# Washington State Institute for Public Policy

## Community college promise programs (for high school students)
### Higher Education
Literature review updated August 2017.

As part of WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies, WSIPP determines "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using an approach called meta-analysis.  For detail on our methods, see our Technical Documentation.  At this time, WSIPP has not yet calculated benefits and costs for this topic.

Program Description: Community college promise programs are place-based scholarship programs. Typically, promise programs provide free tuition for at least one year of community college in a specific region and have minimal academic requirements. Promise programs also have an early outreach component so that students are aware of the program and its requirements early in their high school career. Our analysis reflects the impact of a specific community college promise program, Knox Achieves (later Tennessee Achieves). It is a last dollar program, meaning it covers remaining need after other aid is taken into account and covers up to five continuous semesters of tuition at any Tennessee public community college. It also has a high school mentorship component and a community service requirement.

## Meta-Analysis of Program Effects

| Outcomes measured | No. of effect sizes | Treatment N | Adjusted effect size and standard error | | | Unadjusted effect size (random effects model) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | ES | SE | Age | ES | p-value |
| High school graduation | 1 | 2071 | 0.262 | 0.055 | 18 | 0.262 | 0.001 |
| Enroll in 4-year college | 1 | 2071 | -0.209 | 0.039 | 18 | -0.209 | 0.001 |
| Enroll in 2-year college | 1 | 2071 | 0.754 | 0.030 | 18 | 0.754 | 0.001 |

Meta-analysis is a statistical method to combine the results from separate studies on a program, policy, or topic in order to estimate its effect on an outcome. WSIPP systematically evaluates all credible evaluations we can locate on each topic. The outcomes measured are the types of program impacts that were measured in the research literature (for example, crime or educational attainment). Treatment N represents the total number of individuals or units in the treatment group across the included studies.

An effect size (ES) is a standard metric that summarizes the degree to which a program or policy affects a measured outcome. If the effect size is positive, the outcome increases. If the effect size is negative, the outcome decreases.

Adjusted effect sizes are used to calculate the benefits from our benefit cost model.  WSIPP may adjust effect sizes based on methodological characteristics of the study. For example, we may adjust effect sizes when a study has a weak research design or when the program developer is involved in the research. The magnitude of these adjustments varies depending on the topic area.

WSIPP may also adjust the second ES measurement. Research shows the magnitude of some effect sizes decrease over time. For those effect sizes, we estimate outcome-based adjustments which we apply between the first time ES is estimated and the second time ES is estimated. We also report the unadjusted effect size to show the effect sizes before any adjustments have been made. More details about these adjustments can be found in our Technical Documentation.

## Citations Used in the Meta-Analysis

Carruthers, C.K., & Fox, W.F. (2015). *Aid for all: College coaching, financial aid, and post-secondary persistence in Tennessee.* (Working paper #2015-06). Knoxville, TN: Haslam College of Business, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

## Washington State Institute for Public Policy

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