## **Raising Graduation Rates**

For a 2007 book they edited titled *The Price We Pay*, education researchers Clive R. Belfield and Henry M. Levin analyzed evaluations of five educational "interventions" linked to improved high school graduation rates to gauge their full costs and the long-term cost savings they generated in such areas as incarceration and welfare expenses.

Intervention	Description	Extra graduates if intervention is given to 100 students	Cost per student <sup>1</sup>	Total cost per new high school graduate <sup>2</sup>	Savings per \$1 invested
Perry Preschool Program	1.8 years of a center-based program for 2.5 hours per weekday; child-to-teacher ratio of 5:1; home visits; and group meetings of parents	19	\$12,532	\$90,694	\$2.31
Project STAR: Class-Size Reduction	Four years of schooling (grades K-3) with class size reduced from 25 to 15	11	13,075	143,597	1.46
First Things First	Comprehensive school reform of small learning communities with dedicated teachers, family advocates, and instructional-improvement efforts	16	5,493	59,066	3.54
Chicago Child-Parent Center Program	Center-based preschool program: parental involvement, outreach and health/nutrition services. Based in public schools	11	4,728	67,714	3.09
Teacher-Salary Increase	10% increase in teacher salaries for all years K-12	5	2,865	82,036	2.55

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Counts the costs of delivering the intervention. <sup>2</sup>Program costs plus the induced costs from extra attainment in high school and college (\$24,735).

SOURCE: The Price We Pay