

Washington State Institute for Public Policy

Benefit-Cost Results

The WSIPP benefit-cost analysis examines, on an apples-to-apples basis, the monetary value of programs or policies to determine whether the benefits from the program exceed its costs. WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies has three main steps. First, we determine "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using a statistical technique called meta-analysis. Second, we calculate whether the benefits of a program exceed its costs. Third, we estimate the risk of investing in a program by testing the sensitivity of our results. For more detail on our methods, see our [Technical Documentation](#).

Current estimates replace old estimates. Numbers will change over time as a result of model inputs and monetization methods.

Pre-K to 12 Education

Program name	Date of last literature review	Total benefits	Taxpayer benefits	Non-taxpayer benefits	Costs	Benefits minus costs (net present value)	Benefit to cost ratio	Chance benefits will exceed costs
Becoming a Man (BAM) with high-dosage tutoring	Apr. 2018	\$40,925	\$9,439	\$31,486	(\$4,761)	\$36,164	\$8.60	73 %
Consultant teachers: Literacy Collaborative	Jan. 2018	\$28,651	\$6,331	\$22,320	(\$790)	\$27,861	\$36.28	100 %
Child-Parent Center (CPC)	Apr. 2020	\$35,445	\$13,616	\$21,829	(\$10,279)	\$25,166	\$3.45	82 %
Tutoring: By peers	Mar. 2020	\$20,806	\$4,545	\$16,261	(\$93)	\$20,713	\$223.03	81 %
Double-dose classes	May. 2015	\$18,039	\$3,991	\$14,048	(\$518)	\$17,521	\$34.81	98 %
Tutoring: By certificated teachers, small-group, structured	Apr. 2020	\$18,488	\$4,239	\$14,250	(\$1,920)	\$16,569	\$9.63	97 %
Summer book programs: Multi-year intervention	Feb. 2018	\$16,641	\$3,652	\$12,989	(\$229)	\$16,412	\$72.66	71 %
Tutoring: Supplemental computer-assisted instruction for students struggling in math	Mar. 2020	\$15,725	\$3,442	\$12,283	(\$132)	\$15,593	\$119.29	64 %
Teacher professional development: Use of data to guide instruction	Jun. 2014	\$15,493	\$3,389	\$12,104	(\$116)	\$15,377	\$133.95	98 %
State early childhood education programs: Universal	Jul. 2019	\$22,320	\$6,590	\$15,730	(\$7,088)	\$15,232	\$3.15	78 %
Consultant teachers: Online coaching	Jun. 2014	\$13,817	\$3,034	\$10,783	(\$208)	\$13,609	\$66.27	93 %
Project Lead The Way (PLTW)	Sep. 2014	\$15,170	\$3,512	\$11,658	(\$1,887)	\$13,283	\$8.04	83 %
Head Start	Jul. 2019	\$21,580	\$7,694	\$13,886	(\$8,923)	\$12,657	\$2.42	69 %
Tutoring: By adults, one-on-one, structured	May. 2020	\$15,221	\$3,611	\$11,610	(\$2,691)	\$12,530	\$5.66	92 %
"Check-in" behavior interventions	Feb. 2020	\$13,264	\$3,155	\$10,109	(\$1,676)	\$11,588	\$7.91	57 %
Consultant teachers: Content-Focused Coaching	Jan. 2018	\$11,551	\$2,524	\$9,027	(\$62)	\$11,489	\$187.29	94 %
Special literacy instruction for English language learner students	Jul. 2014	\$11,659	\$2,576	\$9,084	(\$316)	\$11,343	\$36.88	81 %
Stepping Stones to Literacy	Mar. 2021	\$10,194	\$2,227	\$7,966	(\$52)	\$10,142	\$197.64	64 %
State early childhood education programs: Low-income	Jul. 2019	\$12,929	\$2,979	\$9,951	(\$2,987)	\$9,942	\$4.33	91 %
Tutoring: Supplemental computer-assisted instruction for English language learners (ELL)	Mar. 2020	\$9,547	\$2,097	\$7,450	(\$152)	\$9,395	\$62.77	69 %
Teacher professional development: Targeted	Jun. 2014	\$9,312	\$2,060	\$7,252	(\$281)	\$9,031	\$33.11	79 %
Tutoring: By non-certificated adults, small-group, structured	Apr. 2020	\$8,984	\$2,021	\$6,963	(\$575)	\$8,409	\$15.63	69 %
Success for All	Jun. 2021	\$8,863	\$2,884	\$5,979	(\$723)	\$8,140	\$12.26	66 %
Consultant teachers: Coaching	Jun. 2014	\$7,155	\$1,589	\$5,566	(\$273)	\$6,883	\$26.24	81 %
Tutoring: By adults for English language learners (ELL)	Apr. 2020	\$7,665	\$1,838	\$5,827	(\$1,539)	\$6,126	\$4.98	60 %
Tutoring: Supplemental computer-assisted instruction for struggling readers (vs. regular classroom instruction)	Mar. 2020	\$6,587	\$1,500	\$5,087	(\$591)	\$5,996	\$11.14	64 %
Teacher professional development: Induction/mentoring	Jun. 2014	\$6,036	\$1,324	\$4,712	(\$80)	\$5,956	\$75.09	64 %
Out-of-school-time tutoring by adults	Jun. 2014	\$6,864	\$1,604	\$5,260	(\$992)	\$5,872	\$6.92	93 %
Summer learning programs: Academically focused	Jun. 2014	\$6,315	\$1,510	\$4,805	(\$1,225)	\$5,090	\$5.16	87 %
Text message interventions for parents to support academic achievement for students in K-12	Nov. 2020	\$4,096	\$894	\$3,202	(\$10)	\$4,085	\$395.71	60 %
Playworks Coach	Jun. 2020	\$4,213	\$962	\$3,251	(\$160)	\$4,053	\$26.36	55 %
Parents as tutors with teacher oversight	Jun. 2014	\$4,836	\$1,148	\$3,688	(\$859)	\$3,977	\$5.63	56 %
Peer Group Connection (PGC)	Jun. 2020	\$4,085	\$924	\$3,161	(\$260)	\$3,825	\$15.74	52 %

Program name	Date of last literature review	Total benefits	Taxpayer benefits	Non-taxpayer benefits	Costs	Benefits minus costs (net present value)	Benefit to cost ratio	Chance benefits will exceed costs
Growth mindset interventions	Feb. 2018	\$3,842	\$842	\$3,000	(\$41)	\$3,801	\$93.23	56 %
Teacher performance pay programs	Oct. 2015	\$2,661	\$584	\$2,077	(\$38)	\$2,622	\$69.67	87 %
Becoming a Man (BAM)	Apr. 2018	\$4,531	\$1,230	\$3,302	(\$2,128)	\$2,403	\$2.13	74 %
Tutoring: By adults, one-on-one, non-structured	May. 2020	\$3,505	\$898	\$2,606	(\$1,235)	\$2,269	\$2.84	69 %
Summer book programs: One-year intervention	Jun. 2014	\$2,221	\$493	\$1,728	(\$83)	\$2,137	\$26.65	57 %
Teacher professional development: Online, targeted	Jun. 2014	\$2,420	\$562	\$1,859	(\$315)	\$2,106	\$7.69	60 %
Class size: reducing average class size by one student in kindergarten	Jan. 2013	\$1,748	\$406	\$1,342	(\$221)	\$1,527	\$7.91	94 %
Tutoring: Supplemental Educational Services (under Title I)	May. 2015	\$2,904	\$826	\$2,077	(\$1,776)	\$1,128	\$1.63	62 %
Text message interventions for parents to support early learning for students in preschool	Nov. 2020	\$1,119	\$245	\$874	(\$7)	\$1,111	\$152.21	53 %
Summer book programs: One-year intervention, with additional support	Jun. 2014	\$1,154	\$265	\$889	(\$123)	\$1,030	\$9.35	58 %
Class size: reducing average class size by one student in grade 1	Jan. 2013	\$1,136	\$272	\$863	(\$221)	\$915	\$5.14	83 %
Per-pupil expenditures: 10% increase for one student cohort from kindergarten through grade 12	Apr. 2012	\$12,402	\$3,973	\$8,428	(\$11,605)	\$797	\$1.07	46 %
Class size: reducing average class size by one student in grade 2	Jan. 2013	\$673	\$171	\$502	(\$221)	\$452	\$3.05	68 %
Tutoring: Supplemental computer-assisted instruction for struggling readers (vs. other assistance)	Mar. 2020	\$1,036	\$292	\$744	(\$609)	\$426	\$1.70	50 %
Second Step	Mar. 2020	\$436	\$168	\$268	(\$91)	\$345	\$4.78	84 %
Class size: reducing average class size by one student in grade 3	Jan. 2013	\$529	\$140	\$390	(\$221)	\$308	\$2.40	61 %
Class size: reducing average class size by one student in one grade, 4-6	Jan. 2013	\$400	\$109	\$291	(\$200)	\$200	\$2.00	55 %
Class size: reducing average class size by one student in one grade, 9-12	Jan. 2013	\$350	\$96	\$254	(\$178)	\$171	\$1.96	52 %
Class size: reducing average class size by one student in one grade, 7-8	Jan. 2013	\$343	\$94	\$248	(\$181)	\$162	\$1.90	53 %
Teacher professional development: Not targeted	Jun. 2014	(\$20)	\$6	(\$26)	(\$93)	(\$114)	(\$0.22)	38 %
First Step to Success	Mar. 2020	(\$907)	(\$129)	(\$778)	(\$632)	(\$1,539)	(\$1.44)	47 %
Full-day kindergarten	Dec. 2013	\$488	\$423	\$65	(\$2,902)	(\$2,414)	\$0.17	39 %
Educator professional development: Use of data to guide instruction	Jun. 2014	(\$3,655)	(\$795)	(\$2,861)	(\$19)	(\$3,675)	(\$189.79)	29 %
Restorative justice in schools	Mar. 2020	(\$7,285)	(\$1,565)	(\$5,720)	(\$144)	(\$7,429)	(\$50.75)	11 %
Even Start	Apr. 2012	(\$5,399)	(\$681)	(\$4,718)	(\$4,551)	(\$9,949)	(\$1.19)	32 %
Early Head Start	Apr. 2012	\$212	\$3,352	(\$3,140)	(\$11,700)	(\$11,489)	\$0.02	30 %

Other Pre-K to 12 Education topics reviewed:

Program name	Date of last literature review	Notes
"Nudge" attendance program	Sep. 2020	Click for meta-analytic results
Ability School Engagement Program	Mar. 2020	Click for meta-analytic results
Academic vocabulary instruction	Mar. 2018	Click for meta-analytic results
Charter schools: Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP)	Aug. 2013	Click for meta-analytic results
Charter schools: non-urban charter schools	Aug. 2013	Click for meta-analytic results
Charter schools: overall impact	Aug. 2013	Click for meta-analytic results
Charter schools: urban charter schools	Aug. 2013	Click for meta-analytic results
Daily Behavior Report Cards	Apr. 2018	Click for meta-analytic results
Harlem Children's Zone - Promise Academy® K-12 Charter Schools	Jun. 2020	Click for meta-analytic results
Model early childhood education programs	Dec. 2013	Click for meta-analytic results
National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certified teachers (for elementary school students)	Mar. 2018	Click for meta-analytic results
National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certified teachers (for secondary school students)	Mar. 2018	Click for meta-analytic results
Pre-K and elementary bilingual instruction for English language learners	Jun. 2014	Click for meta-analytic results
Principal quality	Aug. 2013	Click for meta-analytic results
School Transitional Environmental Program (STEP)	Sep. 2020	Click for meta-analytic results
Teacher experience	Apr. 2012	Click for meta-analytic results
Teacher graduate degrees	Apr. 2012	Click for meta-analytic results
Teacher in-subject graduate degrees	Apr. 2012	Click for meta-analytic results
Transition programs for incoming kindergarteners	Mar. 2018	Click for meta-analytic results
ACCEPTS program	May. 2015	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)	Jul. 2013	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program	Jun. 2020	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Comer School Development Program	Aug. 2018	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Connecting With Others program	May. 2015	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Credit retrieval	Apr. 2018	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
High Schools That Work (HSTW)	Jul. 2013	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
International Baccalaureate	Jul. 2013	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
K-12 educator professional learning communities	Feb. 2018	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Lunch Buddy Program	May. 2015	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Make Your Day	May. 2015	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Massive open online courses (MOOCs) in K-12 setting	Sep. 2020	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
MicroSociety	Jul. 2013	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Mindplay Virtual Reading Coach	Aug. 2020	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Montessori in K-12	Jul. 2013	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Parent and family engagement coordinators	Jan. 2018	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Professional learning communities	May. 2018	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Skillstreaming	May. 2015	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Team teaching/co-teaching	May. 2015	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Think Time	May. 2015	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
K-12 teacher effectiveness	Dec. 2007	See previous WSIPP publication for past findings.

For further information, contact:
(360) 664-9800, institute@wsipp.wa.gov

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Washington State Institute for Public Policy

The Washington State Legislature created the Washington State Institute for Public Policy in 1983. A Board of Directors—representing the legislature, the governor, and public universities—governs WSIPP and guides the development of all activities. WSIPP's mission is to carry out practical research, at legislative direction, on issues of importance to Washington State.