

COSTS SAVED WITH POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS (PBIS)

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PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

While preventive efforts like PBIS are associated with significant impacts on student outcomes, oftentimes cost data are overlooked by administrative decision-makers. The goal of this study is to highlight the immediate and long-term cost savings associated with state-wide implementation of PBIS.



WHAT IS PBIS?

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a ***multi-tiered prevention framework that builds systems and structures to support the implementation of evidence-based practices, which are monitored and adapted through data-based decision-making.***

PBIS aims to promote positive student behavior by improving school climate and reducing discipline problems.

WHY IS PBIS IMPORTANT?

When implemented at school-wide and state-wide levels, PBIS has demonstrated **significant effects across multiple student behavioral, social emotional, and academic outcomes, a reduction in student need for additional supports, and improvements in ratings of school climate.**

The above benefits of PBIS could provide considerable cost savings for states and schools.



DETERMINING COST SAVINGS

Total Cost savings were calculated by considering:

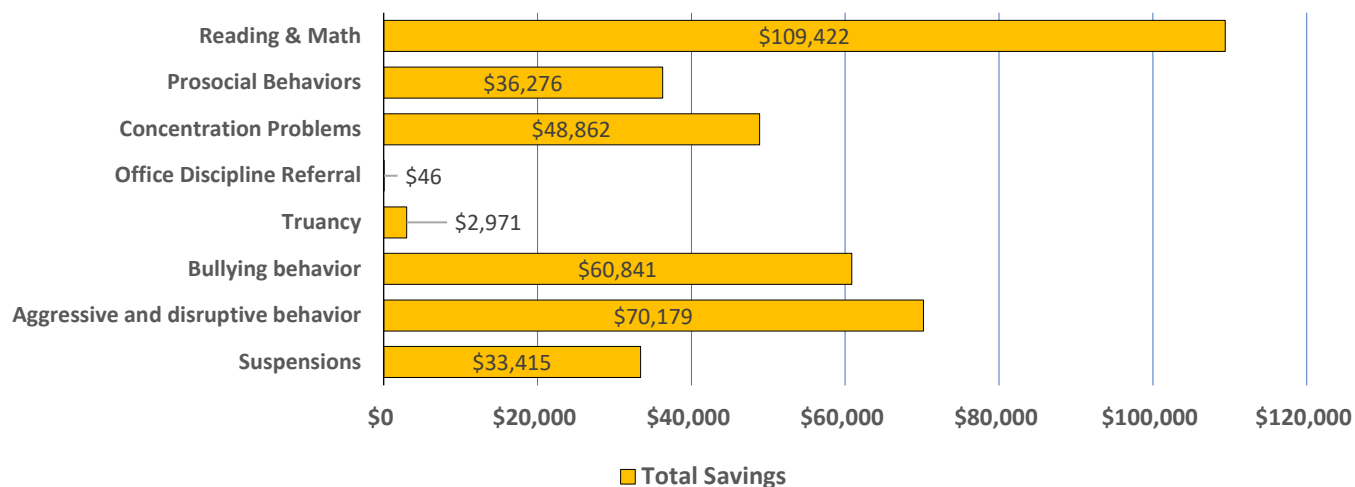
- *Effect sizes*, which show the impact of Tier 1 PBIS implementation on academic, behavioral, and mental health outcomes from previous studies.
- *Shadow costs*, which represent the cost to obtain one of the measured outcomes. For most outcomes, these accrued over a period of 8 years for elementary students and 4 years for secondary students.
- A *discount rate* of 3% to demonstrate the decreased worth of future money.

OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS

- PBIS implementation is associated with significant cost savings for schools and states across all academic, behavioral, and mental health outcomes.
- Cost savings were highest for:
 - Gains in standardized testing for reading and math for elementary and secondary students.
 - Reductions in aggressive and disruptive behaviors, and bullying behavior for elementary students.

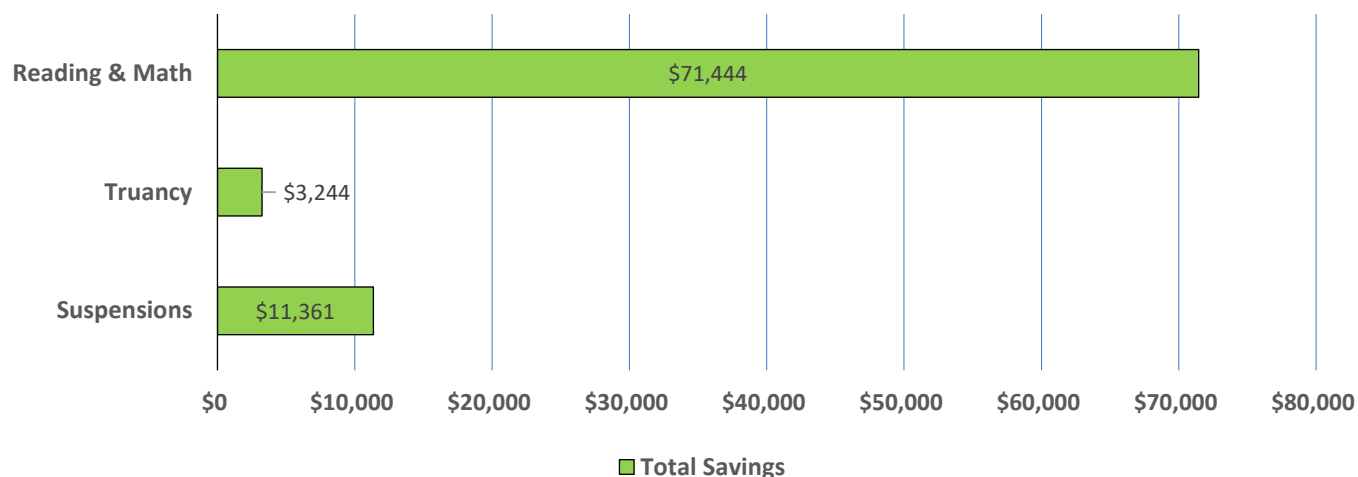
KEY FINDINGS

PBIS Benefit per 100 Students by Outcome across Elementary Schools



Significant Cost Savings: Improvements in reading & math proficiency (Total Savings = \$109,422) and reductions in aggressive and disruptive behavior (Total Savings = \$70,179), bullying behavior (Total Savings = \$60,841), suspensions (Total Savings = \$33,415), and concentration problems (Total Savings = \$48,862)

PBIS Benefit per 100 Students by Outcome across Secondary Schools



Significant Cost Savings: Improvements in reading & math proficiency (Total Savings = \$71,444) and reductions in suspensions (Total Savings = \$11,361)

IMPLICATIONS

- This study found a solid return on investment for PBIS, specifically, a net total cost savings in present value of \$368,000 per 100 students in elementary school and \$86,000 for students in secondary school.
- The potential for PBIS preventing behavioral and mental health symptoms and maximizing cost savings can benefit federal and state agencies (e.g., juvenile justice, mental health) beyond education.
- Given these savings, there is a need for increased recognition and partnership to encourage the blending of funding across agencies to support quality implementation of PBIS and other such evidence-based approaches.