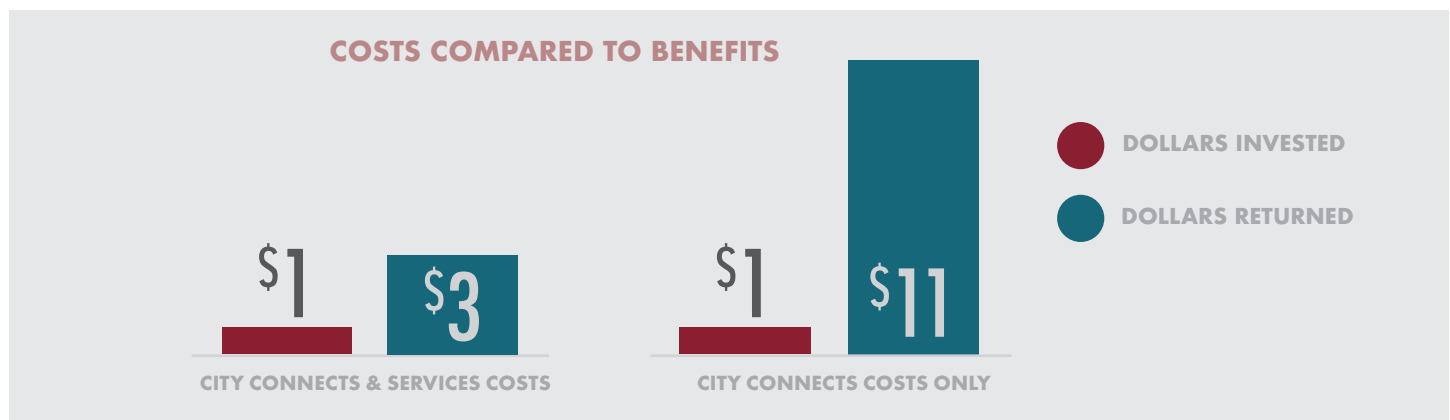


Research Brief

THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT OF CITY CONNECTS

THE MARY E. WALSH CENTER FOR THRIVING CHILDREN

The Center for Benefit Cost Studies in Education has analyzed the return on investment of the City Connects system of integrated student support by comparing benefits to costs.



The same study found that comparing the cost of City Connects implementation alone to the benefits it generates, society accrues **\$11 for every \$1** invested in City Connects.

Including the cost of implementing City Connects and the costs of the comprehensive services to which children and families get connected - such as food, clothing, after school programs, medical care, mental health counseling, and family services - researchers found that it produces **\$3 in benefits for every \$1** invested across all sectors. This means that if City Connects were widely implemented, existing investments in children and families could be producing triple the benefits.



Translating the findings

A follow up study sought to understand the relationship between what traditional schools spend on student support to produce current outcomes and how that compares to the cost and benefits of implementing City Connects' system of integrated student support. The research suggests that City Connects offers greater economic efficiency compared to traditional student support models by leveraging community partnerships and streamlining services.

Through the City Connects model of integrated student support, children are systematically paired with tailored services and supports based on strengths, needs, and interests. The study findings indicate that, on average, a City Connects Coordinator was able to accrue an **additional \$5,400 in services per child** from community partners that was used to enhance student well-being and school readiness over students' elementary school years, leading to improved outcomes.



References

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