

# Research Finds Financial Education Interventions has Positive Effects on Student Behavior

Research finds interventions 3-5 times more effective

## The Context

Financial education has been an **increasing priority for states in the recent years**. It is pivotal to understand the effectiveness of financial education programs. A meta-analysis study by a team of researchers sought to answer the question: do financial education programs affect financial knowledge and behaviors?



This study examined data from **76** independent financial education randomized experiments

across **33** countries



and over **160,000** individuals



The financial education programs reviewed in the study span many settings, including classrooms, workplaces, and media outlets.

## The Impact



➤ **More substantial evidence to support the positive effects of financial education programs**

- Financial education interventions are **3 to 5 times as effective** in improving financial knowledge and behaviors as the previous meta-analysis on financial education programs

➤ **Positive effects on financial knowledge and behaviors**

- Results were **most notable in increasing financial knowledge and improving financial behavior** (i.e., budgeting, saving, and credit)



➤ **Financial education, on average, is cost-effective**

- **Relatively low cost per participant** for all studies which reported this data

➤ **Effects are comparable to reading & math interventions/public campaigns**

- **Improvements in financial knowledge** are of similar size to improvements in **math and reading interventions**
- **Improvements found in financial behavior** are comparable to improvements found in meta-analyses of **anti-smoking intervention, health interventions, and energy conservation**



## Next Steps



➤ **Not all financial education programs produced similar results or targeted the same outcomes**

- **Hard to quantify specific effects in aggregate due to the differences in outcome.** For example, we cannot definitively say that interventions lead to specific savings increases or credit score increases since outcomes varied across the studies in the meta-analysis.

➤ **Because the effects of financial education can differ across demographic groups, seek guidance on the types of financial education programs that would most likely help your student population(s).**

