

Remedial Education: Evidence from a Sequence of Experiments in Colombia

Samuel Berlinski – (Inter-American Development Bank))

Abstract

We assess the effectiveness of an intervention aimed at improving the reading skills of struggling elementary school students in Colombia. A group of students at risk of reading failure in randomly selected schools was allocated to small-group tutorial remedying classes during school hours for 16 weeks. The tutorials were based on structured pedagogical materials that can be easily scaled up. Through a sequence of experiments, that adjusted both the design and the intervention, we found positive and persistent impacts on literacy scores and positive spillovers on some mathematics scores. The effectiveness of the program grew over time.