

A large scale, systematic analysis of research found that coherent, content rich curriculum is probably the single largest factor affecting levels of achievement in school. By itself, curriculum can alter a school's academic trajectory. Enormous benefits accrue to students who attend a school that can guarantee that certain important agreed-upon content and literacy skills are actually taught.

Marzano, 2003; DuFour & Marzano, 2011

Researchers from the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard estimated that in 4th and 5th grade math, switching to a top ranked textbook would translate to student achievement gains of 3.6 percentile points – larger than the improvement of a typical teacher's effectiveness in their first three years on the job when they are learning to teach.

Kane et al, 2016

Textbooks are relatively inexpensive and tend to be similarly priced. The implication is that the marginal cost of choosing a more effective textbook over a less effective alternative is essentially zero.

Koedel & Polikoff, 2017

The average cost-effectiveness ratio of switching to higher-quality curriculum was almost 40 times that of class-size reduction.

Boser, Chingos & Straus, 2015

That instructional materials exercise their influence on learning directly as well as by influencing teachers' instructional choices and behavior, makes instructional materials all the more important.

Chingos & Whitehurst, 2012

Curriculum implementation, with its myriad decisions, is easy to do poorly. Most professional learning programs that achieved positive impacts on students learning included aligned instructional materials alongside the professional learning.

Gallagher, 2016; Instruction Partners, 2017

Quality instructional materials have the greatest positive impact on students who have less effective teachers. This is of critical importance in a country where historically disadvantaged populations of students are more likely to be assigned weaker teachers.

Cowan, Goldhaber, & Theobald, 2017; Jackson & Marakin, 2017

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