

children's scholarship fund



CSFP Partner School Participation Guide

Our Approach

At Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia (CSFP), our central goal is to ensure that every K-8 student in Philadelphia receives a high quality education. While each of our partner schools is unique and reflective of its school leadership and respective student body, collectively, they reflect a shared foundation of high expectations, commitment to students, and focus on results. These tenets are combined with a pervasive emphasis on recruitment and retention.

Our CSFP team provides resources to families as they plan financially to afford private school tuition, navigate the application process, and transition into a school of their choice. Once our scholarship recipients leave our program, they continue to benefit from the support of our CSFP team even as they move into high school and beyond.

Our Framework for High Quality Education

This model contains three key elements; all centered on the goal of **student growth and achievement**.

KEY ELEMENTS:

The Safety of Self and Respect of Others

Quality schools foster an understanding of oneself and one's connection to others. Students who feel safe physically, and nurtured socially and emotionally, will take responsibility for their own conduct and will respectfully hold peers to the high standards of the school.



The Culture of Achievement

In quality schools, teachers create a classroom environment where students are joyfully engaged, meaningfully on-task, and feel ownership for their individual and collective successes. Excellent teaching means planning and executing rigorous, engaging lessons that fit into a logical scope and sequence, as well as using student data to assess mastery of objectives and movement toward big goals for student achievement and growth.



The Cycle of Recruitment and Retention

Quality schools recognize that student retention rate is a significant indicator of overall educational experience. If parents are dissatisfied with their student's school experience, then they will not be willing to pay tuition even if they have the ability. When parents are highly satisfied, they are likely to generate positive word-of-mouth and encourage recruitment of new families to enroll. Schools that create successful retention programs have a clear methodology to define, track, and support student and parental engagement. To learn how to rejuvenate your recruitment and retention practices, read our 10-step plan to retention success.



Our Results

Our students show tremendous growth over time. When our scholarship students leave 8th grade, they are proficient in both reading and math, testing at or above local and national testing averages. Of our CSFP alumni who leave our program in 8th grade, 96% graduate high school prepared and on time. Within one year following their high school graduation, 85% of CSFP alumni enroll in post-secondary education.

Our Requirements to Become a School Partner

Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia (CSFP) supports students at approximately 160 Philadelphia area schools each year. Our excellent school partners represent the wide range of cultures and beliefs that make our Philadelphia area the wonderfully diverse community it is. Check out our [School Finder](#) to see the where we support our families.

To become a participating school with CSFP, a school must be chosen by the parents of a new student whose family qualifies for CSFP. We believe parents are the best judge of their children's educational environment. To ensure that CSFP scholarships are utilized in the way they were conceived, we require that in addition to being chosen by the parents of incoming students, each school must meet our minimum standards of excellence*, outlined below.

The Safety of Self and Others

- Must be a physical school in sound building facilities (not online, home, or virtual)
- Must support students in a safe, healthy and nurturing environment characterized by trust, caring, dignity, respect and professionalism



The Culture of Achievement

- Must be accredited by a state or nationally-recognized educational organization
- Must be registered as a Private School with the State of Pennsylvania
- Must have a student body of at least 50, K-8th grade students
- Must administer a nationally-recognized, annual student assessment
- Must employ four-year college degreed teachers and (non-clerical) professional administrators
- Must allow CSFP staff and/or volunteers to visit the school, meet administrators and students enrolled in the school (particularly those receiving CSFP assistance), review the curriculum, and be allowed to observe a class in session, if requested



The Cycle of Recruitment and Retention

- Must actively support families as they seek to obtain and maintain scholarships.
- Must demonstrate fiscal and ethical responsibility providing accurate management of CSFP scholarships in accordance with CSFP policy. Scholarship checks are sent twice per year.
- Must assist CSFP in keeping accurate records of school statistics and CSFP student records, including:
 - School Commitment Form (SCF), required for any CSFP student who attends your school, must be updated yearly
 - Exit Confirmation Form (ECF), required submission within two weeks of transfer for any CSFP student who leaves your school
 - School Verification Report (SVR), required before disbursing each scholarship payment
 - Each CSFP's student's attendance must be verified twice per school year, confirming continued adherence to program requirements
 - Additional information including enrollment, tuition and auxiliary services, capacity data, requested annually
 - Distribution and collection of CSFP parent surveys, and/or names of CSFP families who would be interested in being interviewed, in order to provide for ongoing program evaluation



***Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia reserves the right to discontinue scholarship support for students at your school if a pattern of parental complaints, significant multi-year drops in student attendance or malfeasance on the part of the school appear evident.**

Our Commitment

In addition to scholarships, Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia provides valuable networking and support opportunities for schools to help them in their mission of providing a quality education to all children regardless of income.

- Download [Resource for Schools \(PDF\)](#) to see what's working well for other schools in the Philadelphia Area and beyond.
- Take advantage of our free professional development opportunities for your administration and staff. Topics include:
 - Practical and Proven School Marketing Strategies to Maximize Enrollment
 - A 10-Step Re-Enrollment/ Retention Plan to Stop Attrition in Its Tracks
 - Scholarship Secrets: How to Increase Your School's CSFP Funding

[Contact us](#) for more information about how to become a Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia partner school!