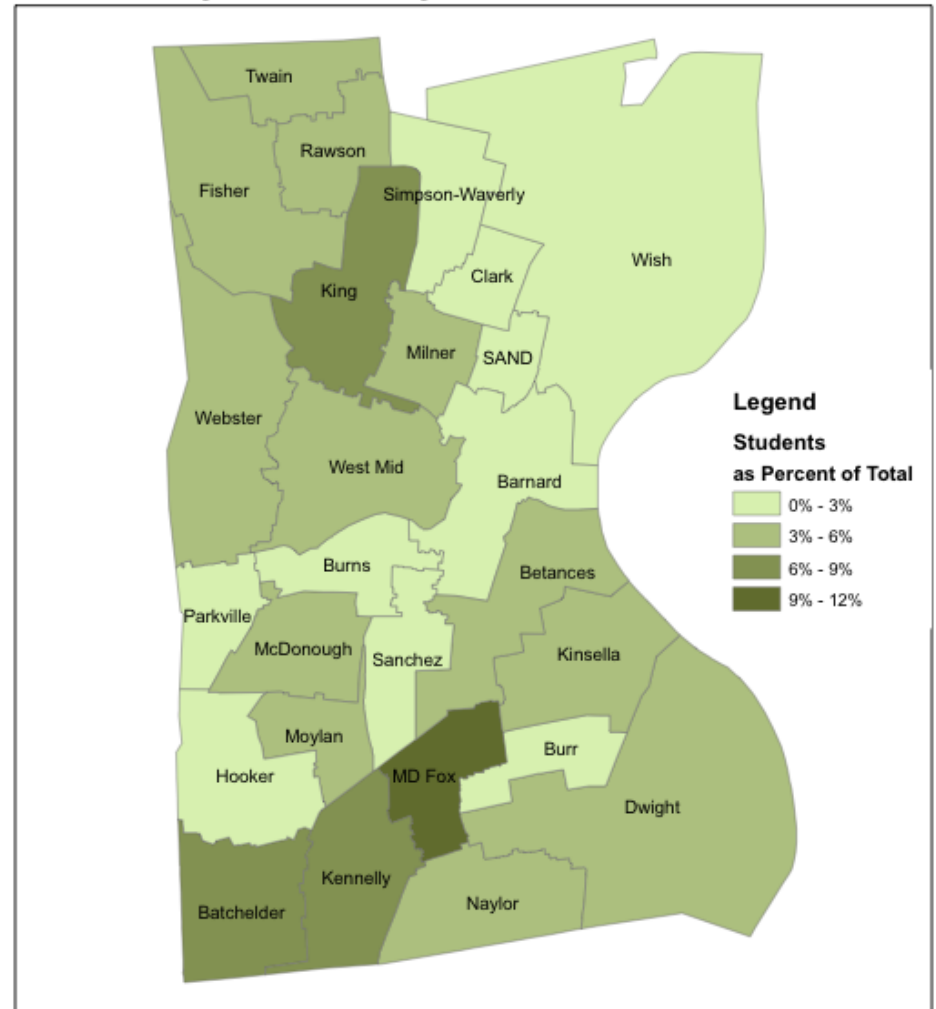
# 1. Who participates in the CEO program?

Elementary School Zone of Residence	Students	Percent of Total
MD Fox	36	11.2%
Kennelly	26	8.1%
Batchelder	22	6.9%
King	22	6.9%
Rawson	18	5.6%
Moylan	15	4.7%
Twain	15	4.7%
Betances	14	4.4%
McDonough	14	4.4%
Naylor	14	4.4%
West Middle Elem	13	4.0%
Fisher	12	3.7%
Milner	12	3.7%
Webster	12	3.7%
Dwight	11	3.4%
Kinsella	10	3.1%
Clark	9	2.8%
Parkville	9	2.8%
Wish	9	2.8%
Burr	8	2.5%
Barnard	5	1.6%
Hooker	5	1.6%
Sanchez	4	1.2%
SAND	3	0.9%
Simpson	2	0.6%
Burns	1	0.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Note: Based on 98% geocoding of total sample (333 students)

# 1. Who participates in the CEO program?

Percentage of Total CEO Students from Hartford, 2004-05, by Elementary School Zone of Residence



Data: Children's Educational Opportunity Foundation of CT  
Map: Cities, Suburbs, and Schools research project @ Trinity College  
[www.trincoll.edu/depts/educ/css](http://www.trincoll.edu/depts/educ/css) -- July 2005  
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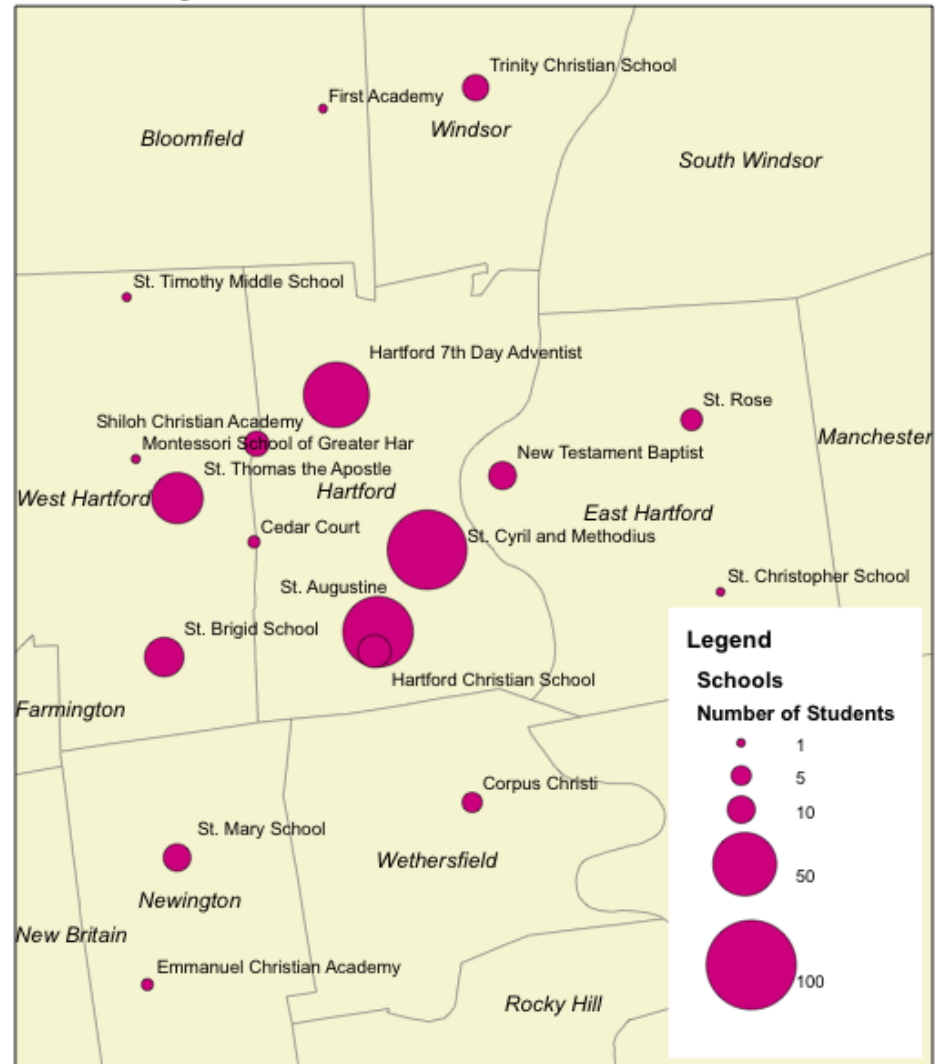
2. What schools do  
CEO students attend?

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Hartford-area schools	Total
St. Cyril and Methodius	77
St. Augustine - Hartford	62
Hartford 7th Day Adventist	53
St. Thomas the Apostle	33
St. Brigid School	19
Hartford Christian School	14
New Testament Baptist	10
Praise Power & Prayer Christian	10
St. Mary School	10
Trinity Christian School	9
Shiloh Christian Academy	8
St. Rose	6
Corpus Christi	5
Cornerstone Christian School	4
Cedar Court	2
Emmanuel Christian Academy	2
Talcott Mountain Academy	2
First Academy	1
Montessori School of Greater Hartf	1
Renbrook	1
Sacred Heart St. Peter School	1
St. Christopher School	1
St. Paul's (Berlin)	1
St. Timothy Middle School	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>333</b>

## 2. What schools do CEO students attend?

### CEO Participating Schools in Metro Hartford, by Number of Students, 2004-05



Data: Children's Educational Opportunity Foundation of CT  
Map: Cities, Suburbs, and Schools research project @ Trinity College  
[www.trincoll.edu/depts/educ/css](http://www.trincoll.edu/depts/educ/css) -- July 2005



3. What are CEO students' school grades in comparison to their private and parochial peers?

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Factors and Limitations to Consider:

- CEO student grades cannot be easily compared with standardized tests (such as public school CMT scores)

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- Next best option is school report card grades  
(CEO receives report cards from some students, but not grades of all students in participating schools)

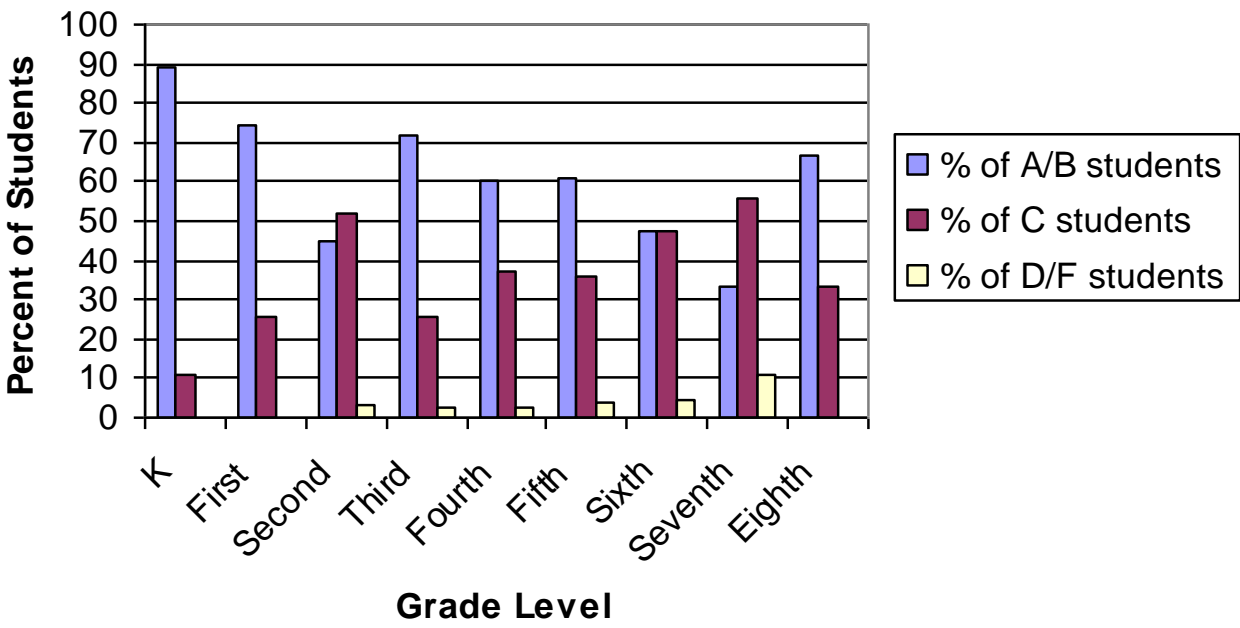
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#### Factors and Limitations to Consider:

- CEO student grades cannot be easily compared with standardized tests (such as public school CMT scores)
- Next best option is school report card grades  
(CEO receives report cards from some students, but not grades of all students in participating schools)
- CEO compiles grade summaries for report cards received

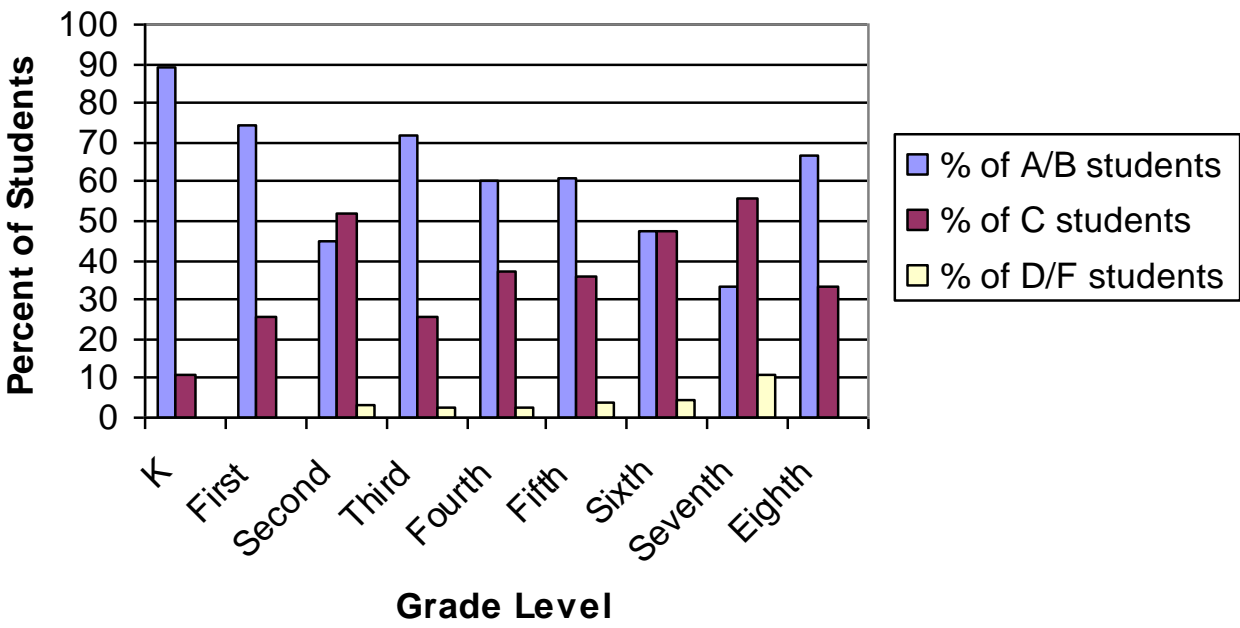
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2004-2005 CEO Student Performance by Grade  
(Percentage)



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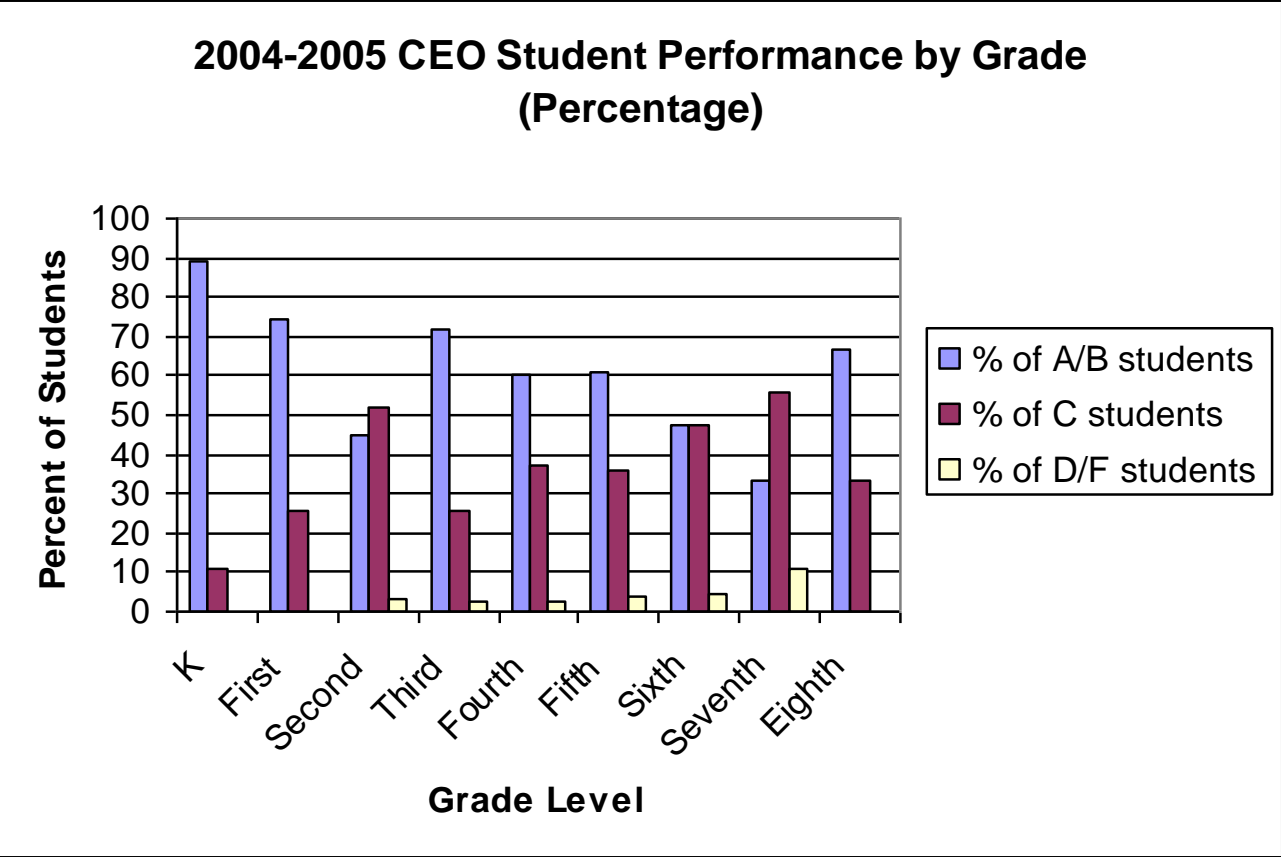
2004-2005 CEO Student Performance by Grade (Percentage)



Notes:

*\*Represents only some CEO participants\**

# 3. What are CEO students' school grades in comparison to their private and parochial peers?



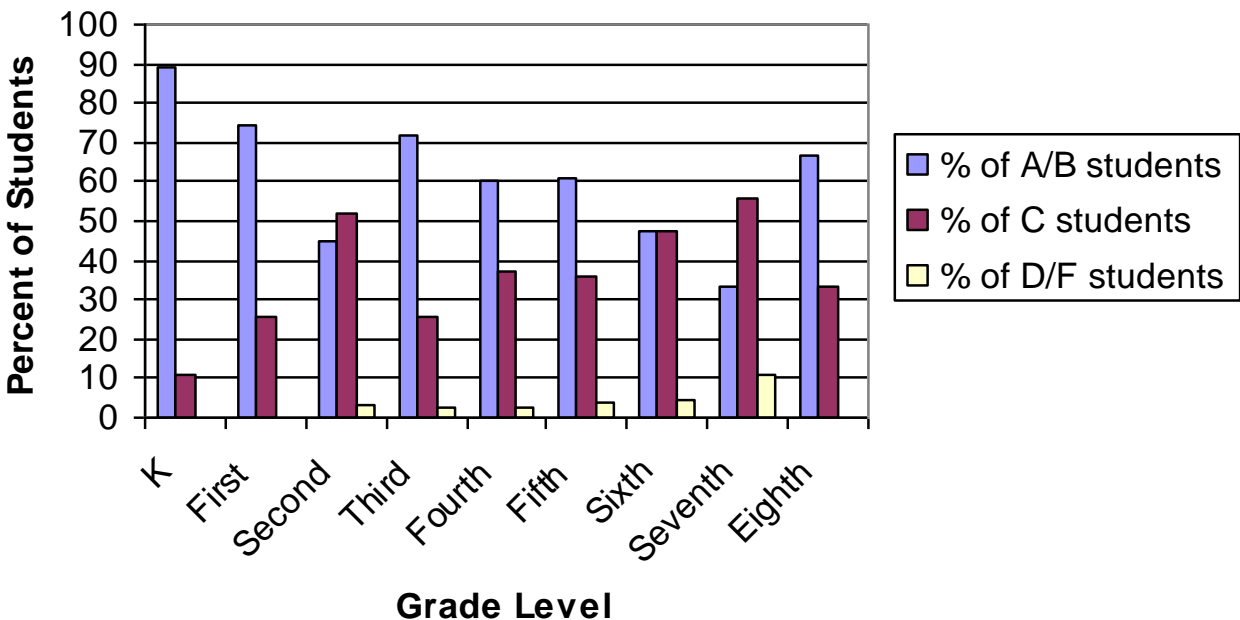
*Notes:*

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*\*Average grades of all students in participating schools unknown \**

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**2004-2005 CEO Student Performance by Grade (Percentage)**



*Notes:*

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*\*Average grades of all students in participating schools unknown \**

*\*Cause & effect is not known\**



# Future Research Ideas

- How do participating schools feel about the CEO program and its students?

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*\* Selected comments from participating schools\**

*\*CEO received both positive and negative comments\**

- “Many parents have the desire to place and keep their children in a private school environment but struggle to do so. The ones who benefit from programs such as this one look forward to the remittance to keep their dream alive of educating their children in a setting that will cater their child/children’s needs consistently. This program has to continue to reach out to such parents. Thanks.”
- “This CEO Program is outstanding: It allows families access to schools such as ours, with a solid academic curriculum and good character value modeled and taught. “

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- How do participating schools feel about the CEO program and its students?
- Why are CEO parents motivated to send their children to private and parochial schools?

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- How do participating schools feel about the CEO program and its students?
- Why are CEO parents motivated to send their children to private and parochial schools?
- How do students perform before, during, and after their participation in the CEO program?
- How will the CEO program connect with Hartford Mayor Perez's future high school scholarship program (coming July 21st)?

# Acknowledgements

- Lucille Nickerson and Don Wilson from DK Wilson and Associates
- The entire research team for all their help and support

# Contact Information

- Feel free to contact me directly at [Heather.Moore@trincoll.edu](mailto:Heather.Moore@trincoll.edu)