

Education Economists Find IRRE's Approach to Improving Graduation Rates the Most Cost Effective

Dr. Henry Levin is William H Kilpatrick Professor of Economics and Education and Co-Director of the Center for Benefit-Cost Studies in Education at Teachers College, Columbia University. In their 2006 report, he and his colleagues examined the cost effectiveness of evidence-based approaches (pre-K through high school) to improving graduation rates.

Dr. Levin and his colleagues describe the following accomplishments by IRRE and its school and district partners:

- IRRE's was the only high school intervention that met the authors' criteria for significantly improving graduation rates in economically disadvantaged communities
- For each 100 students in these schools, 16 more students graduated who would not have graduated otherwise
- The expenditures of public dollars on implementing this approach would be recouped several times over due to the additional graduates' productivity and social integration
- The net Return on Investment (ROI) for IRRE's approach was 254%

Reference: Henry Levin, Clive Belfield, Peter Muennig, and Cecilia Rouse (2006). *The Costs and Benefits of an Excellent Education for All of America's Children*. New York: Teachers College, Columbia University.