



Risen Christ

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Mission Impact Report

Dear Friends,

Risen Christ Catholic School was formed in 1993 as the consolidation of five urban parish schools—Holy Name, Holy Rosary, Incarnation, St. Albert the Great and St. Stephen’s—to preserve and strengthen Catholic education for new generations of children in the heart of south Minneapolis.

Throughout our rich history, stakeholders have frequently asked about Risen Christ alumni, wondering if they make it to college or graduate from trade schools or other post-secondary programs. We have always had an abundance of anecdotal evidence, but as a K-8 school we did not possess the statistically significant data necessary to prove our long-term outcomes ... until now!

Thanks to a generous grant from the Catholic Community Foundation, we embarked on a comprehensive Mission Impact Study from July to November 2024 in partnership with Laura Essenburg, a 2004 Risen Christ graduate. Thanks to Laura’s academic credentials and professional expertise, we were able to collect the alumni data needed to prove the long-term impact of a Risen Christ education.

I would like to highlight the partner organizations that were instrumental in our reconnecting with alumni: Banyan Community, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, DeLaSalle High School and Wallin Education Partners. I am also grateful for our Alumni Ambassadors who played important roles in collecting data from their classmates: Adriana Cano Landa ‘19, Leslie Ponce Sanchez ‘16 and Ashley Vasquez ‘18. Finally, the dedication of Liz Allie and Ann Henrich on our Advancement staff helped to ensure this project would be successful from the very start.

As a 1995 graduate of Risen Christ myself, I can speak to how this school has personally impacted my life, so it brings me tremendous joy to share this report showcasing the life-changing outcomes made possible by our generous supporters. I hope you find this report helpful for understanding how your investment can place our students on a pathway to lifelong success, and how it all starts here at Risen Christ.

James DeLong ‘95, MBA
Director of Advancement



Adriana Cano Landa '19

DeLaSalle High School
St. Catherine University (Social Work)

Risen Christ opened the doors for not just me, but my brother and our whole family. As an alum, I have maintained relationships with staff members that have helped me believe in myself. As a Social Worker, I want to be an advocate for families and children to give back the support and hope I once received as a student at Risen Christ.



Ishmael Efejuku '19

DeLaSalle High School
University of St. Thomas (Computer Science & Data Science)
Ciresi Walburn Leadership Fellow

Risen Christ taught me the importance of being able to formulate a plan to navigate through life. The school allows for each child to be tended to on an individual level, providing a strong foundation for students to continue on and make meaningful contributions to society. After college, I would like to bring all the knowledge and experience I have gained back to my community.

Photo Courtesy of the University of St. Th



Photo Courtesy of Wallin Education Partners

Anahi Sanchez Lazcano '18

DeLaSalle High School
Macalester College (Neuroscience & Biology)
Wallin Scholar



Amanuel Nigatu '15

DeLaSalle High School
University of Minnesota (Kinesiology)



Genesis Sibri-Velez '15

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
Hamline University (Marketing)
Marketing Coordinator at WSB



100%
Graduate
High School



81%
Enroll in
College

Mission Impact Study Cohort: Risen Christ Classes of 2015–2019

Risen Christ serves as the first step of a student's educational journey, laying a strong foundation for both academic and personal success. This report celebrates the remarkable achievements of our alumni and the enduring impact of the education they received at Risen Christ.



Hispanic



Free / Reduced



English Language Learner

Focusing on alumni who graduated between 2015 and 2019, the majority were Hispanic, qualified for Free/Reduced Lunch and received English Language Learner (ELL) services while attending Risen Christ. Through collaboration with our partners and alumni ambassadors, we successfully surveyed or reconnected with 130 (67%) of the 194 total alumni who graduated within the five class years, gaining valuable insights into their educational pursuits and achievements after venturing beyond Risen Christ.

Providing the Ingredients for Success

Since 1993, we have witnessed the evolution of our surrounding neighborhood and the transformation of our school, establishing our dual immersion educational model in 2014. Throughout our history, Risen Christ has been unwavering in our commitment to meeting the evolving needs of the community, while maintaining these key ingredients for student success:



Financial Accessibility

Donors contribute over \$2 million annually toward our general operations and tuition assistance program, making Risen Christ's life-changing education accessible to every family seeking it.



Bilingual Advantage

As Minnesota's only Catholic dual immersion school, Risen Christ leads the way in educating English Language Learners and setting all students on a path toward lifelong success.



Catholic Faith

Rooted in Catholic values, Risen Christ inspires a deep faith in God, shaping students to grow spiritually, morally and academically, so that they can pursue a future full of hope and purpose.



Mission-Driven Teachers

Our teachers provide rigorous academics while nurturing each child's God-given potential. With a 17:1 student-teacher ratio and bilingual staff, students receive the individualized attention needed to thrive.



Parent Engagement

Risen Christ emphasizes open communication and collaboration with families, offering workshops and resources to support each parent's role as the first educator of their children.

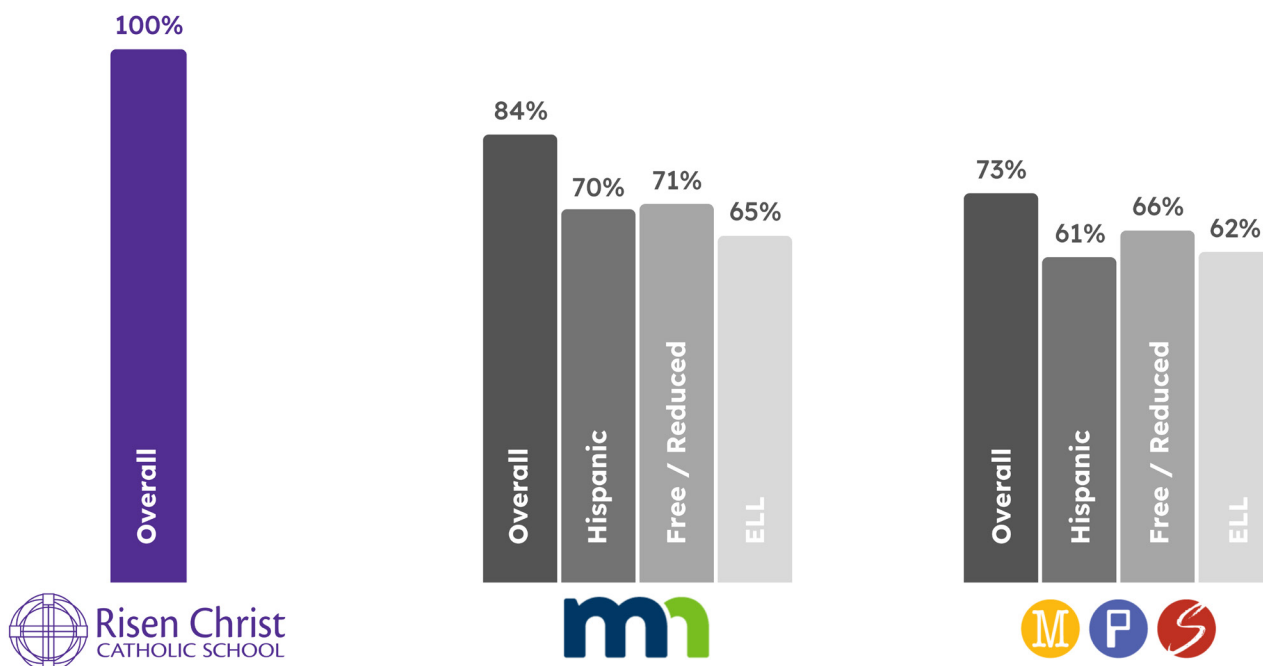


Community Partnerships

We partner with over 30 community organizations that provide holistic, family-centered programs addressing the whole child's development and well-being.

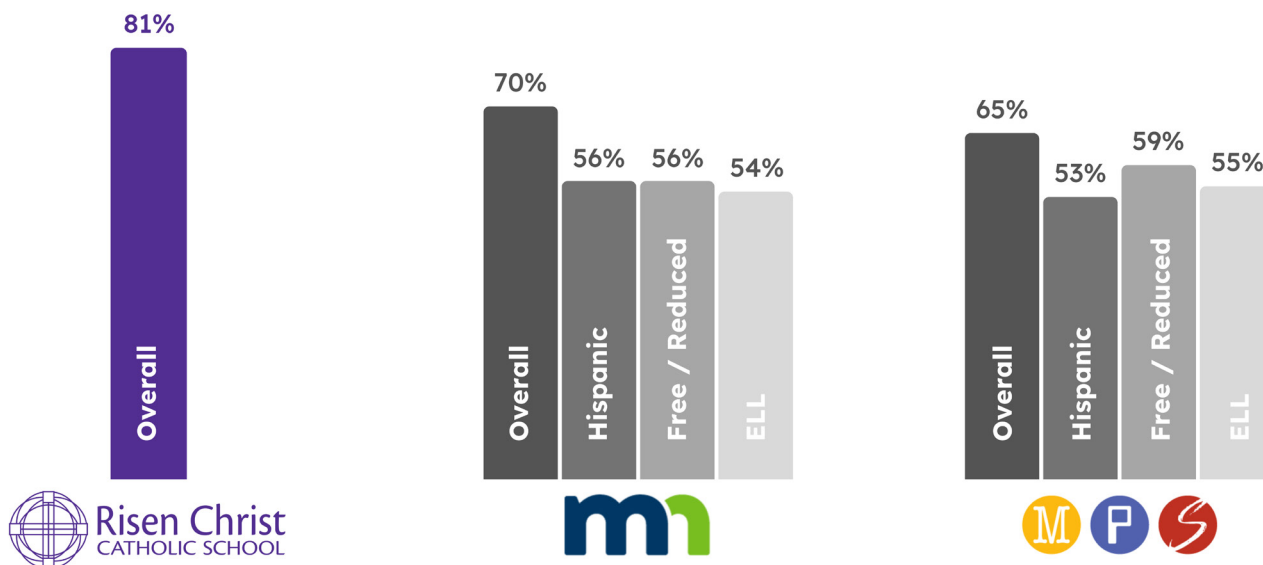
Risen Christ alumni graduate high school at a greater rate than their peers across Minnesota and in Minneapolis Public Schools.

The high school graduation rate for Risen Christ alumni is 100%, a much higher rate than Hispanic, Free/Reduced Lunch and English Language Learner (ELL) students across Minnesota and in Minneapolis Public Schools. This indicates that Risen Christ provides a strong educational pathway to high school graduation for students.



Risen Christ alumni enroll in college at a greater rate than their peers across Minnesota and in Minneapolis Public Schools.

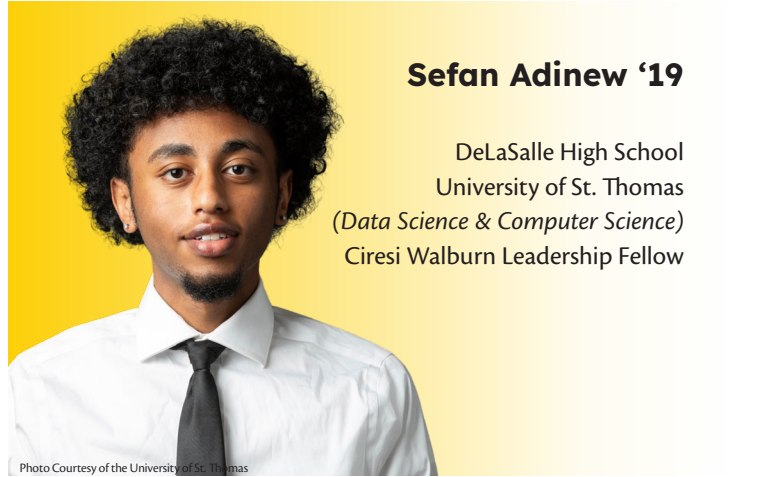
The college enrollment rate is 81% for Risen Christ alumni, a higher rate than Hispanic, Free/Reduced Lunch and English Language Learner (ELL) students across Minnesota and in Minneapolis Public Schools, further exemplifying the educational foundation that Risen Christ provides for students. The majority of Risen Christ alumni enroll in 4-year colleges, attend Risen Christ for 9 years (kindergarten through 8th grade) and graduate high school from Cristo Rey or DeLaSalle.





Millet Mendoza '15

Como Park Senior High School
Augsburg University (*Business*)
University of St. Thomas (*MBA*)
Coordinator and Paralegal at
University of St. Thomas



Sefan Adinew '19

DeLaSalle High School
University of St. Thomas
(*Data Science & Computer Science*)
Ciresi Walburn Leadership Fellow

Photo Courtesy of the University of St. Thomas



Heidi Cordova Lema '15

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
St. Catherine University
(*Social Work*)
Children's Mental Health
Case Manager at CLUES



Juan Valdivia Cortes '16

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
Bethel University (*Marketing & Finance*)
Junior Solutions Architect at 1Password
Wallin Scholar

Photo Courtesy of Wallin Education Partners

Where do Risen Christ alumni enroll after high school?

Eighty-one percent of the Risen Christ alumni we tracked in our study currently attend (or have graduated from) the following colleges, universities, technical schools, trade schools or other programs:

- Alabama State University
- Arizona Automotive Institute
- Augsburg University
- Bethel University
- Century College
- College of the Holy Cross
- College of Saint Benedict
- Concordia University St. Paul
- Dakota County Technical College
- Dougherty Family College at St. Thomas
- Dunwoody College of Technology
- Gustavus Adolphus College
- Hamline University
- Hennepin Technical College
- Loyola University Chicago
- Luther College
- Macalester College
- Metro State University
- Minneapolis Community & Technical College
- Normandale Community College
- Roosevelt University
- Saint John's University (MN)
- Saint John's University (NY)
- Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
- St. Catherine University
- St. Olaf College
- United States Marine Corps
- University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
- University of Minnesota - Duluth
- University of Minnesota - Rochester
- University of San Francisco
- University of St. Thomas

One of my biggest accomplishments was being the first in my immediate family to go to college. I have made it known to my younger siblings that it is possible with hard work and determination.



Support the Next Generation of Risen Christ Alumni

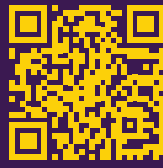
Success starts with providing financial accessibility. A Catholic education that might be unavailable or unaffordable is made possible at Risen Christ to all children whose families seek it. Thanks to generous donors and partners like you, we never turn a family away.

Our commitment to financial accessibility empowers families to pursue brighter futures for their children—as seen in this report. We hope you consider how you might be able to contribute your time, talents or financial resources to help ensure the pathway to high school, college and beyond will remain strong for the next generation of Risen Christ alumni.

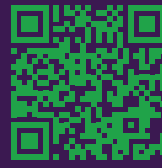
For complete, detailed information (including methods, analysis, sample data and more) you can view the white paper about our Mission Impact Study by visiting here: risenchristschool.org/impactstudy



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We Thank Our Partners



Catholic Community
FOUNDATION



Principal Researcher

Laura Essenburg '04, MA

Alumni Ambassadors

Adriana Cano Landa '19, Leslie Ponce Sanchez '16 and Ashley Vasquez '18



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