Impact Findings of the BPSD's Character Development Initiative

Independent external evaluator, CCNY, has evaluated available public data provided by the New York State Department of Education (NYSED) and Buffalo Public School District's (BPSD) Office of Student Support Services. Below are the findings of the Character Counts (CC!)/CITRS' BPSD Character Development Initiative (commenced January 2017 in 22 schools):

After 1 ½ years of CC! implementation, schools with CC! had a …

- **10.4% increase** in high school graduation rates, which is **8.7% more** than schools without CC!
- **5.8% increase** in elementary math proficiency rates
- **7.7% increase** in elementary English proficiency rates
- Attendance rates were **1.8% higher** than schools without CC!
- CC! Schools with excellent *implementation had a 6.7% higher* attendance rate than schools without CC!

**CCNY Evaluation Conclusion**

Such significant impacts of the CC! program were not expected to be evident until after 3 years of program implementation. However, after only 1 ½ years of implementation, positive impacts like increased graduation rates and improvements in academic proficiencies are already being identified and are statistically significant.

*Excellent implementation is defined by CITRS as progress that is ahead of schedule and surpassing implementation expectations.*