A Statistical Look at The Excel Center: Exploring Excel Center Data and Research

Dan Scott
Director of Corporate Impact & Analytics
Goodwill Education Initiatives
A History of Excel Center Research

2014
Ball State (Dr. Hicks) Study
Research focus on the first 3 years of graduates and what their return on investment (ROI) was for the state

2017
2017 CEEP Study
Updated findings from the Dr. Hicks study and included post-secondary participation

2018
2018 LEO (Notre Dame) Study
Impact dual-enrollments has on Excel Center outcomes

2019
2019 LEO Quasi-Control Study
Research on the long-term impact The Excel Center has compared to control groups

2018 Excel Center Report to the Nation
In December of 2018, Goodwill Education Initiatives released the first annual Excel Center Report to the Nation report. This report analyzed the combined data and outcomes from each of the Excel Centers across the country during the 2017-18 school year.

Key Findings:

- Expansion from one school in one state in Fall 2010 to 26 schools in 6 states in Fall of 2018
- 5,300 seats and over 11,000 students served during the 2017-18 school year
- 1,200 graduates last year and over 4,600 graduates since the Excel Center first opened
- 73% of graduates earned an industry certification and/or college credit

Excel Centers operating each Fall

35,000 Lives Impacted
Students served since Fall 2010
Summary of Research Findings

The Laboratory for Economic Opportunities (LEO – based out of the University of Notre Dame) is currently examining the long-term outcomes of Excel Center graduates compared to a quasi-control group.

Previous Research Findings:

- 38% of Excel Center graduates enroll in post-secondary education within one year of graduating (2017 CEEP study)
- $793.60 average Public Assistance savings per graduate – not including any HUD, EPA, or EDA savings (2014 Hicks study)
- 8 month (for graduates) to 34 month (for non-graduates) pay-back period for the state to receive ROI (2014 Hicks study)
- Recent state data suggests that 2017 Excel Center graduates that participate in the workforce saw a $14,000 increase in annualized wages compared to when those same students enrolled at The Excel Center
Goodwill Previous Program Participation

In 2018 LEO conducted research on the outcomes of NFP participants that also enrolled at The Excel Center. This research has since been expanded with GEI examining the impact that previous participation with a Goodwill program has on student outcomes.

Key Findings from LEO on NFP and Excel Center dual-program enrollment:
- The majority of Nurse Family Partnership referrals to The Excel Center occurred after graduating NFP
- Referrals from NFP are: **33% more likely to graduate** than students that were not referred by NFP

Key Findings from GEI analysis on other Goodwill Program participation/referrals to the Excel Center:
- Students that enroll at The Excel Center that have a previous connection to Goodwill are: **40% more likely to be retained** than students that had no previous connection to Goodwill
Future Excel Center Research

The relationship with The Excel Center and LEO (Notre Dame) continues today with ongoing research on a number of topics.

Future Topics of Research – research currently being conducted by LEO

• What is the impact of The Excel Center compared to other adult programs, adult high schools, or no future education
  • EXAMPLE: If Excel Center graduates make an average of $10,000 more per year after graduation, how much of that would have been realized if the student had earned an HSE, found employment without additional school, etc.
• How do factors such as an industry certification and post-secondary enrollment impact the outcomes of graduates
• Publication of findings after going through a peer-review process

Future Topics of Research – not yet started

• How do post-graduation outcomes for Excel Center graduates compare to Adult Basic Education (ABE) high school equivalency outcomes? How does it compare to other adult high schools?
• Long-term: how do children of Excel Center graduates perform compared to similar classmates
Analyzing self-reported data from The Excel Center students that have children

- 48% of Excel Center Students have Children

- 54% of these students are the child of a HS dropout themselves

- More than 4,600 children of Excel Center students ages 0-18 – per year
GEI Excel Center Stats – Generational Impact

Analyzing self-reported data from The Excel Center students that have children

**College-bound Graduates**
- 48% of graduates enroll in college
- 65% are the first generation in their family to go to college

**Career-bound Graduates**
- 78% are employed or in college
- $17,000 average wage increase of those participating in the workforce

73% report an increase in their children’s academics
The statistics below reflect self-reported hardships by students that enroll at The Excel Center. Beyond education, Excel Center students face a wealth of challenges and external pressures; the data below attempts to quantify some of those.

**Previous Education Struggles**
- 8 schools on avg. attended grades 7-12
- 2.8 years of prior high school before dropping out
- 66% out-of-school 12 months or more

**Financial Struggles**
- 46% have no bank account
- 48% carry credit card or similar debt
- 10% have had utility interruptions in the last 6 months

**Employment Challenges**
- 19% employed full-time
- $8,000 avg. annual earnings per student
- 83% are unemployed or receive public assistance
QUESTIONS

Dan Scott
Director of Corporate Impact & Analytics
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dscott@goodwilleducation.org