

I-BEST: Integrated Basic Education Skills Training

Transforms the world of adult education through *contextualization*

Taps the combined expertise of faculty through *integrated team teaching*

Provides *wraparound support and navigational services* to promote student retention and completion

Does I-BEST show positive results?

- Three most important data points *statewide*:
 - I-BEST students are 3x more likely to earn college credit and 9x more likely to earn a certificate or degree [Source: Community College Research Center]
 - In 2014, about 8% of adult ed/esl students were in I-BEST. Those 8% earned 84% of the certificates and degrees earned by adult ed/esl students in 2014. [Source: SBCTC]
 - I-BEST students earn an average of 4.5 SAI points per student - more than any other student type we know of in the system [Source: SBCTC]
- Scale:
 - Enhanced 1.75 funding;
 - Opportunity Grant funding that can fund student tuition, books, and some other fees up to 45 credits in a high-wage, high-demand field;
 - Incentives in SAI for students who begin in basic skills and earn points as they move toward completion;
 - Professional development for faculty;
 - A \$5 million dollar earmark for I-BEST that is now permanently rolled into the general budget;
- Return on Investment:
 - For students, 12.4%. For taxpayers, 4.1% [Source: SBCTC] See page 2 of handout.

For Pierce College:

Three-year Student Achievement points for ABE, ESL, GED, I-BEST, and all basic skills students			
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
# of Students	644	660	544
BasicSkillsGain Points	905	893	723
15ClvlCr Points	110	122	112
30ClvlCr Points	58	58	64
QuantCourse Points	8	14	12
Total Points	1348	1422	1238
# of Students	882	857	673
BasicSkillsGain Points	1411	1321	955
15ClvlCr Points	12	18	6
30ClvlCr Points	8	2	6
QuantCourse Points	6	2	0
Total Points	1637	1549	1141
# of Students	112	96	81
BasicSkillsGain Points	79	90	75
15ClvlCr Points	24	30	26
30ClvlCr Points	14	12	18
QuantCourse Points	2	4	0
Total Points	185	215	157
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
# of Students	119	108	103
BasicSkillsGain Points	286	277	207
15ClvlCr Points	115	101	96
30ClvlCr Points	73	51	70
QuantCourse Points	2	6	0
Total Points	677	586	526



Washington's Community and Technical Colleges Investments in I-BEST Programs: A Cost Benefit to Students and Society

The Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges January 2013 Return on Investment Study analysis of the nationally recognized Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST) programs found that the investment of time and money returns a good fiscal yield.

The study looked at the return on investment (ROI) from a purely cost/benefit analysis and focused on the annual rate of return (ARR). It did not attempt to compare I-BEST to traditional basic skills or any other program or investment. It is a pure look at whether this "investment" of time and money returns a good yield.

The study used net present value for final calculations that allowed analysis in today's dollars. (In other words, it discounted future earnings by an inflation index.) This is the most conservative approach. The analysis concluded:

- **I-BEST Tipping Point Completers* gain an annual return on investment of 12.4% per year, more than 3 times greater than a traditional investment, reflecting substantial increases in students' earnings.**

Cost to the Student Completer	
Tuition (minus weighted average aid package)	\$1,117
Books	\$1,000
Fees	\$300
Foregone Wages	\$16,197
Total Student Costs	\$18,614
Benefits to the Student Completer	
Wage Gains	\$2,310
Income years at a higher wage	35
Total Lifetime Wage Gains (Net Present Value**)	\$79,833
Return on Investment (ROI)	329%
Annual Rate of Return (ARR)	12.4%
Pay Back Period (in years)	8.1

- **Financial benefits to taxpayers are equal to traditional investments and reflect higher tax receipts and lower social costs.**

Cost to the State Taxpayer per I-BEST Completer	
Enrollment Support (direct and indirect state costs of Instruction)	\$4,396
Financial Aid Support (state sources only)	\$2,883
Total State Taxpayer Costs	\$7,279
Benefit to the State Taxpayer	
Annual Tax Receipts from Higher Net Wage	\$289
Lower Annual Social Costs (health, criminal justice, etc.)	12%
Years at Higher Net Wage and Lower Social costs	35
Total Lifetime Taxpayer Benefits (Net Present Value)	\$10,374
Return on Investment (ROI)	42.5%
Annual Rate of Return (ARR)	4.1%
Pay Back Period (in years)	24.2

Since the Integrated Basic and Skills Training (I-BEST) program was created by Washington's community and technical college system in 2005, it has demonstrated powerful results for I-BEST students, who gain the skills that meet the demands of local employers and move families into the middle class.

*The model assumes a Tipping Point completer within two years of starting, who is receiving state-funded financial aid.

** Includes deflation calculation.