

Home > Publications and Reviews > WWC Quick Review



## **WWC** **QUICK Review**

# “Can Scholarships Alone Help Students Succeed? Lessons from Two New York City Community Colleges”

### What is the study about?

The study examined the effects of performance-based scholarships for low-income community college students (ages 22–35) who were required to enroll in remedial courses. The study evaluated the impact of the scholarships on continued community college enrollment, credits attempted and earned, and cumulative grade-point average (GPA). All study subjects were eligible for Pell Grants.

Study authors randomly assigned 1,502 students at two New York City community colleges into one of three groups: (a) students were offered a performance-based scholarship for two semesters (up to \$2,600); (b) students were offered a performance-based scholarship for two semesters plus one summer term (up to \$3,900); and (c) students were not offered a performance-based scholarship, though these students were still eligible to receive other financial aid. Scholarships were awarded directly to students, on top of their existing financial aid, at the beginning, middle, and end of each semester, contingent on their continued enrollment and grades. The two scholarship groups were combined for most analyses.

### What did the study report?

Study authors reported findings for a number of outcomes related to enrollment, course taking, and grades. The portion of the study that examined enrollment rates

### The New Quick Review

In March 2012, the WWC began using a new format for quick reviews to allow for a faster release. When a more complete review is conducted for the study described here, this information will be updated.

### Subscribe

To receive quick reviews by email:

- Go to IES Newsflash
- Select “What Works Clearinghouse”
- Provide your email address

### Handy Definitions

- ▼ *quick review*
- ▼ *study rating*
- ▼ *meets WWC evidence standards without reservations*
- ▼ *meets WWC evidence standards with reservations*
- ▼ *does not meet WWC evidence standards*

reported that at the end of the two-semester program, 78.1% of the scholarship students were still enrolled, versus 76.6% of the students in the control group. Enrollment for the scholarship and control groups, respectively, was 61.9% versus 60.7% one semester after the program ended, and 51.2% versus 49.5% two semesters after the program ended. None of these differences are statistically significant.

See the *full glossary* ►

## Citation

Patel, R., & Rudd, T. (2012). *Can scholarships alone help students succeed? Lessons from two New York City community colleges*. Retrieved from <http://www.mdrc.org/can-scholarships-alone-help-students-succeed>

*Posted: January 2013*

This quick review was prepared by Development Services Group, Inc. for the WWC under contract ED–IES–12–C–0084.