

What Works Clearinghouse



Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program

Effectiveness¹

No studies of the *Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program* that fall within the scope of the Dropout Prevention review protocol meet What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) evidence standards. The lack of studies meeting WWC evidence standards means that, at this time, the WWC is unable to draw any conclusions based on research about the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of the *Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program*.

Program Description²

The *Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program* offers secondary school students who are considered at risk of dropping out the opportunity to serve as tutors in elementary schools. By having these at-risk students serve as tutors, the program aims to improve their basic academic skills and self-esteem, with the goal of keeping them enrolled in school. Participants tutor elementary school students four days a week during regular school hours

and receive minimum wage for their efforts. Once a week, they attend a class that teaches tutoring, reading, and problem-solving skills. In addition, participants go on field trips to educational sites and professional settings. They also attend sessions led by adults who have been successful in their careers and are from backgrounds that are similar to those of the students.

The WWC identified four studies of the *Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program* that were published or released between 1988 and 2008.

One study is within the scope of the review protocol but does not meet WWC evidence standards. This study did not establish that the comparison group was comparable to the treatment group prior to the start of the intervention.

One study is out of the scope of the review protocol because it has an ineligible study design. This study does not use a comparison group.

Two studies are out of the scope of the review, as defined by the Dropout Prevention protocol, for reasons other than study design. One study did not include an outcome within a domain specified in the protocol, and one study did not present primary research.

1. The studies in this report were reviewed using WWC Evidence Standards, Version 2.0 (see the WWC Procedures and Standards Handbook, Chapter III).
2. The descriptive information for this program was obtained from publicly available sources: the program's website (http://www.idra.org/Coca-Cola_Valued_Youth_Program.html, downloaded February 2009), Robledo (1990), and Rhodes (2007). The WWC requests developers to review the program description sections for accuracy from their perspective. Further verification of the accuracy of the descriptive information for this program is beyond the scope of this review.

References Studies that fall outside the Dropout Prevention review protocol or do not meet evidence standards

Cárdenas, J. A., Robledo Montecel, M., Supik, J. D., & Harris, R. J. (1992). *Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program: Dropout prevention strategies for at-risk students*. *Texas Researcher*, 3, 111–130. The study does not meet WWC evidence standards because it uses a quasi-experimental design in which the analytic intervention and comparison groups are not shown to be equivalent.

Additional source:

Robledo, M. (1990). *Partners for Valued Youth: Dropout prevention strategies for at-risk language minority students*. Final technical report. San Antonio, TX: Intercultural Development Research Association.

Cárdenas, J. A., Sosa, A., Johnson, C., & Johnson, R. L. (1988). *Valued Youth Partnership dropout prevention: 1984–88 program results*. San Antonio, TX: Intercultural Developmental Research Association. The study is ineligible for review because it does not use a comparison group.

Rhodes, H. (2007). Confronting the challenges of student engagement: A case study of a school-based intervention. The Pardee RAND Graduate School; 1492 Advisor: Mark Spranca. *Dissertation Abstracts International*, 68(02A), 177–469. The study is ineligible for review because it does not include an outcome within a domain specified in the protocol.

Slavin, R. E., & Fashola, O. S. (1998). *Show me the evidence!: Proven and promising programs for America's schools*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press. This study is ineligible for review because it is not a primary analysis of the effectiveness of an intervention, such as a meta-analysis or research literature review.