**Writing May 2021: Parental Resources and Living Standards of Young Households in Shanghai and Urban China.**

**Key-point School Attendance**

The reward to elite education on labor market is evident. In the Shanghai data, those who attended a key-point college earn an average household income of ￥145,000; while those who attended an “ordinary” one earn ￥120,000 and high-school dropouts earn ￥95,000 on average.

A legacy of the socialist education system, the majority of schools in China are public. However, some of those school are designated with better teachers and facilities (usually those overseen by national or provincial ministry of education, as opposed to municipal or local). Attending to these “key-point” or “key” schools boosts one’s chance to continue education. In the case of Shanghai residents, Table 1 seems to tell the same story.

Studies on continuation from high school to tertiary education have shown that attending a key-point high school can help students achieve higher scores in college entrance examinations and thus gain access to a better-quality university. In the data, 55% of students attending a key-point high school went to a key tertiary school, nearly doubling the likelihood of 30% for students from non-key high schools. On the contrary, they are twice more likely to drop out of the education system after high school than their key-school counterparts.

For continuation from middle school and primary school the next level where dropouts are less frequent, there’s still a clear path leading from key primary school to key middle school and high school. Students in key primary schools are almost secured for key middle schools with an 87% likelihood, while those otherwise would have to compete against a 25% odds. Similarly, those in key middle schools enjoy a higher odd of 47% for entry into key high schools, more than doubling 19% for those otherwise.