

Tell A Meaningful Story With Data Through Research

Impact of Early Learning Collaboratives Program in Mississippi

March 1st, 2018



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COFFEE



Price of Coffee

Demand of Coffee

\$3.00

503

\$2.10

1000

\$4.00

360

Median Household Income

Rainfall Totals

\$46,919

4.5

\$68,122

3.09

\$57,666

10.09

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
848	941	946	1017	848	897	1451	625	377	343	
120568	126858	104867	141433	125293	130319	113175	137424	126702	113452	12
110192	118830	108193	150487	143445	104430	88767	117879	120892	117254	13
131469	118182	105278	131107	174578	110832	76422	120911	118329	124424	14
187533	163253	147065	215644	166090	102873	174571	247754	38691	95359	15
39399	61590	30993	36317	37095	24151	24682	36824	42449	36741	16
45175	48359	31699	54031	40446	26070	35423	36607	60155	39514	17
392	406	489	352	367	362	380	308	275		18

VISION

To create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens

MISSION

To provide leadership through the development of policy and accountability systems so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community

1. All Students Proficient and Showing Growth in All Assessed Areas
2. Every Student Graduates from High School and is Ready for College and Career
3. **Every Child Has Access to a High-Quality Early Childhood Program**
4. Every School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders
5. Every Community Effectively Uses a World-Class Data System to Improve Student Outcomes
6. Every School and District is Rated “C” or Higher

Background

2015 Mississippi SLDS Grant

2015 Mississippi SLDS Grant

- Grant Priorities

 - Research and Evaluation

 - Early Learning

- Project Outcome of Research and Evaluation

 - Creation of data dashboard

 - Establishment of an Office of Research and Development

2015 Mississippi SLDS Grant

- Office of Research and Development

Small team;

Research Agenda;

Research Writing Components Flow;

Policy Brief Formatting Guidelines;

RAAC – Research Agenda Advisory Committee;

SMET – Subject Matter Expert Team;

- Current Research Priorities
 - ❖ Research Agenda and its alignment with MS State Board of Education Five Year Strategic Plans
 - ❖ Early Childhood
 - ❖ Educator Preparation
 - ❖ Achievement Gap

Mississippi Early Learning Collaboratives

Striving for Success: Impact of Early Learning Collaboratives Program in Mississippi

Mississippi Early Learning Collaboratives

What is Mississippi's ELCs?

- In the year 2013, the Mississippi Legislature passed the Early Learning Collaborative Act.
- Mississippi's Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013 established the Early Learning Collaborative program (ELCs).
- An “Early Learning Collaborative” is a district or countywide council that writes and submits an application to participate in the voluntary prekindergarten program.
- In December 2013, the first round of the ELCs awards were given to eleven different collaboratives from around the state.

Mississippi Early Learning Collaboratives

Why studying the impact of Mississippi's ELCs is important?

- Mississippi owns its unique features:

The fourth largest rural state;

The largest percentage of African American population across the country;

More than half of all births occurred to unmarried mothers;

One in two of households headed by unmarried mothers have incomes below the poverty line.

- Gap in the literature:

High quality early learning programs benefit disadvantaged children compared to the advantaged;

More aggregated level of data;

More affluent states with lower poverty and more balanced ethnic population composition.

Mississippi Early Learning Collaboratives

Research questions:

- Whether students who enroll in the ELCs programs score higher than students enrolled in other Pre-K programs; if so then what is the magnitude?
- Whether students who enroll in the ELCs programs are more likely to score above the kindergarten readiness cutting score (498 points); if so then what is the likelihood?

Mississippi Early Learning Collaboratives

Data used:

- The second year of the implementation of the state's ELCs: School Year 2015-2016.
- **Treatment Group:** Pre-test and post-test scaled scores (and performance levels) for each student who took the Kindergarten Readiness Assessments **as part of** the Early Learning Collaborative Act;
- **Control Group:** Pre-test and post-test scaled scores (and performance levels) for each student enrolled in a four-year-old prekindergarten program in Mississippi who took the Kindergarten Readiness Assessments but was **not a part of** the Early Learning Collaborative Act.

Mississippi Early Learning Collaboratives

Variables of interest:

- Post-test score
- Kindergarten readiness (binary) indicator

Variables controlled:

- ELCs
- Pre-test score
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Socioeconomic status

Mississippi Early Learning Collaboratives

Findings:

- Controlling for test scores at the beginning of the pre-kindergarten, ethnicity, gender, and family economic status, students that attended the Early Learning Collaboratives, on average, score **16 points higher** on the test at the end of pre-kindergarten.
- Students attending the Early Learning Collaborative program are on average predicted to be **9.2 percent more likely** to be ready for kindergarten.

Mississippi Early Learning Collaboratives

Policy Indications:

- Early Learning Collaboratives classrooms in Mississippi are performing effectively.
- Mississippi's high-quality early childhood education yields better student outcomes, and gives students a strong start to school.
- Methodology is key, particularly when they are making data-informed decisions to improve the outcome of student success.

Mississippi Early Learning Collaboratives

Current State of Mississippi ELCs Program:

- Mississippi's Early Learning Collaboratives is rated among **top five** states in the nation for quality standards **for second consecutive year**.
- **Four** new ELCs are added.
- The ELCs expansion is made possible by a **\$1 million increase** in state funds for the program.

Concluding Remarks

Lessons Learned from Advancing
Research in SEAs

Concluding Remarks

- Design a proactive research agenda;
- Study questions that matter;
- Answer policy questions of interest in a rigorous way;
- Increase internal capacity for research;
- Get consistent support from the agency's leadership;
- Create partnerships with external researchers.



Ensuring a bright *future* for every child

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