

Harlem Children's Zone - Promise Academy® K-12 Charter Schools Pre-K to 12 Education

Literature review updated June 2020.

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: The Harlem Children's Zone - Promise Academy® K-12 Charter Schools (Promise Academy) offers extended day, extended year education to elementary, middle, and high school students. Promise Academy includes after-school tutoring and additional classes on Saturdays for children who need remediation in mathematics or English language arts skills. Promise Academy emphasizes the recruitment and retention of high-quality teachers and uses extensive data-driven monitoring to track student progress and refine instruction. Additionally, Promise Academy provides students with extensive wraparound services such as free medical and dental services, incentives for achievement, nutritious cafeteria meals, and parental engagement and support.

Students were 11 years old on average in the included study and attended Promise Academy schools for 3.4 years

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	446	0.268	0.075	17	0.268	0.001
Test scores	1	403	0.254	0.080	17	0.254	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

Dobbie, W., & Fryer, R.G. (2015). The medium-term impacts of high-achieving charter schools. *Journal of Political Economy*, 123(5), 985-1037.

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Printed on 03-28-2024



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