

In a study conducted by Grunwald Associates in Bethesda, MD, in 2009, they examined the attitude, opinions and activities of more than 2,000 singers in choruses of all kinds, 500 members of the general public, 500 parents, and 300 K-12 educators from throughout the U.S. using online surveys. Some of the Key findings were shocking.

- **Finding:** Children who sing in choruses have academic success and valuable life skills.
  - Children who sing in choruses get significantly better grades in school
  - Parents of singers are significantly more likely to report that their child has many other qualities conducive to learning and development
  - Children are better team players and have more advanced social skills
  - Educators across the disciplines, are even more emphatic about the positive role that choirs play in childhood education and development
  - More than three-quarters of educators surveyed say they can tell which students in their classes participate in choirs
  - Vast majorities of educators believe choirs help schools and communities in a variety of other ways
  - Choirs can keep some students engaged in school who might otherwise be lost
  - Parents say young choristers are more likely to participate in sports and other extra curricular activities
  
- **Finding:** The decline in choral singing opportunities for children and youth is a key area for concern.
  - More than one in four educators say there is no choir program in their schools and on in five parents say there are no choir opportunities for their children in their communities
  - Many parents whose children have stopped singing in a choir say they did not do so voluntarily (e.g. choir could not financially sustain, out grew the choir)

In summary the study confirms that introducing children to choral music opportunities when they are young develops future performers, audience members and consumers of arts and culture well into adult years. It fosters personal fulfillment and appreciation of beauty for a lifetime. Singing with a chorus has life-long benefits including fostering behaviors that lead to good citizenship.

-The Chorus Impact Study: How Children, Adults, and Communities Benefit from Choruses (2009)