

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.

Higher 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
Early college high school (for high school students)	Feb. 2018	\$71,470	\$13,380	\$58,089	(\$4,117)	\$67,352	\$17.36	92 %
College in the high school (for high school students)	Feb. 2018	\$24,384	\$5,043	\$19,341	(\$280)	\$24,104	\$87.02	100 %
College advising provided by counselors (for high school students)	Jan. 2018	\$24,067	\$4,973	\$19,093	(\$810)	\$23,257	\$29.70	97 %
Dual enrollment (for high school students)	Dec. 2017	\$22,087	\$5,343	\$16,744	(\$1,567)	\$20,520	\$14.10	100 %
Summer outreach counseling (for high school graduates)	Dec. 2016	\$15,412	\$3,162	\$12,250	(\$100)	\$15,312	\$154.33	89 %
Performance-based scholarships (for high school students)	Dec. 2016	\$5,261	\$949	\$4,312	(\$1,561)	\$3,700	\$3.37	72 %
Text message reminders (for 2-year college students)	Dec. 2016	\$3,632	\$462	\$3,170	(\$36)	\$3,596	\$99.89	96 %
Text message reminders (for high school students and graduates)	Jan. 2018	\$3,306	\$628	\$2,678	(\$10)	\$3,296	\$336.40	60 %
Student success courses (for 4-year college students)	Sep. 2017	\$3,433	\$688	\$2,745	(\$611)	\$2,822	\$5.62	63 %
College advising provided by a peer mentor (for high school students)	Dec. 2016	\$1,912	\$477	\$1,434	(\$814)	\$1,098	\$2.35	53 %
Student success courses (for 2-year college students)	Sep. 2017	\$611	\$47	\$564	(\$286)	\$325	\$2.13	65 %
Learning communities—linked developmental and student success courses (for 2-year college students)	Jul. 2017	\$179	\$50	\$129	(\$396)	(\$217)	\$0.45	34 %
Brief information interventions (for high school students)	Nov. 2017	(\$153)	(\$22)	(\$131)	(\$75)	(\$227)	(\$2.04)	43 %
Learning communities—linked developmental and college courses (for 2-year college students)	Jul. 2017	\$259	\$95	\$164	(\$902)	(\$643)	\$0.29	17 %
Text message reminders (for 4-year college students)	Dec. 2016	(\$1,016)	(\$130)	(\$887)	(\$36)	(\$1,053)	(\$27.94)	11 %
Performance-based scholarships (for 4-year college students)	Dec. 2016	(\$200)	\$149	(\$349)	(\$2,918)	(\$3,118)	(\$0.07)	11 %
Performance-based scholarships (for 2-year college students)	Dec. 2016	(\$1,091)	\$9	(\$1,100)	(\$2,733)	(\$3,824)	(\$0.40)	1 %
Intensive advising (for 2-year college students)	Nov. 2017	(\$3,628)	(\$225)	(\$3,402)	(\$842)	(\$4,470)	(\$4.31)	17 %

Other Higher Education topics reviewed:

Program name	Date of last literature review	Notes
Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP)	Oct. 2017	Click for meta-analytic results
Community college promise programs (for high school students)	Aug. 2017	Click for meta-analytic results
Early commitment programs (for middle and high school students)	Dec. 2016	Click for meta-analytic results
Merit aid (for college students)	Dec. 2016	Click for meta-analytic results
Merit aid (for high school students)	Dec. 2016	Click for meta-analytic results
Merit aid with financial need requirements (for high school students)	Dec. 2016	Click for meta-analytic results
Need-based grants (for college students)	Dec. 2017	Click for meta-analytic results
Need-based grants (for high school students and graduates)	Dec. 2017	Click for meta-analytic results
Summer bridge (for high school graduates)	Dec. 2016	Click for meta-analytic results
Tuition sticker price increase at 2-year college (for college students)	Aug. 2017	Click for meta-analytic results
Tuition sticker price increase at 2-year college (for high school students and graduates)	Aug. 2017	Click for meta-analytic results
Tuition sticker price increase at 4-year college (for 4-year college students)	Aug. 2017	Click for meta-analytic results
Tuition sticker price increase at 4-year college (for high school students and graduates)	Aug. 2017	Click for meta-analytic results
15 to Finish	Nov. 2017	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
College recovery programs	Dec. 2016	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Guided pathways	Oct. 2017	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program	Jan. 2018	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.
Open educational resources	Jun. 2017	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.

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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.