

COGNITIVEGENESIS

AN ASSESSMENT OF
ADVENTIST ACADEMIC
ACHIEVEMENT
AT THE ELEMENTARY AND
HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL



6 myths about Adventist education

CognitiveGenesis study findings have identified a number of myths or misconceptions about Adventist education. Have you heard any of these?

Myth 1

Students can't learn science in a class environment that emphasizes Creation.

FACT: In all areas of science, students in Adventist schools are well above the national average. They are superior in their ability to question, investigate and explore the world around them.

Myth 2

Spending time on spiritual objectives reduces learning in other areas, such as reading, writing and arithmetic.

FACT: Students in all grades in Adventist schools of all sizes outperformed the national average in all subjects.* Furthermore, the longer students are in Adventist schools, the better their achievements and abilities.

Myth 3

Small schools can't provide good learning.

FACT: Students score as high or higher in smaller schools as in larger schools.*

* After controlling for ability

Myth 4

Schools with limited facilities and equipment can't provide superior learning.

FACT: Even though Adventist schools generally do not have facilities or equipment to match other private and public schools, students in Adventist schools still have superior achievement.

Myth 5

Adventist schools are not the best for exceptional students.

FACT: Students at all ability levels have achievement higher than what would be expected, based on their ability level.

Myth 6

Adventist schools are not the best for minority students.

FACT: Yearly growth in achievement for students in Adventist schools was greater than the average growth in the national norm group for students in all ethnic groups studied: Asian, African-American, Hispanic and Caucasian.

Center for Research on K-12 Adventist Education at La Sierra University

cognitivegenesis.org

3 KEY FINDINGS

from the CognitiveGenesis study

1. **Students in Adventist schools outperform.** In all grades, in schools of all sizes, students in Adventist schools outperformed the national average in all subjects.³ “Even our research team has been surprised by the scope of what we’ve seen. Reading, math, social studies, science, spelling, vocabulary, punctuation... students in Adventist schools have the advantage in each of these areas,” says Elissa Kido, Ed.D., CognitiveGenesis project director, La Sierra University.
2. **Students in Adventist schools overachieve.** Students in Adventist schools score well above the national average on standardized achievement tests and above what would be predicted based on their ability test scores.



3. **Students in Adventist schools gain even more with time.** One of the most dramatic findings is that students who transferred to Adventist schools saw a marked improvement in test scores. Furthermore, the longer students are in Adventist schools, the better their achievements and abilities.



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