
NEWSLETTER

The Effects of Teacher Professional Development on Student Achievement

By Wei, Y.

Correspondence to: Wei, Y., China Institute for Educational Finance Research, Peking University, China. Email: ywei@ciefr.pku.edu.cn

MOST of the previous empirical studies on teacher professional development mainly focused on the impacts of professional development activities on teachers themselves, while fewer analyzed the impacts on students. Based on the standardized test scores of more than 40,000 high school students in Beijing from 2016 to 2019 and the questionnaire survey data collected from about 2,000 teachers, researchers used a value-added model to examine the value-added effects of teachers on students' academic achievement, and further analyzed the effects of teachers' participation in district-level and school-based teaching research activities on students' academic achievement. The results of the study are as follows:

- The degree of participation in regular teaching and researching activities district-level on average, feathered teaching and researching activities, and activities related to effective professional development elements have a significant positive relationship with the value-added of students' achievement.
- Generally speaking, the average degree of participation in school-based teaching and researching activities, formal and informal exchanges among teachers, and the value-added of students' performance have a significant positive relationship.

This research also has certain limitations. In order to accurately evaluate the impact of teachers' professional development activities on students' academic performance, and revealing the mechanism and influence path of which, hence further study should focus on specific teachers' professional development activities and relevant design considerations. In addition, students' achievement and teachers' effectiveness are affected by various factors, therefore, it is also important to combine quantitative and qualitative researches, collecting multi-dimensional teacher data, so as to more objectively evaluate the effects of teachers' participation in professional development activities on students' achievement.

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