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FACTORS AFFECTING SCHOOL QUALITY IN FLORIDA

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ABSTRACT

This paper seeks to determine the factors that are the primary drivers of school quality in the State of Florida. Information was gathered from the Bureau for Economic and Business Research at the University of Florida and the Departments of Education and Commerce in Florida. The time span of data gathered was from 2000 to 2010, a ten year period. The final data collected includes: (a) County Grade Point Average (GPA), a variable that provides an annual measure of school quality for each county in Florida; (b) Median household income, in thousands of dollars, for each county; (c) Tax revenue per student in thousands of dollars; and (d) The fraction of the county's population enrolled in the state university system. The results indicated a strong relationship between a county's GPA and Household income, Tax Revenue per student, percentage of population enrolled in the state university system and a trend variable. As a result, the null hypothesis (there is no relationship between County GPA and the factors mentioned previously) was rejected in favor of accepting the alternative hypothesis i.e. there may well be a relationship between County GPA and the factors mentioned above.