

Cardus Data on ACSI Accredited Schools (like CCS)

The release of the *Cardus Education Survey* has provided Christian schools with some data that warrants reflection, discussion, and dialog (Pasadena, CA: Cardus, 2011). This data separates a Christian School Experience from Public, Catholic, and Homeschool experiences for students from the same backgrounds. For the first time we have a significant amount of academically rigorous, peer reviewed information about how Christian schools are performing in shaping children's lives. If you think of the same type of children with the same abilities who go to church and have similar families, this study shows the difference that schools make. Some of the results below compared ACSI accredited schools with nonaccredited ACSI schools, other conservative Protestant schools and Catholic schools. The following are a few of the notable areas where ACSI accredited schools were the highest:

- Highest standardized test scores (2) – Catholic schools were second.
- Involvement in evangelism (7) – Other ACSI schools were a close second.
- Historical and literary knowledge (40) – All schools were a fairly close second.
- Second language learning (42) – ACSI accredited schools were significantly higher.
- Appreciation for a liberal arts education (49)
- Love of learning (60) – Other ACSI schools were second.
- A close personal relationship with God (65) – ACSI accredited schools much higher.
- Common spiritual values uniting students (108) – All schools had close scores.
- Missions and social service outside the United States and Canada (129)
- Course requirements in all core subjects including Bible (152-161)
- Percentage of students in college preparatory (194) – Catholic schools were second.
- Regular worship attendance of teachers (265) – Other ACSI schools were a close second.
- Superintendents influencing policies and decisions (291)
- College recruiters visiting campus (327) – Catholic schools were second.
- Adherence to a dress code (351)
- Students participating in athletics (354)
- Students required to take college entrance exams (357)
- Students believe the Bible as the Word of God (359) – All schools were at 100%

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