TAKS-ing Students? Texas Exit Exam Effects on Human Capital Formation

Chester Polson

PII: S0272-7757(15)30198-9
DOI: 10.1016/j.econedurev.2017.09.009
Reference: ECOEDU 1745

To appear in: Economics of Education Review

Received date: 21 October 2015
Revised date: 28 September 2017
Accepted date: 29 September 2017

Please cite this article as: Chester Polson, TAKS-ing Students? Texas Exit Exam Effects on Human Capital Formation, Economics of Education Review (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.econedurev.2017.09.009

This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting proof before it is published in its final form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.
TAKS-ing Students? Texas Exit Exam Effects on Human Capital Formation

Chester Polson

The University of Texas at Austin
202-898-3628

Abstract

High-stakes exit exams are pervasive in the American education system and have the ability to affect students far beyond their earned scores.\(^1\) This paper considers how exit exams in Texas affect student motivational responses and classroom behavior before the end of high school. Employing a regression discontinuity framework, I examine the impact of failing the exam the first time it is administered. Considering behavioral responses to the administration of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), I study the impact on students’ courses taken, attendance, and disciplinary actions after the exam in the final year of high school. I find that, in line with a model of motivation with heterogeneous effects, some students who fail respond through an increase in the number of courses taken in their senior year, and find a smaller increase in disciplinary infractions.

*Keywords:* Educational Economics, Human Capital, Standardized Testing

*JEL-Classification:* I21, I24, J24

1. Introduction

The United States has a long history of using standardized testing to evaluate student knowledge. An example of this trend in educational assessment is the implementation of “exit exams,” which impose a standardized testing requirement in addition to completing traditional high school coursework in order to be awarded a high school diploma. Because these exams grant rewards for proficiency and impose penalties for sub-par achievement on both the school district and individual level, these are considered “high-stakes” exams. In 2012, 25 states had exit exams in place, placing 69 percent of students nationwide under some testing regime (Center on Education Policy (2012)). While exit exams are designed to only affect a student’s ability to obtain a high school diploma, they could conceivably affect

---

\(^1\)The research presented here uses confidential data from the State of Texas supplied by the Texas Education Research Center at The University of Texas at Austin. The author gratefully acknowledges the use of these data. The conclusions of this research do not necessarily reflect the opinion or official position of the Texas Education Research Center, the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Texas Workforce Commission, or the State of Texas. Any errors are mine. I would like to thank Sandra E. Black, Jeffrey T. Denning, Matt Farber, Peter Hinrichs, Brendan Kline, Leigh Linden, Quan Lu, Steve Trejo, and Emily Weisburst, insightful comments from anonymous referees, editorial comments from Frank Solomon, and participants at The University of Texas at Austin research seminar for their helpful comments on this research.

Preprint submitted to Elsevier October 10, 2017
دریافت فوری متن کامل مقاله

امکان دانلود نسخه تمام متن مقالات انگلیسی
امکان دانلود نسخه ترجمه شده مقالات
پذیرش سفارش ترجمه تخصصی
امکان جستجو در آرشیو جامعی از صدها موضوع و هزاران مقاله
امکان دانلود رایگان ۲ صفحه اول هر مقاله
امکان پرداخت اینترنتی با کلیه کارت های عضو شتاب
دانلود فوری مقاله پس از پرداخت آنلاین
پشتیبانی کامل خرید با بهره مندی از سیستم هوشمند رهگیری سفارشات