

Effective Teachers Translate Into Higher Earning Power for Their Students

Improving the effectiveness of our teachers can help boost student achievement, but did you know it also can contribute to a student's lifetime earning power and our commonwealth's long-term economic growth?

A <u>new study by economists at Harvard and Columbia</u>
<u>universities</u> finds that a teacher's impact on student test
scores – known as a teacher's "value added" – translates
into a brighter economic picture for that teacher's students.

The study tracked 1 million children from fourth grade through adulthood. It found those students who had more effective teachers (i.e. teachers with a higher "value added") were more likely to attend college, earn higher salaries over their working lifetimes, and even save more for retirement.

"Overall, our study shows that great teachers create great value and that test score impacts are helpful in identifying such teachers," the authors of the study wrote, adding "it is clear that improving the quality of teaching – whether using value-added or other tools – is likely to have large economic and social returns."

Pennsylvania is in the midst of much-needed discussion on the best ways to create more effective teachers. How we evaluate teachers, including the use of measures like student test scores, is a critical part of that discussion.

But one aspect of this discussion seems clear: When we improve teacher effectiveness, we improve a student's academic performance and boost that student's ability to have a more productive and prosperous career.

To Learn More About "Making the Grade" ...

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Making the Grade:
Effective Teaching in
Every Classroom is
Pennsylvania Partnerships
for Children's project
designed to create
awareness about the
importance of an effective
teacher in every classroom
and advance the public
policies required to assure
every child benefits from
effective teaching every
school day.

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