

Student's Name

Professor's Name

Course

Date

Public Schools vs. Private Schools

Introduction

Education is considered as a priority by all individuals' as it is an essential part of a child's development. For decades, the two prominent types of schools have been the private and public school systems. Regarding this, the public versus private school debate has been not only unremitting but also highly controversial; in the contemporary world, the debate is considered "a tale as old as time" (GreatSchools Staff). This is because much of this perennial debate has been about the benefits and drawbacks of both school systems. While both school systems differ. Hence, each having particular advantages, one isn't necessarily superior to the other, as they all have their flaws; this paper explores the differences, advantages and ultimately the disadvantages of the private and public schools.

How Public and Private Schools Differ

Since both school systems function to provide students with basic education, perhaps some of the most obvious discrepancies come down to areas concerning, finances, curriculum, class size, and admission. Regarding finances, public schools are free tax-supported schools that are primarily controlled by the local governmental agencies (Elizabeth). On the other hand, private schools are

schools that are not only established but also conducted and supported by non-governmental agencies as a result; unlike in the case of public schools, this translates into high tuition costs for students attending private schools as they are expected to generate their funds. Since public schools are to a great extent state-owned, they are expected to follow a state outlined uniform curriculum as well as specific assessment procedures and standards. However, private schools are not restricted in their program development as well as curricula. Hence, most advertise specialized curriculums to entice potential students (GreatSchools Staff).

Another difference is that, unlike private schools which keep their class sizes small, public schools are expected to follow federal as well as state guidelines concerning class size, and as a result, they tend to have large classes. Another obvious distinction between the two types of schools is based on their respective admissions procedures, in accordance with law, all public schools are obligated to accept all aspiring students. Therefore, in most instances enrolling a child only requires providing proof of address and filing a few forms for the local district office. However, private schools tend to be very selective as they are not obligated to accept every child. Moreover, their admissions require in-depth applications inclusive of multiple interviews and testing.

Rhetorical Analysis

Advantages/Benefits of Private Schools

The article, " *Why Private Schools Are Better than State* " by Huffington Post, central claim is that private schools are better than state schools or as commonly referred to as public schools. One of the primary reasons why private schools are better according to the article is because

these schools tend to have highly dedicated and well-trained teachers. Unlike the public schools, private schools have better supplies and facilities and buildings necessary for studying. Hence, they offer a better learning environment (Huffington Post). The article also argues that private schools are better due to increased parental involvement in the child's education particularly within the school community where parents are also able to *"look into the teachers' eyes reminding them that a lot of money has been spent on the child's education"*. Hence, good results are expected" (Huffington Post). This according to the author makes teachers feel more accountable unlike in the case of public schools.

Moreover, the article also argues that private schools are to a great extent better due to small class sizes, small class sizes are considered better as students can have one-on-one time with the teachers. One-on-time has been proven to improve the students' academic achievements as overcrowded classrooms tend to decrease a student's opportunity to acquire extra attention as well as necessary academic support (Huffington Post). Another advantage of the small class size and overall school population in private schools is the fact that it increases student supervision, therefore, experiences few disciplinary problems such as noisemaking and bullying. Moreover, private schools' freedom to design their curriculum enables children to have a variety of school choices and extra curriculum activities.

The article is well articulated and portrays a logical flow of ideas. Moreover, the article can also be regarded as credible as it draws its conclusion from the author's experiences as well as evidence gathered from research studies. Despite the many advantages of private schools outlined by the author, the article fails to examine some of the disadvantages of the private school system; which in this case will be analyzed.

Disadvantages of Private Schools

Some of the disadvantages of private schools include, but not limited to, high tuition fees. Since private schools are not financed through the state, local or federal taxes like in the case of public schools, these schools are forced to generate their funding primarily through high tuition fees (GreatSchools Staff). Another disadvantage of private schools is the fact that private schools are extremely selective as they are not obligated to accept every child. Hence, they also lack diversity, as in most instances they select students based on scholastic achievements, religious background, and ethnicity and parents' special attributes such as assets (Elizabeth). As a result of the schools' selectiveness, in most cases, they fail to offer special education. Moreover, private schools admissions require in-depth applications inclusive of multiple interviews and testing.

Advantages/ Benefits of Public Schools

The article, "*Public vs. Private: Why Public Schools are the Better Option*" by Ashley Ye, provides a detailed analysis why public schools are better in comparison to private schools. According to Ashley Ye, one of the reasons why public schools are advantageous is because unlike private schools they offer quality and free education at no cost (Ye). Public schools are ethnically as well as racially diverse as compared to private schools; therefore, they provide students with a real-world setting which enables children to appreciate cultural diversity.

Furthermore, since all public schools are mandated by the law to accommodate students with various disabilities, public schools have special education unlike private schools (Ye). According to the author, another benefit of the public schools is that they require all teachers to be certified

to receive authorization to teach in these schools unlike in the private school system where teachers do not have to meet certain standards.

The article provides a detailed and well-organized analysis of some of the advantages of public schools. The article can be considered as credible as it cites the research works of other authors such as “Emma Brown of the Washington Post” to provide evidence for its arguments. Moreover, the article is less biased as it analyses both the public and private schools to provide further evidence for its conclusions. However, this article also fails to analyze some of the disadvantages or rather negative aspects of public schools which will be examined in detail.

Disadvantages of Public Schools

Some of the shortcomings of public schools include large class sizes which tend to have more than 35 students. Large class sizes tend to hinder supervision: hence, public schools experience a higher number of disciplinary cases (GreatSchools Staff). Moreover, due to large class sizes gifted and struggling students in most cases get lost in the shuffle, thereby lacking adequate attention. Another disadvantage is that since public schools are under-funded as they depend on the government, such schools tend to lack necessary studying materials or other cases forced to cut some of their programs (Elizabeth).

Resolution of Perspectives

When it comes to the debate of private versus public schools, comparing these schools can be considered as a distraction from the “big picture,” in fact, the entire debate revolving around which school is better is nothing more than just a sideshow. When it comes to the issue of which school system is better they exist no right answer to this question; this is because while both

school systems have particular advantages, one isn't necessarily superior to the other, as they all have their flaws or rather disadvantages. Moreover, it is extremely hard to find a definitive answer since the two sectors are too diverse with many confounding factors.

Also, given the varying qualities of each type of school system, there exists a right answer to which of the two systems is the most appropriate one for a particular student; hence, the answer cannot be generalized for all students. Therefore, the most important thing is for individuals to seek schools that provide what can be termed as a solid educational foundation regardless of being private or public schools as both are equally important.

Conclusion and Directives

In conclusion, from the analysis it is quite clear that both school systems possess both advantages and disadvantages, hence, no general conclusion can be derived to cover all situations as each student tends to have particular needs. Therefore, the most appropriate decision can only be made by parents only after assessing the needs of a child. Ensuring the chosen school emphasizes on things such as the presence of qualified teachers and manageable class sizes is crucial since there are good as well as bad private and public schools and in the end what matters is that the best school that suits a child is selected.

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