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What's in Your Neighborhood? The Progress of Public Neighborhood Center Schools in Dayton and Cincinnati

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What’s in Your Neighborhood? The Progress of Public Neighborhood Schools in Dayton and Cincinnati

By Danyell Lewis
Advisors: Robert A. Taft, Thomas J. Lasley

Objective

This project had three main objectives:

- Determine if Cincinnati Community Learning Centers (CLC) increased academic achievement
- If so, assess whether the program schools are analogous to the Dayton Neighborhood School Centers (NSC) Program schools
- Identify areas of improvement for NSC program based on CLC program academic success

Measures & Selection Criteria

Schools selected for comparisons based on:

- Average Poverty Level (all schools categorized as “High Poverty”)
- Demographics (groups have similar population make-up)
- CLC schools* with greatest improvement chosen
- Success measured by Performance Index (PI) Ratings

*Schools with additional services outside CLC program left out for more accurate analysis

Comparisons

- Schools in CLC program have seen academic improvement
- Due to presence of additional resources, NSC schools were compared to only CLC elementary, non-pilot schools
- PI ratings indicate a small margin of difference between the two program’s success (avg difference of 0.5)
- From 2007 to 2011, the CLC group saw an initial drop, then consistent increase in PI (range of 72-87%), whereas NSC academic success varied between 60 and 70%

Overview of Programs

- NSC, beginning in 2006, collaborates with Dayton Public Schools and the University of Dayton Fitz Center to revitalize neighborhoods by turning schools into resources the community can take advantage of, in addition to academic services (tutoring, after-school programming, etc…)
- CLC program started in 2001, is a Cincinnati Public Schools initiative to reinforce academics and create community “hubs” for family and students through local partnerships with non-profits

Figures & Diagrams

Average Change in Performance Index from 2007-2011

Dayton NCS Buildings

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<th>08-09</th>
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Cincinnati CLC Buildings

<table>
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Conclusions

- Based on PI ratings, CLC program is helping to improve academic success, but not much more than the NSC program.
- The Dayton program is analogous only to CLC Schools that did not receive extra resources
- Future investigations will include how services vary in each program and at each school building