

November 2024

Delta Health Alliance

Student Outcomes of Indianola Promise Community
Public High Schools in Mississippi



Prepared by Mississippi State University's NSPARC

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Mississippi's Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) is one of the most comprehensive systems in the country and includes administrative records from more than 25 education, workforce, and human service agencies in the state. The SLDS allows for the alignment of multiple sources of de-identified administrative data over time to evaluate educational or workforce strategies in terms of real outcomes, such as entrance into employment, wages, and skill gains.

PREPARED BY MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY'S NSPARC

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REQUEST

Delta Health Alliance (DHA) requested summary information on the outcomes of high school students attending Indianola Promise Community (IPC) public schools. The request is to examine the educational performance of these students while in high school, as well as their postsecondary enrollment, employment, and public assistance usage after graduating or dropping out. The IPC program, launched by DHA in Academic Year (AY) 2014, serves students at Gentry High School and Robert L. Merritt Junior High School in Sunflower County.

DHA also requested that the outcomes of students from IPC schools be compared to those from a comparison group of students from other regional public high schools that were not served by the IPC. School districts in the following Mississippi counties were requested to be included in the comparison group: Bolivar, Coahoma, Humphreys, Issaquena, Leflore, Quitman, Sharkey, Tallahatchie, Tunica, and Washington (excluding Leland and Hollandale school districts that belong to the Deer Creek Promise Community).

The request focuses on high school students who enrolled in 9th grade between AY2008 and AY2016, 10th grade between AY2009 and AY2017, 11th grade between AY2010 and AY2018, and 12th grade between AY2011 and AY2019.

The following summary information was requested for IPC school students and those from the comparison group:

- Performance on the Algebra I and English II subject area tests between AY2014 and AY2019.
- Chronic absenteeism in any academic year between AY2014 and AY2019.
- For those graduating with a traditional diploma, enrollment in postsecondary institutions within one year of graduation.
- For high school graduates with a traditional diploma who did not enroll in a postsecondary institution within one year of graduation, employment in Mississippi within one year of graduation.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits receipt within one year of graduation or dropping out.

STATED PURPOSE

To provide information on high school student outcomes in IPC public school districts and surrounding school districts to support DHA's evaluation of the IPC program.

METHODOLOGY

DATA

Data for this study came from Mississippi's State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), which includes administrative records from more than 25 state agencies. Data from the following SLDS data contributors were used:

Mississippi Department of Education – Data from Mississippi's public schools are contributed to the SLDS by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE). These data include information on enrollment, school, grade, course, and graduation.

National Student Clearinghouse – Data on postsecondary enrollment nationwide are contributed to the SLDS by MDE. National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) data include information on public high school graduates' enrollment status in all Mississippi public and private postsecondary institutions and out-of-state public and private postsecondary institutions.

Mississippi Department of Employment Security – Employer wage records are contributed to the SLDS by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES). Employer wage records are collected from Mississippi employers that participate in the state's covered employment system. Data fields include information on quarterly earnings, company of employment, industry of employment, and county location of employer.

Mississippi Community Colleges – Data on community college students are contributed to the SLDS by Mississippi's 15 community colleges and the Mississippi Community College Board (MCCB). These data include information on enrollment, county of residence, academic major, and graduation.

Mississippi Public Universities – Data on 4-year public university students are contributed to the SLDS by Mississippi's eight public universities and the Institutions for Higher Learning (IHL). These data include information on enrollment, county of residence, academic major, and graduation.

Mississippi Public Assistance Data– Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit records come from the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS). These data provide information on the benefits received by individuals, county of residence, and the period when benefits were received.

MEASURES

Performance Level for Subject Area Tests – The number and percentage of public high school students achieving either “Proficient” or “Advanced” on Algebra I and English II tests.

Chronic Absenteeism – The number and percentage of public high school students with 18 or more absences in any academic year for any reason.

High School Graduates – The number of public high school graduates who obtained a traditional diploma between AY2014 and AY2019.

High School Dropouts – The number of public high school student dropouts between AY2014 and AY2019, determined by considering the latest dropout record for each student. Students who re-enrolled in high school after dropping out were not included.

Postsecondary Enrollment of High School Graduates – The number and percentage of public high school graduates who enrolled in a postsecondary institution (i.e., any 2-year or 4-year public or private institution inside or outside of Mississippi) within one year of graduation. Postsecondary enrollment status was identified using National Student Clearinghouse data and administrative records from Mississippi’s community colleges and public universities.

Employment of High School Graduates – The number and percentage of public high school graduates who did not enroll in a postsecondary institution (i.e., any 2-year or 4-year public or private institution inside or outside of Mississippi) within one year of high school graduation and were employed by a covered Mississippi employer within one year of high school graduation.

High School Graduates Receiving Public Assistance Benefits – Among high school graduates who did not enroll in a postsecondary institution or work for a covered Mississippi employer, the number and percentage who received SNAP benefits, within one year of graduation.

High School Dropouts Receiving Public Assistance Benefits – The number and percentage of high school dropouts who did not work for a covered Mississippi employer and received SNAP benefits within one year of dropping out.

TREATMENT AND COMPARISON GROUPS

DHA requested that the student pool includes students from the following grades and academic years:

- (1) Those who enrolled in 9th grade between AY2008 and AY2016;
- (2) Those who enrolled in 10th grade between AY2009 and AY2017;
- (3) Those who enrolled in 11th grade between AY2010 and AY2018;
- (4) Those who enrolled in 12th grade between AY2011 and AY2019.

To isolate the impact of the IPC program from other factors, DHA also requested that a quasi-experimental design be employed to match students in schools served by the IPC program (i.e., the treatment group) with students from school districts in the region who share similar characteristics and educational performance prior to the program's launch in AY2014 (i.e., the comparison group). Propensity score matching was used to create treatment and comparison groups using the following variables: race, gender, disability status, 7th-grade MCT2 test performance, 9th-grade entry year, and receipt of public assistance in AY2013.

Treatment Group – Comprised of high school students from the student pool (see above) who were enrolled in an IPC public high school between AY2014 and AY2019. To ensure the treatment group was only exposed to the IPC public high school intervention during the study period, the analysis focused on students who either remained enrolled in the IPC public high schools through 12th grade or dropped out between AY2014 and AY2019. Students who transferred from IPC public schools to non-IPC schools during this period were excluded from the analysis. Initially, the treatment group included 860 IPC high school students matched to MDE student records prior to propensity score matching. After matching, the treatment group consists of 788 high school students.

Comparison Group – Comprised of high school students from the student pool (see above) who were enrolled in a select set of public schools within surrounding school districts between AY2014 and AY2019. The surrounding school districts (referred to as comparison school districts in this study) include those in Bolivar, Coahoma, Humphreys, Issaquena, Leflore, Quitman, Sharkey, Tallahatchie, Tunica, and Washington counties (excluding Leland and Hollandale school districts). To ensure the comparison group was only exposed to the comparison public high schools during the study period, the analysis focused on students who either remained enrolled in the comparison public high schools through 12th grade or dropped out between AY2014 and AY2019. Students who transferred from comparison school districts to other districts between AY2014 and AY2019 were excluded from the analysis. Initially, the comparison group pool included 11,191 public high school students that were matched to MDE student records prior to propensity score matching. After matching, the comparison group pool includes 3,907 public high school students.

DATA SUPPRESSION

In accordance with SLDS Rules and Regulations, numeric values less than 10 are suppressed along with the accompanying percentages. These suppressed values are replaced with the "<10" symbol, and the accompanying percent is replaced with the "--" symbol. Additionally, information calculated using MDE data is suppressed if the percentage is either less than 5% or greater than 95%. Suppressed values are replaced with the "<5.0" and ">95.0" symbols, respectively, and the accompanying numeric values are replaced with the "--" symbol.

RESULTS

SECTION 1: SELECTION OF TREATMENT AND COMPARISON GROUPS

**TABLE 1. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS
BEFORE PROPENSITY SCORE MATCHING**

Variables	Treatment Group			Comparison Group		
	Denominator	Numerator	Percent	Denominator	Numerator	Percent
Gender						
Male	860	408	47.4	11,191	5,312	47.5
Female	860	452	52.6	11,191	5,879	52.5
Race						
Black	860	--	>95.0	11,191	10,246	91.6
White	860	--	<5.0	11,191	807	7.2
Other races	860	--	<5.0	11,191	--	<5.0
Disability Status						
Has disability	860	56	6.5	11,191	852	7.6
No disability	860	804	93.5	11,191	10,339	92.4
9th Grade Entry Year						
Before AY2014	860	438	50.9	11,191	5,869	52.4
AY2014 and later	860	422	49.1	11,191	5,322	47.6
MCT2 Language Arts Test in 7th Grade						
Less than proficient	802	457	57.0	10,262	5,721	55.7
Proficient or above	802	345	43.0	10,262	4,541	44.3
MCT2 Math Test in 7th Grade						
Less than proficient	802	375	46.8	10,255	5,012	48.9
Proficient or above	802	427	53.2	10,255	5,243	51.1
SNAP Benefits Receipt in AY2013						
Receipt	860	532	61.9	11,191	6,497	58.1
Non-receipt	860	328	38.1	11,191	4,694	41.9

**TABLE 2. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS
AFTER PROPENSITY SCORE MATCHING**

Variables	Treatment Group			Comparison Group		
	Denominator	Numerator	Percent	Denominator	Numerator	Percent
Gender						
Male	788	375	47.6	3,907	1,863	47.7
Female	788	413	52.4	3,907	2,044	52.3
Race						
Black	788	--	>95.0	3,907	--	>95.0
White	788	--	<5.0	3,907	--	<5.0
Other races	788	--	<5.0	3,907	--	<5.0
Disability Status						
Has disability	788	47	6.0	3,907	213	5.5
No disability	788	741	94.0	3,907	3,694	94.5
9th Grade Entry Year						
Before AY2014	788	388	49.2	3,907	1,923	49.2
AY2014 and later	788	400	50.8	3,907	1,984	50.8
MCT2 Language Arts Test in 7th Grade						
Less than proficient	788	450	57.1	3,907	2,234	57.2
Proficient or above	788	338	42.9	3,907	1,673	42.8
MCT2 Math Test in 7th Grade						
Less than proficient	788	369	46.8	3,907	1,838	47.0
Proficient or above	788	419	53.2	3,907	2,069	53.0
SNAP Benefits Receipt in AY2013						
Receipt	788	496	62.9	3,907	2,458	62.9
Non-receipt	788	292	37.1	3,907	1,449	37.1

SECTION 2: ANALYSIS OUTCOMES

TABLE 3. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Outcomes	Treatment Group			Comparison Group		
	Denominator ¹	Numerator ²	Percent	Denominator ¹	Numerator ²	Percent
Performance on Selected Subject Area Tests						
Proficient or above for Algebra I	448	105	23.4	2,069	509	24.6
Proficient or above for English II	578	152	26.3	2,862	820	28.7
Chronic Absenteeism						
Between AY2014 and AY2019	788	397	50.4	3,907	1,608	41.2

¹ The denominator for "Performance on Selected Subject Area Tests" is the number of high school students who took the corresponding subject area test between AY2014 and AY2019.

² The numerator for "Chronic Absenteeism" represents the number of high school students with 18 or more absences for any reason in any academic year between AY2014 and AY2019. This results in a percentage of students with chronic absenteeism that is higher than the annual average. The average annual percentage of students with chronic absenteeism from AY2014 to AY2019 is 30.3% for the treatment group and 25.7% for the comparison group.

TABLE 4. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES OUTCOMES

Outcomes	Treatment Group			Comparison Group		
	Denominator ¹	Numerator	Percent	Denominator ¹	Numerator	Percent
Postsecondary Enrollment²	640	546	85.3	3,454	2,826	81.8
Employed³	94	56	59.6	628	372	59.2

¹ For "Postsecondary Enrollment", the denominator is the number of high school graduates from AY2014 to AY2019 in each group. For "Employed", the denominator is the number of graduates in each group who did not enroll in a postsecondary institution within one year of graduation.

² Postsecondary enrollment among graduates is measured within one year of graduation.

³ Employment outcomes among graduates are measured within one year of graduation.

TABLE 5. OUTCOMES ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BENEFITS

Outcomes	Treatment Group			Comparison Group		
	Denominator ¹	Numerator	Percent	Denominator ¹	Numerator	Percent
High School Graduates Receiving SNAP Benefits	38	21	55.3	256	143	55.9
High School Dropouts Receiving SNAP Benefits	28	23	82.1	47	30	63.8

¹ The denominator for SNAP receipt among high school graduates is the number of high school graduates who neither enrolled in a postsecondary institution nor were employed by a covered Mississippi employer within one year of graduation. The denominator for SNAP receipt among high school dropouts is the number of high school dropouts who were not employed by a covered Mississippi employer within one year of dropping out.



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