

RESEARCH BRIEF

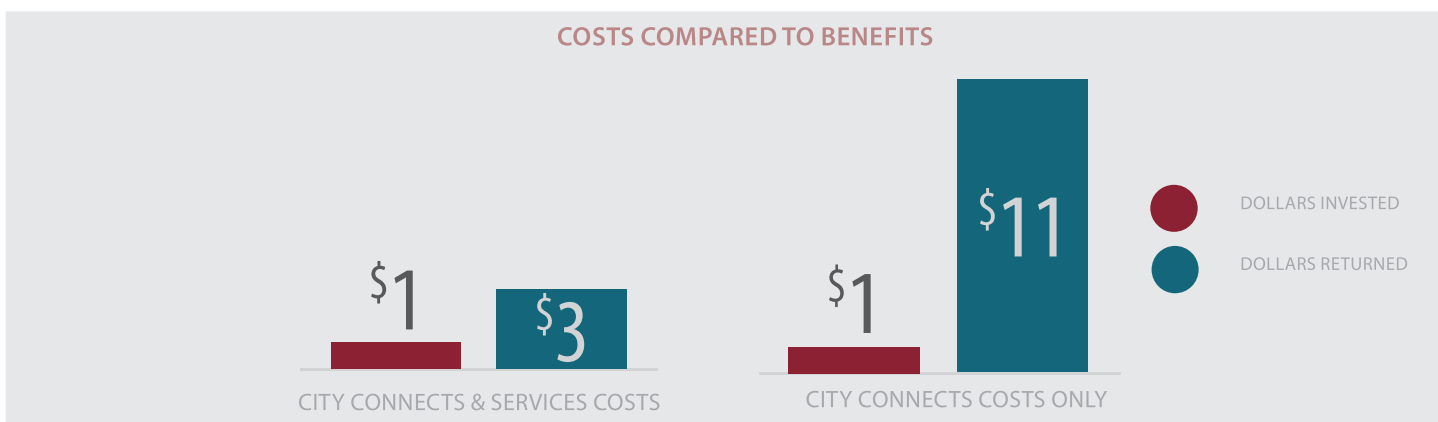
THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT OF CITY CONNECTS

BOSTON COLLEGE CENTER FOR OPTIMIZED STUDENT SUPPORT

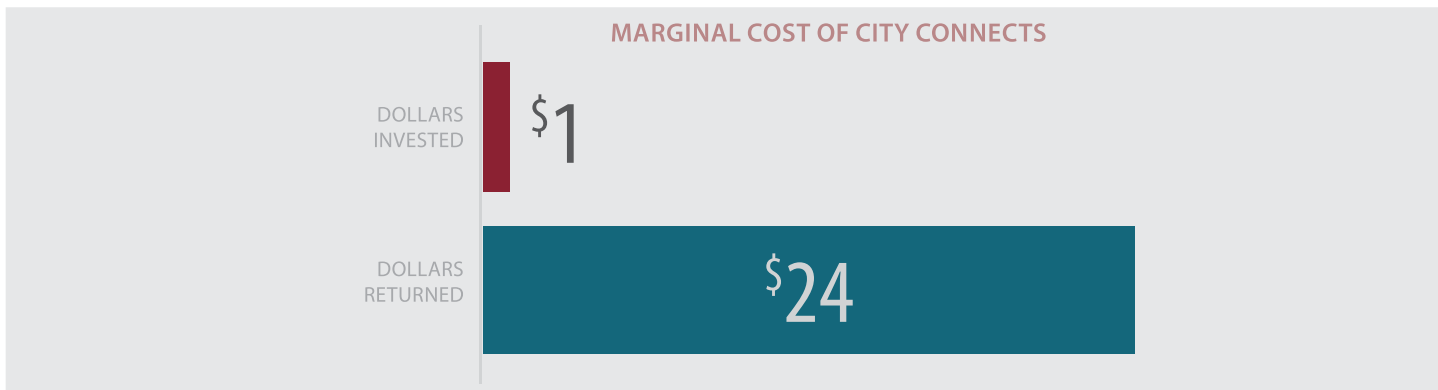
The Center for Benefit Cost Studies of Education at Columbia University's Teachers College has analyzed the return on investment of the City Connects system of integrated student support by comparing benefits to costs.

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.

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.



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 small marginal cost of implementing City Connects yields approximately **\$24 in benefits for every additional dollar invested**.



CITATION:

Bowden, A., Belfield, C. R., Levin, H. M., Shand, R., Wang, A., & Morales, M. (2015). A Benefit-Cost Analysis of City Connects (Rep.). Center for Benefit-Cost Studies in Education. Retrieved from <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/583b86882e69cfc61c6c26dc/t/58cfdcb1b631bf52d377cd8/1490017468049/CityConnects.pdf>
Bowden, A., Muroga, A., Wang, A., Shand, R., & Levin, H. M. (2018). Examining Systems of Student Support (Rep.). Center for Benefit-Cost Studies in Education. Retrieved https://static1.squarespace.com/static/583b86882e69cfc61c6c26dc/t/5bc4d8d4e4966bc550288a1c/1539627225062/Bowden_et_al_ESSS_2018.pdf

The mission of the Center for Optimized Student Support is to design, implement, and evaluate ways to address the out-of-school factors impacting student learning and thriving in schools.

Mary E. Walsh, Ph.D. Executive Director, Kearns Professor of Urban Education & Innovative Leadership
LYNCH SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



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