

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
College advising provided by counselors (for high school students)	Dec. 2016	\$24,510	\$5,623	\$18,888	(\$329)	\$24,182	\$74.56	100 %
Dual enrollment (for high school students)	Dec. 2016	\$20,431	\$6,175	\$14,256	(\$1,509)	\$18,922	\$13.54	86 %
Summer outreach counseling (for high school graduates)	Dec. 2016	\$18,802	\$4,381	\$14,421	(\$96)	\$18,706	\$195.39	90 %
Performance-based scholarships (for high school students)	Dec. 2016	\$8,457	\$1,928	\$6,529	(\$1,507)	\$6,950	\$5.61	74 %
Text message reminders (for high school graduates)	Dec. 2016	\$978	\$49	\$929	(\$7)	\$971	\$135.71	53 %
College advising provided by peer mentors (for high school students)	Dec. 2016	\$1,617	(\$348)	\$1,965	(\$784)	\$833	\$2.06	50 %
Opening Doors advising in community college	Dec. 2016	(\$1,377)	\$303	(\$1,680)	(\$811)	(\$2,188)	(\$1.70)	22 %

Other Higher Education topics reviewed:

Program name	Date of last literature review	Notes
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
Performance-based scholarships (for college students)	Dec. 2016	Click for meta-analytic results
Summer bridge (for high school graduates)	Dec. 2016	Click for meta-analytic results
Text message reminders (for college students)	Dec. 2016	Click for meta-analytic results
College Recovery Programs	Dec. 2016	No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest.

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

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