



Do Technology Vouchers Affect K-12 Student Achievement? Evidence From California's K-12 Technology Voucher Program

Brittany Bass, UC Irvine
Emerging Scholars Award Winner

Over the past 20 years, educational technology in schools has substantially increased, and by the end of 2015, the US spent nearly \$4.7 billion on instructional technology in K-12 schools. Proponents of providing more technology to schools hope that additional access will help close some achievement gaps. Ms. Bass sheds light on whether technology in schools affects student achievement by exploiting the California Education Technology K-12 Voucher Program. The results suggest that despite an increase in spending on technology-related activities, and an increase in the number of classrooms per school with internet, the voucher program significantly decreased elementary students' math and English test scores. The program also had a negative impact on middle schoolers' math and English test scores. Given the substantial spending on instructional technology and efforts by education officials in the US to integrate technology into K-12 public schools, the results of this study should be carefully considered when deciding to implement technology in K-12 classrooms.



Brittany Bass is a PhD candidate in Economics at the University of California, Irvine. Her research focuses on estimating the effect of state mandated school-based sex education on teenage sexual behaviors and health, the effect of a paid parental leave scheme in Australia on the mothers' labor market outcomes, and more recently, the effect of technology in schools on student achievement. Brittany has been awarded grants for her research from the Economic and Self-Sufficiency Policy Research Institute, and UC Irvine. She earned her BS in Business Administration the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, and her MA in Economics from San Diego State University.

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UC Center Sacramento
1130 K Street Room LL2
Sacramento, CA 95814

For questions contact Brooke Miller-Jacob at (916) 445-5161 or bmmillerjacobs@ucdavis.edu

Register by November 5th at:
uccs.ucdavis.edu/events
Lunch will be served