Overcoming Pandemic Learning Loss

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Pandemic learning loss

Solution is known
It’s just a want of $

City of Chicago
The New York Times

U.S. Students’ Progress Stagnated Last School Year, Study Finds

Despite billions in federal aid, students are not making up ground in reading and math: “We are actually seeing evidence of backsliding.”
Pros:
1. Same types of students tested every year
2. Same type of test every year

Cons:
1. National data (not specific to Chicago)
NAEP LTT Age 13 Reading Scores Relative to 2012: 1990-2023

Source: AEI
NAEP LTT Age 13 Math Scores Relative to 2012: 1990-2023

Highest-performing students

Lowest-performing students

Source: AEI
This will have lasting impacts (not a short-term blip...)

Dropout odds increase...
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Dropout odds increase...\textbf{4x} If can’t read at grade level by 3\textsuperscript{rd} grade

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**Dropout odds increase...**

- If can’t read at grade level by 3rd grade: **4x**
- If don’t pass 9th grade required math (algebra): **5x**

Lost lifetime income from lost half a year of school...

Hispanic students

$104,313

Black students

$102,014

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), 2009-2019; Oreopoulos (2006)
Lost lifetime income from lost half a year of school...

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Educational inequality = Future income inequality

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), 2009-2019; Oreopoulos (2006)
For the rest of the city: More violent crime in the future

0.5 year of lost education  →  14% increase in homicide rate  →  85 more murders per year, every year
For the rest of city: More violent crime in the future

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Not fixing pandemic learning loss guarantees that gun violence remains our #1 concern 10 years in the future

Crime and safety are the top issues for nearly half of Chicago voters

Crime Tops Chicago Voters' List of Issues in Mayoral Race, Poll Shows

Source: Lochner and Moretti (2004), NBC Chicago (2023); WBEZ Chicago (2023)
Two most important predictors of city economic growth
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We already know the **pedagogical** solution.
“And I’d like to challenge all of our district leaders to set a goal of giving every child that fell behind during the pandemic at least 30 minutes per day, three times per week, with a well-trained tutor…”

– Miguel Cardona, Secretary of Education
“This is a rare opportunity. Research doesn’t often supply significant evidence that points to the promise of a specific academic intervention.

Yet, findings over several years show strongly positive effects of tutoring across grade levels and subject areas ranging from half a year to more than a year of learning over one academic year of tutoring. Often, these results are based on studies of students who are far behind grade level.

– Becky Pringle, NEA President
Current federal $ not enough to solve this problem
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Funding more tutoring should be everyone’s priority
Funding more tutoring should be everyone’s priority

Federal government
Funding more tutoring should be *everyone’s* priority.
Funding more tutoring should be everyone’s priority

Federal government

State government

Local philanthropy
Thank You

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Learn more at educationlab.uchicago.edu