

Chapter 1. The Social and Character Development Multiprogram Evaluation

The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program was created in response to the need for rigorous evaluations of universal school-based programs designed to help schools foster positive behaviors among students (e.g., behaviors illustrating good character and social-emotional competence), reduce negative behaviors (e.g., aggression and conduct problems), and ultimately improve students' academic performance. For this evaluation, such programs were termed SACD programs, the goals they intended to promote were termed SACD goals, and the activities they employed to promote those goals were termed SACD activities.¹

The SACD Research Program built on advances in understanding the development of social competence and problem behaviors occurring in the fields of developmental, social, community, behavioral, and cognitive psychology (e.g., Damon 1999; Eisenberg 2000; Larson 2000; Seligman and Csikszentmihalyi 2000), and from intervention and evaluation research in the areas of prevention science, public health, youth development, and character education (e.g., Catalano et al. 2004; Dahlberg and Simon 2006; Emler 1996; Flay 2002). Both federal legislation (such as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001) and state legislation (Limber and Small 2003) have supported prevention and intervention programs, and the SACD Research Program sought to add to the research base underlying such efforts.

In 2003, the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) in collaboration with the Division of Violence Prevention (DVP) in the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) began the SACD Research Program to evaluate multiple school-based programs in a consistent manner. Under a competitive application process, applicants proposed programs to be evaluated as long as the programs (a) had either preliminary evidence of success or a history of previous implementation in schools, (b) aimed to influence social development and behavior outcomes, and (c) utilized a universal approach to be implemented in all elementary school classrooms. Applications submitted to IES were peer reviewed, and seven research institutions were funded under cooperative agreements for a 3-year evaluation of seven universal school-based SACD programs. At each of seven sites, one research team recruited and randomized 10 to 18 schools to either continue their current practice or implement a coherent program targeting social and behavioral outcomes. The programs employed activities to promote six SACD goals (character education, violence prevention and peace promotion, social and emotional development, tolerance and diversity, risk prevention and health promotion, and civic responsibility and community service) as well as behavior management. The programs were coherent in that their activities were integrated and logically organized based on a theory of action (that differed among the programs), school-based in that they were implemented in the schools by school personnel, and universal in that they were to be implemented for all students in all elementary classrooms.² The research institutions participating in the study and the programs evaluated included the following:

¹ The SACD evaluation examined seven SACD programs that employed SACD activities to promote behavior management and six SACD goals: (1) violence prevention and peace promotion, (2) social and emotional development, (3) character education, (4) tolerance and diversity, (5) risk prevention and health promotion, and (6) civic responsibility and community service.

² As used here, "elementary classrooms" refers to grades K-5. During the study, there were five exceptions to implementation in all elementary classrooms in the treatment schools. In Year 1 (the 2004-05 school year), all treatment schools implemented the intervention in their K-5 classrooms. In Year 2 (2005-06), one school implemented the full intervention in fourth grade only (the cohort grade that year), and one school could not implement in fifth grade because that grade had been transferred to a middle school. In Year 3 (2006-07), one school implemented the intervention in

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Research Institution	Program Evaluated
University at Buffalo, The State University of New York	<i>Academic and Behavioral Competencies Program</i> (ABC)
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	<i>Competence Support Program</i> (CSP)
Vanderbilt University	<i>Love In a Big World</i> (LBW)
Oregon State University	<i>Positive Action</i> (PA)
The Children's Institute	<i>Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies</i> (PATHS)
New York University	<i>The 4Rs Program</i> (Reading, Writing, Respect & Resolution) (4Rs)
University of Maryland	<i>Second Step</i> (SS)

In addition to conducting their own program evaluations, applicants were expected to participate in the collection of data, facilitated by an independent evaluation contractor. Under another competitive peer-review process, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (MPR) was selected to independently evaluate the seven programs.

The evaluation of the SCD programs thus occurred at both the program-specific and multiprogram level. In the program-specific studies, each research team collected data to answer questions that were specific to the program under evaluation. For example, in the program-specific studies, investigators sought to answer questions about the effects of the program on targeted proximal outcomes and about the importance of program implementation quality. Research teams designed their own studies and were expected to report their findings in the relevant literature.

For the multiprogram evaluation, an independent team from MPR assessed the effect of the seven SCD programs through an evaluation of all programs together using (1) standardized data collection for all sites; (2) a common set of descriptive measures on the types and level of SCD activities taking place at both the treatment and control schools; (3) a common set of outcome measures grouped under four outcome domains: Social and Emotional Competence, Behavior, Academics, and Perceptions of School Climate; and (4) a uniform statistical analysis. The effects of each program were also assessed separately to identify any contrasts with the overall findings across programs. The evaluation followed one cohort of third-grade students at 84 schools for 3 years through fifth grade. Initial data were collected in fall 2004, and follow-up data were collected in spring 2005, fall 2005, spring 2006, and spring 2007. In addition, four research teams added a second cohort of third-graders at 12 schools, where initial data were collected in fall 2005 and follow-up data collected in spring 2006 and spring 2007 (at the end of third and fourth grades) in order to increase sample sizes and the associated power of the program-specific analyses.

This report contains the results for the 3-year multiprogram evaluation and focuses on the first cohort of students. It details the impacts of the seven SCD programs after 1, 2, and 3 school years of implementation in the treatment schools and also estimates the effect of the programs on students' growth in social and character development over the 3 years. Chapter 1 discusses the evaluation of the seven programs when considered together as a subset of universal school-based programs that aim to affect student social development and behavior. Chapter 1 also provides summary results for each program. The seven chapters that follow detail the findings for each individual program. There are two appendixes: appendix A examines whether the addition of the smaller second cohort of students for four of the seven programs affected the results and appendix B contains additional technical information concerning the analyses.

third through fifth grades, one school implemented in fifth grade only (the cohort grade that year), and one school's fifth grade attended a middle school so it was not able to implement the intervention with its cohort grade.

Social Development and Risk Prevention

By 8 to 12 years of age, children typically have well-developed skills of self-regulation, perspective taking, emotional understanding, and caring for others. Middle childhood is also a time when children's beliefs about aggression and conflict resolution skills are developing (e.g., Samples and Aber 1998). Because these social competencies underlie many primary developmental tasks of middle childhood (e.g., development of mutual friendships), researchers predict that deficits in these social skills will likely lead to the emergence of problem behaviors.

Research points to several key intrapersonal factors that increase a child's risk for behavior problems, including children's beliefs about the acceptability of aggression (Guerra et al. 1995), lack of problem-solving skills (Slaby and Guerra 1988), attention problems and hyperactivity (Farrington 1989; Rey, Sawyer, and Prior 2005), and attribution of aggression to others' innocuous behavior (Dodge and Coie 1987). Family, peer, and community risk factors also increase the likelihood of behavior problems. These risk factors include poor parental supervision and monitoring (Gorman-Smith et al. 1996), association with aggressive peers (Farrington and Hawkins 1991; Henry, Tolan, and Gorman-Smith 2001), community disorganization (Sampson 2000), and exposure to community violence (Schwartz and Proctor 2000).

Researchers have hypothesized that programs targeting the risk factors described above will be effective in reducing problem behaviors among children. Over time, however, there has been increasing recognition that prevention efforts should not focus on risk alone but take an integrative approach to reducing risk and simultaneously fostering protective factors by developing social competence in young people (Catalano et al. 2004; Weissberg, Kumpfer, and Seligman 2003). Many protective factors that are hypothesized to promote social competence are also thought to inoculate children from developing externalizing behavior problems. Although the research literature on protective factors that relate to risk has been slow in developing, evidence suggests that socially adaptive interpersonal problem-solving (Wentzel 1991), empathy (Schultz, Izard, and Bear 2004), and parental use of positive rewards and encouragement to support appropriate behavior (Gorman-Smith et al. 2000) are related to a lower occurrence of problem behaviors, such as aggression and delinquency.

From an interventionist and public health perspective, schools are an obvious site for addressing positive youth development and prevention efforts because of universal access to children over time that, in turn, allows for efficient distribution of these efforts to a comprehensive population of youth. Elementary school is thought to be a critical time for prevention; 7 is the average age at which students start down the path of problem behavior (Thornberry, Huizinga, and Loeber 2004). Most types of antisocial behavior are already evident by third grade (Loeber and Stouthamer-Loeber 1998), and problem behaviors in childhood are predictive of violence and other antisocial behavior later in adolescence and adulthood (Moffitt 1993).

Programs that address social development and behavior are also attractive to school administrators because of the prevalence of problem behaviors that teachers perceive as interfering with their ability to teach and students' ability to learn (Mansfield et al. 1991). For example, in the 2005-06 school year, 21 percent of primary schools reported occurrences of student bullying at least once per week, 12 percent of schools reported student acts of disrespect for teachers once per week, and 28 percent of 12- to 18-year-old students reported that they had been bullied at school during the 6 months prior to the survey (Dinkes, Cataldi, and Lin-Kelly 2007). A substantial body of literature has shown that disruptive classroom behavior, conduct problems, aggression, delinquency, and substance use are associated with poor academic achievement and with a lack of student feelings of school connectedness and involvement (Bennett et al. 2003; Farrington 1989; Fors, Crepaz, and Hayes 1999; McCord et al. 2000; Najaka, Gottfredson, and Wilson 2001; O'Donnell, Hawkins, and Abbott 1995; Trzesniewski et al. 2006). On the positive side, social competencies have been linked with higher levels of achievement and school adjustment (Carlson et al. 1999; Malecki and Elliot 2002; Wentzel 1993).

One school element that has gained increasing attention in recent years is the creation of a positive school climate. Researchers have theorized that the development of a warm, caring community within a school might reduce student problem behaviors, such as aggression and bullying (Battistich et al. 1997; McEvoy and Welker 2000; Orpinas and Horne 2006); however, research directly testing this hypothesis is limited. Overall, the abundance of evidence supporting relations among social competence, problem behavior, and achievement, and the development of theories surrounding the potential effects of a positive school climate on student outcomes, has motivated the development and, in turn, evaluation of school-based programs.

Universal School-Based Social and Character Development Programs

Schools commonly use support services, intervention curricula, and discipline management strategies to promote social and character development and prevent problem behavior (Crosse et al. 2001; Gottfredson and Gottfredson 2001). Many of these programs are targeted programs; that is, they focus on addressing behavior problems for children who are at risk or for children who are already exhibiting adjustment difficulties (see Mytton et al. 2006 for a review of the effectiveness of such approaches). Alternatively, a universal approach can be taken to influence the attitudes and behaviors of all children in the general student population. Universal approaches focus on preventing problems before they occur by addressing factors that place youth at risk for problem behavior and promoting factors that foster positive youth development (Walker and Shinn 2002).

Universal school-based prevention programs have followed different theoretical traditions. Character education programs teach moral values through the curriculum and attempt to create a climate of caring and moral discipline (Lickona 1993). Social and emotional learning programs stress goal-setting, emotion identification, responsible decisionmaking, perspective-taking, and effective interpersonal skills, within a caring and engaging school climate (Greenberg et al. 2003; Stage and Quiroz 1997). Through systematic assessment and evaluation of behavior, Behavior management approaches utilize learning theory to apply strategies such as positive reinforcement, consistent schoolwide discipline, and antecedent control to minimize disruptive and aggressive behaviors and promote prosocial behaviors in all settings in the school (Kazdin 2001). Primary youth violence prevention approaches identify the individual, relationship, and environmental factors that place youth at risk for engaging in violence-related behaviors. They implement strategies that modify those risk factors, such as by changing attitudes, beliefs, behaviors, and environments, to disrupt developmental pathways to violence (e.g., through cognitive-behavioral and social skill training, changing peer group norms, and modifying school settings via teacher training and setting school administrative policies and rules; Dahlberg 1998). What each of these universal school-based approaches has in common is the desired goal of promoting students' social development and reducing engagement in problem behavior. As a group, these approaches aim to improve social and character development.

Evidence of the effectiveness of universal school-based programs to promote social and character development is mixed. Some recent meta-analyses suggest that universal school-based approaches to preventing aggressive behavior can be effective (Hahn et al. 2007; Wilson and Lipsey 2007). Other rigorous studies and meta-analyses have shown significantly positive effects on some outcomes of interest but indeterminate or non-statistically significant effects on other outcomes, no significant effects at all, and even potentially negative effects (e.g., CPPRG 1999; Grossman et al. 1997; Flannery et al. 2003, Park-Higgerson et al. 2008, Merrell et al. 2008).

In addition, some universal, school-based SCD programs have yet to be evaluated, while others have been evaluated using nonrigorous methodology, design, and analysis (e.g., small sample sizes and low statistical power, severe attrition, lack of randomization to condition, and inappropriate level of analysis). For example, at the time this report was written, the What Works Clearinghouse had reviewed 55 evaluation studies of 13 character education programs and found that two-thirds of these studies either did not meet Clearinghouse

standards or met its standards with reservations (What Works Clearinghouse, n.d.-a).³ The What Works Clearinghouse also identified 14 additional character education programs for which no evaluations were found.

Given the methodological limitations of many previously conducted studies, the mixed findings from previous rigorous evaluations, and the theoretical rationales for conducting school-based programs, researchers have called for further evaluation of prevention programs in the elementary school years to assist in our understanding of whether middle childhood is an optimal time for prevention (Tolan, Guerra, and Kendall 1995). In particular, there has been a call for more rigorous evaluation of school-based programs in which a universal approach to development and prevention is used, including random assignment to condition; documentation of control group practice; reliable, valid, and age-appropriate measures from multiple data sources; short- and long-term follow-up of students; sufficient statistical power; appropriate multilevel analyses; and exploration of mediator and moderator variables (Farrell and Camou 2006; Greenberg 2004; Weissberg, Kumpfer, and Seligman 2003).

One difficulty with interpreting the results of the existing evaluation literature has been the use of different measurement strategies to assess similar social and behavioral outcomes. That is, similar outcomes have been assessed using different measures across evaluations. Meta-analyses have been used as one approach to summarizing the effectiveness of universal programs on behavior by clustering outcomes by conceptual domains (e.g., aggression, disruptive behavior; Wilson and Lipsey 2007). Another approach, one taken by the SCD Research Program, is to use a common set of measures to evaluate multiple programs on the same outcomes of interest.

Universal SCD programs both share and differ in their structures, approaches, and theories of change. To assist in developing hypotheses and selecting measures for the multiprogram evaluation, a global conceptual model was developed within which all seven programs could be included, although none would strictly follow the entire model. The model was used to help in the design of the multiprogram evaluation but was not to be tested itself. Figure 1.1 shows the set of common structures and approaches on which the seven SCD programs draw. It identifies a set of moderating factors expected to influence the success of all programs; these include characteristics of the student, the student's family, the school, and the community, as well as the program. The model shows the four outcome domains (Social and Emotional Competence, Behavior, Academics, and Perceptions of School Climate) expected to be affected by the SCD programs and the specific outcomes that were to be examined within each domain. The pathways in the model show that, in general, the programs were expected to increase the proximal domains of improving social competencies and perceptions of school climate and, directly and indirectly through the proximal domains, to affect the distal domains of improving students' behavior and academics.

Research Questions

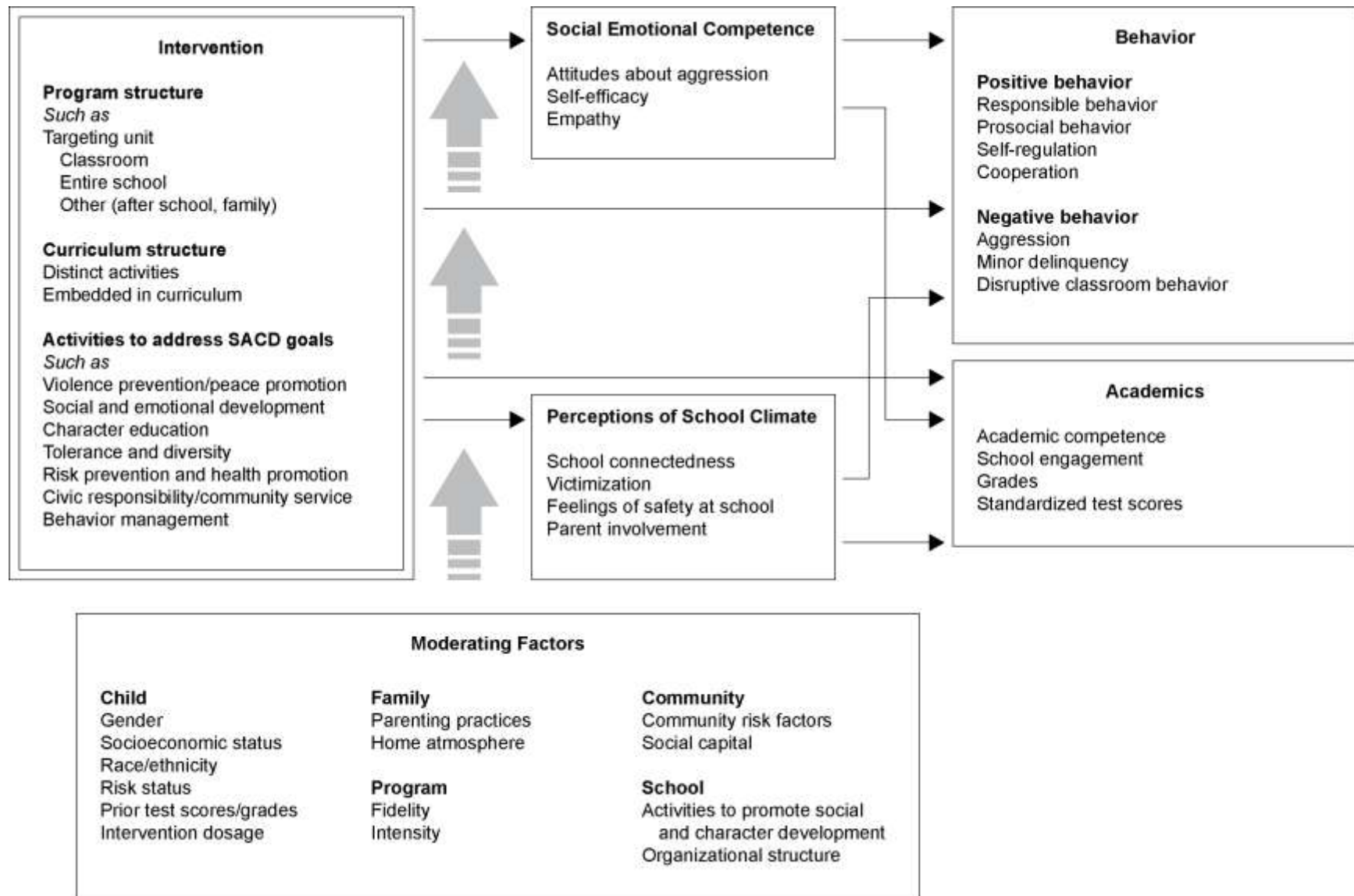
All seven of the programs in the SCD multiprogram evaluation were universal, school-based interventions that targeted social and behavioral outcomes. The evaluation examined both the average effect of all seven programs combined and the average effect of each specific program on student outcomes and on student and teacher perceptions of school climate.

The primary research questions for the evaluation were as follows:

1. What is the average effect of the seven universal, school-based, social and character development programs on social and character development instruction in the schools?

³ The What Works Clearinghouse was established in 2002 by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences to assess the rigor of research evidence on the effectiveness of educational interventions.

Figure 1.1. Conceptual model for social and character development interventions



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2. What is the average effect of the seven universal, school-based, social and character development programs on students' social and emotional competence, behavior, and academics, and on perceptions of school climate?
3. What is the average effect of each specific social and character development program on students' social and emotional competence, behavior, and academics, and on perceptions of school climate?

As noted in figure 1.1, a set of moderating factors was expected to affect the success of any SCD program. The potential impact of these factors raised secondary research questions concerning the differential impact of a SCD program on student subgroups and by the quality of implementation of the program.

Subgroups of students may differ enough in their behaviors that the impact of a SCD program may have differential impacts on those subgroups. Significant gender differences exist in the frequency of cooperative, prosocial behaviors and problem behaviors among young children. Aggression and hyperactive behaviors tend to be more common among boys. Among violence prevention programs that have examined whether programs are differentially effective for boys and girls, four have indicated significant effects for boys but not for girls (Farrell and Meyer 1997; Flay et al. 2004; Kellam et al. 1998). Given these observed differences, the average effects of the seven programs were expected to differ by student gender.

Previous research has also documented that certain family and community characteristics are associated with greater prevalence of behavioral problems for children. Regarding the family, children from poor families are at greater risk for behavioral or emotional problems (Brooks-Gunn and Duncan 1997) and show difficulties with aspects of social competence such as self-regulation and impulsivity (Takeuchi, Williams, and Adair 1991). Poor parental supervision and monitoring are associated with the development of problem behaviors in children (Gorman-Smith et al. 1996), and parental involvement has been linked to children's overall behavior in school, motivation to learn, grades and test scores, and long-term achievement (Griffith 1996; Grolnick, Ryan and Deci 1991; Shaver and Walls 1998; Zellman and Waterman 1998). At the community level, disorganization (Sampson 2000) and exposure to community violence (Schwartz and Proctor 2000) are associated with greater risk for behavior problems. Neighborhood disadvantage has also been consistently linked with increased levels of child aggression, emotional problems, inattention problems, and conduct problems (Caspi et al. 2000; Gershoff and Aber 2006). As a consequence, the average effect of the seven programs was expected to differ for children experiencing different levels of family and community risk.

Early childhood conduct problems and aggressive behaviors are another risk factor for later problem behaviors such as fighting, delinquency, and drug involvement (Dodge and Pettit 2003). Meta-analytic studies that have examined the effect of school-based programs on problem behaviors indicate larger effect sizes for programs targeting "high-risk" populations than general school populations (Wilson, Gottfredson, and Najaka 2001; Wilson, Lipsey, and Derzon 2003).

The differential behavior found among certain student subgroups and some evidence of differential responses by these subgroups to programs led to the fourth research question:

4. Do the average effects of the seven universal, school-based social and character development programs differ by (a) students' gender and (b) students' initial risk factors (socioeconomic, family, community, and earlier child behavior)?

Fidelity of program implementation has been found to strongly affect the impacts of interventions of all types. A number of studies show that programs delivered with high fidelity lead to better outcomes than programs implemented with lower fidelity (e.g., Crandall et al. 1982; Stringfield et al. 1997). This raised a fifth research question:

5. In the treatment schools, is there an association between the level of implementation of the social and character development programs and impacts on student outcomes?

The Social and Character Development Research Program

In 2003, IES, in collaboration with DVP, conducted a peer-reviewed research grant competition in which applicants proposed to (1) implement a universal, school-based intervention for elementary school children intended to promote positive behaviors and attitudes and/or reduce negative or antisocial behaviors and attitudes and (2) evaluate the intervention using a cluster randomized design in which schools would be the unit of assignment. Applicants were encouraged to both identify measures that assessed the specific attitudes and behaviors that their proposed intervention was designed to improve and to take into account the fact that the implementation and evaluation of the intervention would take place within the context of a larger multiprogram evaluation in which a third party would collect comparable outcomes from all schools participating in the evaluation. That is, in addition to whatever measures the applicants proposed to use, all of the interventions in the SACD Research Program would be evaluated on a set of measures that would be collected by an evaluation team that would be separate from the research teams involved in implementing the interventions.

Seven research teams were selected through a peer-review process, and they entered into cooperative agreements with IES to randomize schools to either implement an elementary school SACD program or continue with their existing educational practice. Each research team evaluated one program in its chosen site by following one cohort of students from third through fifth grades, with the treatment students receiving the program in all 3 years (students in the other elementary grades in the treatment schools also received the program but were not part of the evaluation). Six of the programs had separate curriculum units for each grade, and one program (ABC) had a single standard unit with modifications for each grade. Programs were not randomized across teams or their sites; schools were randomized to treatment or control conditions within a team and its site. The six panels of table 1.1 identify each program and its research team⁴ and sites; describe general program characteristics, strategies, and type and amount of professional development provided; outline the SACD goals addressed by program activities; and note the outcomes addressed by the evaluation. The key point here is that the panels demonstrate how the seven programs drew from a common set of characteristics, techniques, goals, and outcomes, while differing in which of these each program used or addressed. For example, Panel 2 shows that four programs included behavior management while three did not, and that all provided either a manual or scripted lessons but that programs differed in the degree of teacher adaptation. Panel 3 shows that programs used many of the same activities and often addressed similar content (e.g., problem solving), but each program had specific content that it alone covered. Panel 4 shows that all programs used the combination of pre-implementation training plus ongoing consultation but that training time, nonteacher personnel included, and frequency and method of consultation varied among them. Panels 5 and 6 note that some programs addressed all the SACD goals and outcomes (described later in this chapter) while others focused on a selection of these. More detailed descriptions of the programs are included in the program-specific chapters of this report.

⁴ Members of two of the seven research teams had developed the interventions they were evaluating (University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), and one team included a developer of its intervention (Oregon State University).

Table 1.1. Social and Character Development programs

Panel 1: The seven programs

Program/Source	Features	Curriculum structure	Research team	Site
<i>Academic and Behavioral Competencies Program</i> Center for Children and Families University at Buffalo, State University of New York	Social skills training and behavior management	Classroom curriculum and targeted component	University at Buffalo, State University of New York	Buffalo, New York, and two charter schools
<i>Competence Support Program</i> School of Social Work University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill	Social and emotional learning, social dynamics training, and behavior management: social information processing, social problem solving, peer networks	Classroom curriculum and intensive teacher training	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Hoke and Wayne Counties, North Carolina
<i>Love In a Big World</i> Love In a Big World Nashville, Tennessee	Character education: courage, honesty, kindness, caring	Classroom curriculum and whole-school approach	Vanderbilt University	Maury and Murfreesboro Counties, Tennessee
<i>Positive Action</i> Positive Action, Inc. Twin Falls, Idaho	Social and emotional learning: values, empathy, self-control, social skills, social bonding, self-efficacy, honesty, goal setting	Classroom curriculum and whole-school approach	Oregon State University	Chicago, Illinois
<i>Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies</i> Channing Bete Company South Deerfield, Massachusetts	Social and emotional learning: emotional literacy, self-control, social competence, peer relations, interpersonal problem solving	Classroom curriculum	The Children's Institute	Robbinsdale, Minnesota, and Rochester and Rush-Henrietta, New York
<i>The 4Rs Program (Reading, Writing, Respect, and Resolution)</i> Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility New York, New York	Conflict resolution and literacy: social problem solving, anger management, mediation	Classroom curriculum	New York University	New York City, New York
<i>Second Step</i> Committee for Children Seattle, Washington	Violence prevention and social and emotional learning: empathy, anger management, impulse control, and problem solving	Classroom curriculum	University of Maryland, College Park	Anne Arundel County, Maryland

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.1. Social and Character Development programs—Continued

Panel 2: General characteristics

Program	Target population	Program components						Level of integration	Flexibility	
		Peer	Parent	Classroom	Schoolwide	Community	Training		Manualized	Adaptability
ABC	Universal and targeted	In class and out of class	Contact	Lessons and behavior management	Planned events, reward programs, schoolwide rules, discipline policies	None or not major focus	Pretraining and ongoing	Add-on curriculum and schoolwide activities	Manual includes modules for all program components	Program may be individualized by school, classroom, and student
CSP	Universal	In class	No contact	Lessons, behavior management, and social dynamics	None or not major focus	None or not major focus	Pretraining and ongoing for teachers and counselors	Add-on curriculum	Scripted lessons for teachers	Teachers may adapt program to setting
LBW	Universal	In class and out of class	Contact and involvement	Lessons and behavior management	Planned events, modeling, program artifacts	None or not major focus	Pretraining and ongoing	Add-on curriculum and schoolwide activities	Curriculum guidebook	Less adaptable
PATHS	Universal	In class	Contact and involvement	Lessons	Planned events, program artifacts	None or not major focus	Pretraining and ongoing	Add-on curriculum and schoolwide activities	Scripted curriculum guidebook	Less adaptable

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.1. Social and Character Development programs—Continued

Panel 2: General characteristics—Continued

Program	Target population	Program components						Level of integration	Flexibility	
		Peer	Parent	Classroom	Schoolwide	Community	Training		Manualized	Adaptability
PA	Universal	In class and out of class	Training, contact, and involvement	Lessons and behavior management	Planned events, includes program artifacts PA coordinator and PA committee	None or not major focus	Pretraining and ongoing	Add-on curriculum and schoolwide activities	Curriculum guidebook with scripted lessons and materials, schoolwide guidebooks, parent manual, and support staff manual	Program staff and principal adapt activities to needs and setting
4Rs	Universal	In class	Contact and involvement	Lessons	None or not major focus	None or not major focus	Pretraining and ongoing	Core curriculum (language arts)	Curriculum guidebook	Less adaptable
SS	Universal	In class	Contact	Lessons	Program artifacts and modeling	None or not major focus	Pretraining and ongoing	Add-on curriculum	Curriculum guidebook	Character development planning teams

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.1. Social and Character Development programs—Continued

Panel 3: Description of strategies

Program	Classroom								
	Lessons				Strategies			Supplement to classroom	Schoolwide activities
	Who delivers	Activities and tools	Content	Frequency	Who delivers	Activities and tools	Frequency		
ABC	Teacher	Social skill of the day description and classroom or schoolwide role-play	Social skills, problem solving, classroom management, peer relationships	Daily 5-10 minutes plus reinforcement; twice a week 45-minute peer program	Teacher	Recognition and reinforcement of good behavior (e.g., positive notes, behavior reports, time out, fun activities)	Daily	Homework, peer mediation, and parenting program	Schoolwide rules, recording of rule violations, positive affirmation, afterschool program
CSP	Teacher	Story reading, discussion, role-playing, worksheets, games, artifacts (e.g., turtle puppet), art projects	Problem solving, emotion identification and regulation, identifying social cues, goal formation, choosing options, and behavior regulation	45 minutes, once per week; 28 lessons	Teacher	Prevention of social hierarchies that promote conflict; social reinforcement for positive behavior	Daily	None	None
LBW	Teacher	Story reading, writing, interdisciplinary activities, rewards, singing	Character traits and moral virtues	Daily 10- to 15-minute lessons, 30 weeks	Teacher	Recognition and reinforcement of good behavior; Modeling of character traits	Daily	Parent newsletters	Weekly announcements; occasional assemblies; two service projects; program artifacts

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.1. Social and Character Development programs—Continued

Panel 3: Description of strategies—Continued

Program	Classroom								
	Lessons				Strategies			Supplement to classroom	Schoolwide activities
	Who delivers	Activities and tools	Content	Frequency	Who delivers	Activities and tools	Frequency		
PATHS	Teacher	Direct instruction, storytelling, discussion, role-playing, utilization of artifacts (e.g., posters, turtle puppet), worksheets	Emotion understanding and control, behavior regulation, problem solving, making friends	20-30 minutes per day, 3-5 days per week	Teacher	Modeling of skills	Daily	Parent newsletter and engagement in homework	End-of-year PATHS party and program artifacts
PA	Teacher	Direct instruction, story reading, writing, role-playing, discussion, singing, games, worksheets, puppets, plays and poems	Self-concept, physical health, intellectual growth, emotional and behavioral self-regulation, getting along with others (social skills), self-honesty, self-improvement, goal setting, character traits	15- to 20-minute lessons, 4 days per week	Teacher	Teaches, practices, recognizes, and models positive actions with curriculum and climate activities and materials	Daily	Parent newsletters; parent manual with PA activities, letters, and strategies; and parent night	Occasional assemblies; service projects; PA days and year-end event; Principal climate program with reinforcement recognition activities

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.1. Social and Character Development programs—Continued

Panel 3: Description of strategies—Continued

Program	Classroom							Supplement to classroom	Schoolwide activities
	Lessons				Strategies				
	Who delivers	Activities and tools	Content	Frequency	Who delivers	Activities and tools	Frequency		
4Rs	Teacher	Story reading, role-playing, discussions, reflections, sharing exercises, brain-storming, songs, worksheets	Literacy focus; building community, feelings, listening, assertiveness, problem solving, diversity, making a difference	1-hour lessons at least once per week; 31 lessons	Teacher	Modeling of skills	Daily	Parent-child connections homework and parent workshops	None
SS	Teacher	Storytelling, discussion, videos, role-playing, anticipation, recall, learning points	Empathy, impulse control, problem solving, anger management	30-minute lessons, 1-2 days per week	Teacher	Modeling of and reinforcement of skills	Weekly lessons: daily generalization	Take-home letters, homework, family guide and video	Program artifacts, training of school staff

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.1. Social and Character Development programs—Continued

Panel 4: Professional development

Program	Pre-implementation				Ongoing consultation			
	Teachers		Other		Teachers		Other	
	Content	Duration	Content	Duration	Content	Duration	Content	Duration
ABC	Behavioral management techniques, schoolwide rules, discipline policies, classroom management policies	9 hours	Staff receive teacher training	9 hours	Teacher consultation, and coaching on use of classroom management	Monthly or more frequently per teacher or school request	School consultation on policies and procedures	As needed, with regular follow-up
CSP	Training on curriculum implementation, behavior management, and social dynamics	4 hours	Principal consultation on development of schoolwide management policy	As requested	Consultations on use of program materials	2 times monthly	None	None
LBW	Workshop on lesson plans and logistics of program implementation	1 day; 3 hours	Principal and staff; Same as teacher training	1 day; 3 hours	Faculty boosters with reminders about program implementation and discussion of challenges	24 weekly sessions; biannual meeting	Program coordinator; calls with program developer to improve schoolwide implementation	Once every 6 months

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.1. Social and Character Development programs—Continued

Panel 4: Professional development—Continued

Program	Pre-implementation				Ongoing consultation			
	Teachers		Other		Teachers		Other	
	Content	Duration	Content	Duration	Content	Duration	Content	Duration
PATHS	Training on concepts, curriculum implementation, how to integrate activities with traditional instruction	2 days	Principal and school mental health staff; same as teacher training	2 days	Technical assistance and implementation consultation, individual meetings with each teacher, attendance at grade-level meetings, planning for following year	Weekly consultations; 2-day summer meeting	Principal and school staff; model lessons, team teaching, general feedback; planning for following year	Biweekly calls; 2-day summer meeting
PA	Training on concepts and delivery of curriculum, school climate activities to reinforce positive behaviors and parent involvement	1/2 day	Principal training on appointing committees and coordinating school climate activities with family groups	1/2 day	Group session to provide technical assistance and share experiences and challenges; visits for technical support	Up to 1/2 day once per year, and up to 1/2 day visits to schools monthly	Meeting of principals and coordinators to provide technical assistance and share successes and challenges	One session of 3 hours per year

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.1. Social and Character Development programs—Continued

Panel 4: Professional development—Continued

Program	Pre-implementation				Ongoing consultation			
	Teachers		Other		Teachers		Other	
	Content	Duration	Content	Duration	Content	Duration	Content	Duration
4Rs	Course to learn curriculum, improve on own skills, create a vision of community, set consistent rules, behavior management	25 hours	None	None	Training and support in mediation, negotiation, role-playing, class meetings, behavior management	Individualized coaching 12 times per year; 3-day summer institute	None	None
SS	Training on child development, social skills, and curriculum delivery	2 days	Character development planning team, school counselor, and other staff; training on child development, social skills, and curriculum content	2.5 hours	Year-end workshop to review student outcome data and plan for following year	1 day	School counselor guidance on strategies and challenges; principal and staff review of student outcome data and plan for following year	1/2 day counselor meetings about monthly; 1-day year-end workshop

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.1. Social and Character Development programs—Continued

Panel 5: Activities to promote the six SACD goals and behavior management

Program	Violence prevention and peace promotion	Social and emotional development	Character education	Tolerance and diversity	Risk prevention and health promotion	Civic responsibility and community service	Behavior management
ABC	✓	✓					✓
CSP	✓	✓					✓
LBW	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
PATHS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4Rs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SS	✓	✓	✓				

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.1. Social and Character Development programs—Continued

Panel 6: SACD outcomes addressed

Program	Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions	Normative Beliefs About Aggression	Empathy	Altruistic Behavior	Positive Social Behavior	Problem Behavior	Engage- ment with Learning	Academic Competence and Motivation	Positive School Orientation	Negative School Orientation	Student Afraid at School	Victimization at School	Feelings of Safety	Student Support for Teachers
ABC					✓	✓						✓	✓	✓
CSP	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓		✓
LBW			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
PA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PATHS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
4Rs	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
SS	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓								

NOTE: Abbreviations are

ABC: *Academic and Behavioral Competencies Program*CSP: *Competence Support Program*LBW: *Love In a Big World*PA: *Positive Action*PATHS: *Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies*4Rs: *The 4Rs Program (Reading, Writing, Respect, and Resolution)*SS: *Second Step*

✓: Outcome addressed

Blank cell: Outcome not addressed

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Chapter 1. The Social and Character Development Multiprogram Evaluation

The commonalities and differences among the seven SADC programs are important for several reasons. They make clear that there is no single SADC universal schoolwide program, but a set of them that are in many ways similar but also different enough to distinguish them. The commonalities justify this study's evaluation approach of both combining results from all seven programs and examining the results from each program separately for a common set of outcome measures for measuring students' social and character development. At the same time, it is important to keep in mind the differences when considering the results for each of the seven programs.

To standardize the evaluation, a competitive peer-review process was used to select a third party to collect and analyze the common set of data from all the schools. MPR was selected for this role.

As in most evaluations of education interventions, the SADC programs were not compared to a no-treatment control. The control schools continued to implement the social and character development activities that constituted their standard practice. A number of researchers have observed that schools commonly use support services, intervention curricula, and discipline management strategies to promote social and character development and prevent problem behavior (e.g., Crosse et al. 2001; Gottfredson and Gottfredson 2001), and in many states, schools are required by law to implement such programs and practices. For example, under the Student Citizen Act of 2001, character education was made part of the standard curriculum for North Carolina schools starting in the 2002-03 school year; in New York, the Safe Schools Against Violence in Education Act of 2001 encouraged districts to promote instruction in civility, citizenship, and character education; and Illinois' Children's Mental Health Act required all school districts to develop a policy for incorporating social and emotional competence into the district's educational program by August 31, 2004. For this reason, data were collected on the implementation of social and character development activities from all schools. These data provide contextual information on the prevalence of social and character development activities occurring in both the treatment and control schools.

Study Design and Methodology

The SADC multiprogram evaluation was a 3-year longitudinal study following one cohort of students from third through fifth grades.⁵ It was designed to determine the effects of seven SADC programs on the social and character development of students attending the schools in which the interventions were implemented. This design stems in part from the programs being chosen by the quality of the grant applications, so they are not necessarily representative of the full set of universal school-based SADC interventions. The results, then, are not generalizable beyond the seven programs.

The evaluation examined the average effect of the programs on a common set of student outcomes including social and emotional competence, behavior, academics, and perceptions of school climate. Initial data were collected on consenting students in the third grade during fall 2004. Follow-up data were collected at subsequent time points: (1) in spring 2005 from third-grade students, (2) in fall 2005 when the original third-grade cohort began fourth grade, (3) in spring 2006 when the original third-grade cohort completed fourth grade, and (4) in spring 2007 when the original third-grade cohort completed fifth grade. Data for the study included survey data from students, students' primary caregivers, teachers, and interview responses from principals.

⁵ The multiprogram evaluation also included 12 additional schools recruited in the second year of the study. This second cohort of third-grade students was followed for 2 years through the fourth grade. Initial data were collected in fall 2005, and follow-up data in spring 2006 and spring 2007. These schools were recruited by the Children's Institute ($n = 4$), University at Buffalo, The State University of New York ($n = 2$), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill ($n = 4$), and Vanderbilt University ($n = 2$). Appendix A describes the combined analysis of Cohorts 1 and 2. The Executive Summary and chapters 1-8 describe the analysis of Cohort 1 only.

Sample and Random Assignment

Schools were the unit of assignment, in part because the programs were applied at the school level (or at least in multiple grades in a school). As a result, contamination from the treatment group to the control group was unlikely because of the physical separation of schools. From each school, data were collected from students in grades 3, 4, and then 5 in consecutive years. Data were also collected from students' primary caregivers, from the principals of the schools, and from the teachers in all three grades. Parents or primary caregivers, principals, and teachers all had to give their consent before taking part in the study. Students gave assent after their primary caregivers had provided consent. Beginning in the spring and early fall of 2004, consent forms were sent home with students for primary caregivers to review and sign, if desired, indicating their consent for their own participation in the study and for the student's participation in the study. The consent process continued at each follow-up for students who were new entrants to the schools, or who did not return a consent form in fall 2004. During each data collection, students themselves were asked whether they would assent to participate in the study. The research teams carried out the consent process and other procedures concerning human subjects after their review and approval by institutional review boards at each participating institution and by the Public/Private Ventures Institutional Review Board.

Each research team set the eligibility criteria for schools within its site and recruited 10 to 14 schools for the study.⁶ In general, schools were purposively selected based on (1) their lack of schoolwide institutionalized programs addressing social and character development, (2) their willingness to participate in random assignment and engage in data collection activities, and (3) their ability to implement the program schoolwide (all elementary grades) if assigned to the treatment condition. Additional eligibility criteria employed by individual teams included relatively low performance on standardized tests, a relatively high percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch, low student mobility rates, and a sufficient number of students per school to meet sample size requirements.

The research teams recruited a total of 84 schools into the study beginning with the initial data collection in fall 2004 (table 1.2). Eighty-three schools completed the evaluation, with one (a control school) dropping out before the start of the second year after converting to a magnet school. Some schools changed their grade structures over time but in only one school did this lead to the students in the study not receiving the intervention (the loss of students in fifth grade at one CSP school). In Year 1, the highest grade was fourth or fifth grade at 46 schools, sixth or seventh grade at 18 schools, and eighth grade at 20 schools. In Years 2 and 3, these figures were 47 and 49 schools having fourth or fifth grade as the highest grade; 15 and 12 schools with sixth or seventh grade; and 21 and 22 schools with eighth grade, respectively.

After recruiting the schools, each research team created five to seven matched pairs of schools. Within each pair, one school was randomly assigned to the treatment group and the other to the control group. Stratified sampling was used to guard against the possibility that random assignment of a small number of schools could produce sets of treatment and control schools that had markedly different characteristics. An algorithm was developed to select the best pairs by minimizing the distance between several measurable characteristics for schools within each pair. A set of candidate pairs was selected such that the overall quality of matches across all the schools remained as high as possible, without creating any serious mismatches for any subset of the individual pairs. Each team executed the matching algorithm with somewhat different school characteristic variables, depending on what data were available, and exercised its best judgment, based on knowledge of the schools involved, as to which candidate pairing was the best one. After the best pairing was established, one member of each pair was randomly selected to be in the treatment group and the other was assigned to the control group.

⁶ The New York University research team recruited 18 schools but only 14 were included in the multiprogram evaluation.

Table 1.2. Multiprogram evaluation school sample

Program	Year 1 (Spring/Fall 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring/Fall 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring/Fall 5th grade)		
	Total	Treatment	Control	Total	Treatment	Control	Total	Treatment	Control
Total number of schools	84	42	42	83	42	41	83	42	41
ABC	12	6	6	12	6	6	12	6	6
CSP	10	5	5	10	5	5	10	5	5
LBW ¹	12	6	6	11	6	5	11	6	5
PA	14	7	7	14	7	7	14	7	7
PATHS	10	5	5	10	5	5	10	5	5
4Rs	14	7	7	14	7	7	14	7	7
SS	12	6	6	12	6	6	12	6	6

¹ One control school became a magnet school and dropped out of the evaluation.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

ABC: *Academic and Behavioral Competencies Program*

CSP: *Competence Support Program*

LBW: *Love In a Big World*

PA: *Positive Action*

PATHS: *Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies*

4Rs: *The 4Rs Program (Reading, Writing, Respect, and Resolution)*

SS: *Second Step*

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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The teacher sample for the evaluation included the teachers in the grade that the student cohort attended in order to obtain teacher reports on students and all the third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers in the participating schools during all 3 school years in order to measure the level of SCD activities in the schools. The principal sample included the principals at each of the 84 schools.

The student sample for the multiprogram evaluation included students enrolled in the third grade during the 2004-05 school year, students enrolled in the fourth grade during the 2005-06 school year, and students enrolled in the fifth grade during the 2006-07 school year, with “enrollment” defined as being present in the study schools at the time of student data collection. Thus, the sample included a cohort of third-grade students as they progressed through their fifth-grade year. In addition, it included students who entered the study schools over the course of the study (i.e., students who entered study schools as third graders during the 2004-05 academic year, or as fourth graders in the 2005-06 academic year, or as fifth graders in the 2006-07 academic year). Thus, the specific students in the sample changed between the beginning of data collection during fall 2004 and subsequent rounds of data collection. Up to the time of a specific data collection follow-up, students exposed to an intervention were from one of three groups:

1. Children enrolled in third grade at a study school in fall 2004 and during the subsequent rounds of data collection—original sample who remained at the schools (stayers);
2. Children enrolled in third grade at a study school in fall 2004 but not enrolled during a subsequent data collection period—original sample who left between fall 2004 data collection and a subsequent data collection (leavers); and
3. Children who enrolled in the grade of the student cohort at a study school after the fall 2004 data collection but before the subsequent data collection initiative (new entrants).

A total of 6,567 third-graders were initially enrolled in the study schools in fall 2004 (table 1.3). Due to the combination of leavers and new entrants, the total was 6,597 in spring 2005. It fell to 6,415 in spring 2006 and to 6,249 in spring 2007. Over this period the treatment group made up 51 percent to 52 percent of the sample. The average number of students per school ranged from 75 to 81; however, the actual number per school varied across the programs from 23 to 164. Over time, new entrants grew as a percentage of the sample from 6 percent to 20 percent to 28 percent, and there were no statistically significant differences each year between the percentages of new entrants in the treatment and control groups. The percentage of the original sample that left also grew from follow-up to follow-up, going from 6 percent to 22 percent to 32 percent, again with no statistically significant differences each year between the treatment and control groups. Leavers were not tracked once they left the study schools.⁷ That is, if a third-grade student was enrolled in a study school during fall 2004 but then left before spring 2005, that student was not tracked into the new school and new data from that student were not collected in spring 2005. As a result of this turnover, 69 percent of the original students (stayers) remained in the study and they made up 72 percent of the Year 3 student sample.

⁷ A small percentage of leavers moved to another school in the study and so remained in the study. For descriptive purposes, they took on the assignment of their school to treatment or control. For analysis purposes, they retained their initial assignment. The percentages of Cohort 1 students who switched status at each round grew at each follow-up point but remained relatively small (growing from about 0.2% to 1.4%).

Table 1.3. Characteristics of the student sample in the multiprogram evaluation

Characteristic	Year 1 (Fall 3rd grade)			Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Total	Treat- ment		Total	Treat- ment		Total	Treat- ment		Total	Treat- ment	
		Control			Control			Control			Control	
School sample size	84	42	42	84	42	42	83	42	41	83	42	41
Student sample size	6,567	3,367	3,200	6,597	3,388	3,209	6,415	3,327	3,088	6,249	3,172	3,077
Stayers	†	†	†	6,203	3,188	3,015	5,110	2,625	2,485	4,500	2,289	2,211
New entrants	†	†	†	394	200	194	1,305	702	603	1,749	883	866
New entrants as percent of spring enrollment ¹	†	†	†	6.0	5.9	6.0	20.3	21.1	19.5	27.9	27.8	28.1
Total leavers (from original cohort)	†	†	†	364	179	185	1,457	742	715	2,067	1,078	989
Leavers as percent of fall 2004 enrollment ¹	†	†	†	5.5	5.3	5.8	22.2	22.0	22.3	31.5	32.0	30.9
Number of students per school (mean)	78	80	76	79	81	76	77	80	76	75	76	75
Range of number of students per school	23-149	38-149	23-148	26-155	35-147	26-155	25-151	36-151	25-144	25-164	28-164	25-139

† Not applicable.

¹ No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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Because leavers were not followed, the SACD evaluation is not an intent-to-treat impact analysis (an analysis that follows all students originally assigned to the treatment or control groups). Therefore, there is the possibility that the SACD programs caused differential student and teacher mobility in the treatment schools versus mobility in the control schools. If this occurred, the estimates of the impact of the programs would include both the extent to which the programs improved the outcomes of the average student and the mobility effects resulting from any differences in the average outcomes of treatment and control students who entered or left the schools after random assignment was completed in third grade. Descriptive analyses, presented later, do not identify differential mobility in the treatment and control schools, although this cannot be definitively established.

Table 1.4 provides information on the student sample by program. The same trends in the growth in the percentages of leavers and new entrants were apparent but there were differences among programs in this growth. For example, by Year 3 the percentages of leavers ranged from 9 percent to 50 percent, and the percentages of new entrants ranged from 14 percent to 38 percent among programs. The table also shows that over all 3 years there was a statistically significant difference between the treatment and control groups within a program for the percentage of leavers in six cases and the percentage of new entrants in one case.

Student turnover could have affected the results of the evaluation. First, if the SACD programs affected turnover—and thus altered the composition of the student population—then the difference between the treatment and control groups would reflect (1) the changes in student behavior that were due to the intervention, and (2) the changes that arose indirectly because the student population changed. Second, students had differing amounts of exposure to the program, and this may have affected the benefits to students. In response to these issues, sensitivity analyses were conducted to address whether there were differences between the estimated impacts of the SACD programs for the stayers and for the new entrant subgroups.

Table 1.4. Student sample overall and by program for all students and for the treatment and control groups

Intervention program	Year 1	Year 1					Year 2					Year 3				
	(Fall 3rd grade)	(Spring 3rd grade)					(Spring 4th grade)					(Spring 5th grade)				
	All students	All students	Leavers		New entrants		All students	Leavers		New entrants		All students	Leavers		New entrants	
			#	% ¹	#	% ²		#	% ¹	#	% ²		#	% ¹	#	% ²
All programs	6,567	6,597	364	6	394	6	6,415	1,457	22	1,305	20	6,249	2,067	31	1,749	28
Treatment group	3,367	3,388	179	5	200	6	3,327	742	22	702	21	3,172	1,078	32	883	28
Control group	3,200	3,209	185	6	194	6	3,088	715	22	603	20	3,077	989	31	866	28
ABC	879	875	43	5	39	4	877	160	18	158	18	871	289	33	281	32
Treatment group	380	373	17	4	10	3**	367	72	19	59	16	353	135	36	108	31
Control group	499	502	26	5	29	6	510	88	18	99	19	518	154	31	173	33
CSP	959	975	36	4	52	5	969	230	24	240	25	947	238	25	226	24
Treatment group	476	485	20	4	29	6	474	135	28**	133	28*	458	139	29**	121	26
Control group	483	490	16	3	23	5	495	95	20	107	22	489	99	20	105	21
LBW	986	1,007	60	6	81	8	959	228	23	201	21	944	308	31	266	28
Treatment group	548	565	25	5**	42	7	556	110	20	118	21	567	145	26**	164	29
Control group	438	442	35	8	39	9	403	118	27	83	21	377	163	37	102	27
PA	811	812	74	9	75	9	764	251	31	204	27	655	408	50	252	38
Treatment group	410	416	33	8	39	9	425	108	26**	123	29	327	209	51	126	39
Control group	401	396	41	10	36	9	339	143	36	81	24	328	199	50	126	38
PATHS	786	783	39	5	36	5	778	150	19	142	18	778	243	31	235	30
Treatment group	377	374	21	6	18	5	373	66	18	62	17	378	114	30	115	30
Control group	409	409	18	4	18	4	405	84	21	80	20	400	129	32	120	30
4Rs	1,202	1,194	86	7	78	7	1,109	320	27	227	20	1,065	492	41	355	33
Treatment group	652	647	49	8	44	7	599	183	28	130	22	556	279	43	183	33
Control group	550	547	37	7	34	6	510	137	25	97	19	509	213	39	172	34

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.4. Student sample overall and by program for all students and for the treatment and control groups—Continued

Intervention program	Year 1	Year 1					Year 2					Year 3				
	(Fall 3rd grade)	(Spring 3rd grade)					(Spring 4th grade)					(Spring 5th grade)				
	All students	All students	Leavers		New entrants		All students	Leavers		New entrants		All students	Leavers		New entrants	
			#	% ¹	#	% ²		#	% ¹	#	% ²		#	% ¹	#	% ²
SS	944	951	26	3	33	3	959	118	13	133	14	989	89	9	134	14
Treatment group	524	528	14	3	18	3	533	68	13	77	14	533	57	11*	66	12
Control group	420	423	12	3	15	4	426	50	12	56	13	456	32	8	68	15

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

¹ Leavers as a percentage of fall 2004 enrollment (these values are cumulative over the years).

² New entrants as a percentage of spring enrollment.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

ABC: *Academic and Behavioral Competencies Program*

CSP: *Competence Support Program*

LBW: *Love In a Big World*

PA: *Positive Action*

PATHS: *Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies*

4Rs: *The 4Rs Program (Reading, Writing, Respect, and Resolution)*

SS: *Second Step*

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Measures

The SCD multiprogram evaluation included six data collection reports: (a) Child Report; (b) Primary Caregiver Report; (c) Teacher Report on Student; (d) Teacher Report on Classroom and School; (e) Principal Interview; and (f) Implementation Fidelity Rating.⁸ The measures included in these reports were largely taken from instruments used in previous research. Four measures (child responsibility, child and teacher perceptions of school safety, and primary caregiver perceptions of community resources) were developed for the SCD evaluation due to a lack of adequate existing measures. Modifications were made to some of the measures to enhance readability, reduce the number of items, or reduce the number of possible responses to each item. Children were asked to respond based on their experiences in the past couple of weeks; primary caregivers and teachers responded based on their experiences in the past 30 days. The surveys were pilot-tested in December 2003, and revisions were made prior to the initial administration in fall 2004. A series of exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses using the initial data collapsed the scales into a smaller number of more reliable measures that were used as outcome or moderator variables in the impact analyses. In addition to developing the outcome variables, these analyses provided a check of how well the measures fit under the outcome domains as set out in the conceptual model (Social and Emotional Competence, Behavior, Academics, and Perceptions of School Climate). The discussion of the measures is broken into two parts. First, the scales collected are described by report and domain. Their published reliabilities, if available, are reported.⁹ Second, the outcome and moderator measures developed through the factor analyses and then used in the analyses for the SCD evaluation are described.

Child Report

The Child Report was a group-administered questionnaire consisting of a battery of measures that are described below. The instrument was delivered to groups averaging 15 to 20 students in classrooms at each school during a 1- to 2-day visit (or during a make-up session) by the MPR data collection team. A proctor read the directions aloud as children followed along in their survey booklets during a 50-minute classroom session. Children reported on their own thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. There is some evidence in the literature that self-reports of behavior problems are not valid in elementary-age aggressive and ADHD children (McMahon and Frick 2005; Pelham, Fabiano, and Massetti 2005), which may limit the value of such measures for this type of student (though similar measures were used with primary caregivers and teachers). The following measures (grouped by domain) were included in the battery:

I. Social and Emotional Competence

- A. *Beliefs about aggression.* This measure is an 8-item modified version of the Normative Beliefs About Aggression Scale (Huesmann and Guerra 1997). Children responded on a 4-point scale, indicating their beliefs about the acceptability of verbal and physical aggression, either proactive or in retaliation for others' behavior (e.g., how wrong or okay it is to hit, shove, fight with, or verbally assault others). Its reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.90).
- B. *Self-efficacy for peer interaction.* This measure is a 12-item modified version of the Self-Efficacy for Peer Interaction Scale (Wheeler and Ladd 1982). Children responded on a 4-point scale,

⁸ In addition, the SCD evaluation intended to include two additional reports for each program: a cost report and a report on the presence of artifacts indicating the use of SCD activities. For the cost report, a common training on collection of cost data was provided for the research teams; however, all teams did not collect such data and the data collected were not consistent. As a result, cost reports were not generated and the SCD evaluation did not include a cost analysis. For the artifact study, school and classroom observations were done in Year 1. However inter-rater reliability was considered too low, so the observations were not continued in later years and the Year 1 results are not reported.

⁹ Five of the measures have no published reliabilities, and no reliabilities were computed for these measures based on the study data. Items from these measures were used to create the outcome measures. The outcome measures they contributed to and the reliabilities of those outcome measures calculated from the study data are shown in table 5.

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indicating their perceived ability to perform verbal or persuasive prosocial skills in conflict and nonconflict peer interactions (e.g., how hard or easy it is to engage in play with other children or resist negative social pressures). Its reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.85) and test-retest (0.90 for boys and 0.80 for girls).

- C. *Empathy*. This measure is a 16-item modified version of the Children's Empathy Questionnaire (Funk et al. 2003). Children responded on a 3-point scale about the degree to which they would respond empathically to hypothetical and actual anticipated events (e.g., whether other people's problems bother them or if they would feel happy when a friend gets a good grade). Its reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.72).

II. Behavior

- A. *Altruistic behavior*. The Altruism Scale, Child Version (Soloman et al. 2000) is an 8-item measure to which children responded on a 4-point scale about how often they engage in helping behavior (e.g., cheer someone up who is feeling sad or help someone who is being picked on). Its reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.82).
- B. *Aggression*. The Aggression Scale (Orpinas and Frankowski 2001) is a 6-item measure to which children responded on a 4-point scale about how often they engage in verbal or physical aggression (e.g., tease others, shove others). Its reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.87).
- C. *Minor delinquency*. The modified Frequency of Delinquent Behavior (Dahlberg, Toal, and Behrens 1998; Dunford and Elliott 1984) Scale was modified for the SACD multiprogram evaluation. Children responded to 6 items on a 4-point scale about how often they engage in minor delinquency in school (e.g., taking something that belongs to others, skipping class). There is no published or study-based reliability for this scale.

III. Academics

- A. *School engagement*. The Engagement vs. Disaffection with Learning Scale, (Furrer and Skinner 2003) is a 10-item measure to which children responded on a 4-point scale, indicating how much they agree with statements indicative of their behavioral and emotional engagement, effort, attention, and persistence in the classroom (e.g., paying attention in class, listening carefully, joining in class discussion). Its reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.75 to 0.86).
- B. *Standardized test scores and grades*. The research teams were to collect student standardized test scores and grades. However, not all teams were able to collect these data from their schools and districts, and the data that were collected varied in quality. As a result, neither standardized test scores nor grades could be used as outcome measures in the evaluation, although they had been proposed for such use in the conceptual model.

IV. Perceptions of School Climate

- A. *School connectedness*. The Sense of School as a Community Scale (Roberts, Horn, and Battistich 1995) is a 14-item measure to which children responded on a 4-point scale about how much they agree with statements indicative of the social relationships among students, teachers, and staff within a school (e.g., students care about each other, students and teachers treat each other with respect). Its reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.91).
- B. *Safety*. The Feelings of Safety at School Scale was developed for the SACD multiprogram evaluation and is a 5-item measure to which children responded on a 4-point scale about how much they agree with statements that are indicative of students' feelings of safety at school (e.g., students feel safe, students are afraid someone will hurt them, students are afraid someone will

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tease them). The scale was constructed by IES and DVP staff for the SACD multiprogram evaluation. There is no published or study-based reliability for this scale.

- C. *Victimization.* The Victimization Scale (Orpinas and Kelder 1995) is a 6-item measure to which children responded on a 4-point scale about how often they are victimized at school (e.g., teased, pushed, or threatened). Its reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.90).

Primary Caregiver Report

The Primary Caregiver Report was a self-administered survey that took primary caregivers approximately 15 minutes to complete. Primary caregivers, who were usually but not always parents, reported on the target child's behavior, demographic factors, and home and community environment. Primary caregivers completed the questionnaire at home and returned it to school in a sealed envelope. If a completed Primary Caregiver Report was not returned within 3 or 4 weeks, MPR attempted to complete a computer-assisted telephone interview with the primary caregiver. Primary caregivers were offered a small financial incentive as a thank-you. The following measures (grouped by domain or type of moderator) were used:

I. Behavior

- A. *Responsibility.* The Responsibility Scale is an 8-item measure developed for the SACD multiprogram evaluation to which primary caregivers responded on a 4-point scale about the degree to which a child takes responsibility for his or her own actions (e.g., how often a child asks permission, apologizes, takes care of property, or denies responsibility for wrongdoing). The scale was constructed by IES and DVP staff for the SACD multiprogram evaluation. There is no published or study-based reliability for this scale.
- B. *Self-regulation, cooperation, and prosocial behavior.* The Social Competence Scale (CPPRG 1999) is a 19-item measure to which primary caregivers responded on a 4-point scale about a child's emotional and behavioral regulation, cooperative behavior, and prosocial behavior (e.g., how often a child calms down when wound up, works well in groups, and acts friendly toward others). Its reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.87).
- C. *Altruistic behavior.* The Altruism Scale, Primary Caregiver Version (Soloman et al. 2000) is an 8-item measure to which primary caregivers responded on a 4-point scale about how often their child engages in helping behavior (e.g., cheers someone up who is feeling sad or helps someone who is being picked on). Its reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.82).
- D. *Aggression.* The Behavior Assessment System for Children (BASC) Aggression Subscale, Parent Version (Reynolds and Kamphaus 1998) is a 13-item assessment to which primary caregivers responded on a 4-point scale about how often their child engages in verbal or physical aggression (e.g., teases others, hits other children). Its reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.83) and test-retest (0.84).
- E. *Conduct problems.* The BASC Conduct Problems Subscale, Parent Version (Reynolds and Kamphaus 1998) is an 11-item assessment to which primary caregivers responded on a 4-point scale about how often their child engages in socially deviant and disruptive behaviors (e.g., lies, gets into trouble). Its reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.82) and test-retest (0.92).

II. Perceptions of School Climate

- A. *Parent involvement.* The modified Parent and Teacher Involvement Questionnaire, Parent Version (CPPRG 1991) is a 9-item measure to which primary caregivers responded on a 4-point scale about how often they interact with teachers and school staff, participate in school activities, and are involved in their children's academic lives (e.g., call the child's teacher, attend parent-teacher

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conferences, take the child to the library). Its reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.77).

III. Family Moderators

- A. *Parenting practices.* The Alabama Parenting Questionnaire, Positive Parenting, and Poor Monitoring and Supervision Subscales (Shelton, Frick, and Wootton 1996) is a 16-item measure to which primary caregivers responded on a 4-point scale about how often they support and reward their child, and monitor and supervise their child (e.g., praise the child for good behavior, check when the child comes home). Its reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.75 for monitoring and 0.85 for positive parenting).
- B. *Home atmosphere.* The modified Confusion, Hubbub, and Order Scale (Matheny et al. 1995) is a 14-item measure to which primary caregivers responded on a 5-point scale about how much they agree or disagree with statements that reflect disorganization in the home (e.g., can find things when you need them, there is always a fuss going on, there is a regular routine). Its reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.79) and through test-retest (0.74).
- C. *Socioeconomic risk.* Primary caregivers completed a series of questions indicating ethnicity, education, employment status, household composition, and income.

IV. Community Moderators

- A. *Perceptions of community risks and protective factors.* The Community Risks and Protective Factors Scale is a 12-item measure developed for the multiprogram evaluation based on research on community risks by Forehand, Brody, and Armistead (2000) and supplemented with items to assess community resources constructed by researchers involved in the SACD evaluation. Primary caregivers indicated on a 4-point scale how much statements about community characteristics described the neighborhood the primary caregiver and child live in (e.g., trash pickup is a problem in the neighborhood, there are safe outdoor parks for children to play in). Seven of the items were taken from the original Community Risks Scale whose reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.89). The other five items were from the Community Resources Scale constructed by IES and DVP staff for the SACD multiprogram evaluation and for which there is no published or study-based reliability.
- B. *Intergenerational closure.* The Intergenerational Closure Scale (Sampson, Morenoff, and Earls 1999) is a 5-item measure to which primary caregivers responded on a 4-point scale to statements about adults' connections with children in the neighborhood (e.g., parents know their children's friends, there are adults for kids to look up to). Its reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.72).
- C. *Child-centered social control.* The Child-Centered Social Control Scale (Sampson, Morenoff, and Earls 1999) is a 5-item measure on which primary caregivers indicated on a 5-point scale how likely it is that neighbors could be counted on to "do something" if something occurred in the neighborhood (e.g., youth sprayed graffiti, children were hurt, neighbors were in need). Its reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.74).

Teacher Report on Student

The Teacher Report on Student was a self-administered survey completed by teachers of the student cohort in the study (i.e., third-grade teachers in 2004-05, fourth-grade teachers in 2005-06, and fifth-grade teachers in 2006-07). Teachers reported on each consented student's typical behavior in the past 30 days. Teachers completed the questionnaires independently and returned the surveys to a central point in the school for collection by the research team. The survey took approximately 15 minutes for teachers to complete for each

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consented student in their classroom. Teachers were offered a small financial incentive as a thank-you. The following measures (grouped by domain) were used:

I. Behavior

- A. *Responsibility.* The Responsibility Scale is an 8-item measure developed for the SACD multiprogram evaluation. It uses teachers' responses on a 4-point scale to measure the degree to which a child takes responsibility for his or her own actions (e.g., how often a child asks permission, apologizes, takes care of property, or denies responsibility for wrongdoing) for the SACD multiprogram evaluation. The scale was constructed by IES and DVP staff for the SACD multiprogram evaluation. There is no published or study-based reliability for this scale.
- B. *Self-regulation, cooperation, and prosocial behavior.* The Social Competence Scale (CPPRG 1999) is an 19-item measure to which teachers responded on a 4-point scale about a child's emotional and behavioral regulation, cooperative behavior, and prosocial behavior (e.g., how often a child calms down when wound up, works well in groups, and acts friendly toward others). Its reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.87).
- C. *Altruistic behavior.* The Altruism Scale (Soloman et al. 2000) is an 8-item measure to which teachers responded on a 4-point scale about how often a student engages in helping behavior (e.g., cheers someone up who is feeling sad or helps someone who is being picked on). Its reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.82).
- D. *Aggression.* The BASC Aggression Subscale, Teacher Version (Reynolds and Kamphaus 1998) is a 14-item assessment to which teachers responded on a 4-point scale about how often a student engages in verbal or physical aggression (e.g., bullies others, calls other children names). Its reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.95) and through test-retest (0.91).
- E. *Conduct problems.* The BASC Conduct Problems Subscale, Teacher Version (Reynolds and Kamphaus 1998) is a 10-item assessment to which teachers responded on a 4-point scale about how often a student engages in socially deviant or disruptive behavior in school (e.g., skips class, cheats, steals). Its reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.77) and through test-retest (0.80).
- F. *Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)-related behavior.* This measure is a set of 10 items that assess a range of symptoms of attention deficits and hyperactivity such as inattention, distractibility, verbal and physical impulsivity, losing things, and difficulty organizing activities. It draws on two sources. Five inattention/overactivity items were taken from the IOWA Conners Teacher Rating Scale (Loney and Milich 1982). The reliability of the original Conners scale has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.89 to 0.92). Five items were based on diagnostic criteria for ADHD from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders*, fourth edition (American Psychiatric Association 2000) that have been shown to be among the most powerful for predicting ADHD diagnoses in school settings (Pelham et al. 1992).

II. Academics

- A. *Academic competence.* The Academic Competence and Motivation Scale was developed for the SACD multiprogram evaluation and is based on the academic competency subscales of the Social Skills Rating System (Gresham and Elliott 1990) and items from the Teacher's Report Form (Achenbach 1991). On this 5-item measure, teachers indicated how a student performed overall, performed in reading, performed in math, and functioned intellectually compared to grade-level expectations; and indicated how motivated a student was compared to the average student at grade level. The reliability of the Social Skills Rating System has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.96) and through test-retest (0.93). The reliability of the Teacher

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Report Form has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.72 to 0.95) and through test-retest (0.62 to 0.96).

III. Perceptions of School Climate

- A. *Parent and teacher involvement.* This measure is a 7-item modified version of the Parent and Teacher Involvement Questionnaire, Teacher Version (CPPRG 1991). Teachers responded on a 4-point scale indicating how often a student's primary caregiver interacts with the teachers at school and attends school events (e.g., calls on the phone, attends parent-teacher conferences). Teachers also responded to three questions about communication with a student's parents, the degree of involvement a parent has in a student's life, and the academic encouragement provided to a student. Its reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.77).

Teacher Report on Classroom and School

The Teacher Report on Classroom and School was a self-administered questionnaire that took a teacher approximately 30 minutes to complete. Teachers reported on the organizational climates of their schools, the social and character development activities they had implemented in their classrooms, and their own professional backgrounds. The questionnaire was distributed to third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers at each school. The following measures (grouped by domain or type of moderator) were used:

I. Perceptions of School Climate

- A. *Organizational climate.* The School-Level Environment Questionnaire (Rentoul and Fraser 1983) is a 56-item measure to which teachers responded on a 5-point scale about the degree to which teachers are supported and valued by administration officials, are provided adequate resources, are autonomous in managing their own activities, are collegial with one another, and have a voice in school policy decisions. Its reliability has been evaluated through internal consistency (0.82).
- B. *Safety.* The Feelings of Safety at School Scale was developed for the SACD multiprogram evaluation and is a 4-item measure. Teachers responded on a 4-point scale about how much they agree with statements that are indicative of students' feelings of safety at school (e.g., students feel safe at this school, students are afraid someone will hurt them at school, students are afraid someone will tease them at school). This scale was constructed by IES and DVP staff for the SACD multiprogram evaluation. There is no published or study-based reliability for this scale.

II. Level of SACD in the School

The SACD Activities Teacher Survey is a self-report questionnaire constructed by SACD Research Consortium members. Teachers indicated the SACD-related programs and activities occurring in the classroom and school, and the degree to which teachers and staff incorporated SACD-like qualities in their professional relationships and styles. The questionnaire consisted of 11 major questions, each with multiple parts. A set of 83 SACD activities variables was created from teacher responses to individual questions. These variables were used to describe the level of social and character development formally occurring in every school. As such, they were also used as outcome variables (no additional construction was done for their use in the analysis) to evaluate the impact of the SACD programs on the use of SACD activities in the schools. The individual outcomes were grouped under six domains:¹⁰ (1) use of SACD activities, (2) use of SACD activities associated with a named SACD program, (3) use of classroom materials and strategies to promote social and character development, (4) use of schoolwide strategies to promote social and character development, (5) professional development of teachers to promote social and character development, and (6) teachers' attitudes toward the promotion of social and character development and school practices conducive

¹⁰ Outcomes were grouped into the six domains based on face validity alone. No psychometric procedures were used, and no measures of reliability or validity were obtained.

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to such promotion. Below is a description of each of the SCD Activities' variables developed from the survey and grouped by domain.

- A. *Use of Social and Character Development Activities.* Teachers reported whether they engaged in activities to promote six SCD goals and behavior management. The six SCD goals were defined as follows:
1. Violence Prevention and Peace Promotion: to make students and schools safer and more peaceful (e.g., reducing verbal and physical aggression, weapons, and bullying while promoting conflict resolution and peacemaking);
 2. Social and Emotional Competence: to foster positive emotional, behavioral, and interpersonal skill (e.g., anger management, recognizing emotions, empathy, respectful communication, and building and maintaining friendships);
 3. Character Education: to encourage the development of desirable traits, values, and ethics (e.g., respect, responsibility, honesty, fairness, and caring);
 4. Tolerance and Diversity: to promote understanding of and respect for the ways in which people differ (e.g., promote acceptance of others, celebrate cultural and ethnic differences, and reduce prejudice);
 5. Risk Prevention and Health Promotion: to reduce unhealthy behaviors and promote healthy ones (e.g., prevent alcohol, tobacco, and drug use and promote healthy life choices); and
 6. Civic Responsibility and Community Service: to promote participation in and commitment to the common good including service to the classroom, school, and community (e.g., raising resources for charity, recycling, and promoting understanding of one's role in creating community).

For each goal, teachers were asked to provide a brief description of any activity that addressed the goal in their class since the beginning of the school year, to indicate whether they did the activity with all or some students, and the frequency and amount of time devoted to these activities. Two sets of seven variables were developed from these responses. The first set of seven variables was composed of binary variables (*yes* or *no*) as to whether teachers reported that they had engaged in a SCD activity for each SCD goal separately (six variables) and whether they reported that they had engaged in a SCD activity for any of the SCD goals (one variable). The second set of seven variables was composed of binary variables as to whether teachers reported that they had engaged in a SCD activity for at least 1 hour per week for each SCD goal separately (six variables) and whether they reported that they had engaged in a SCD activity for at least 1 hour per week for any of the SCD goals (one variable). One hour was chosen as the cutoff point because most of the programs expected teachers to conduct weekly lessons that would require approximately this much time.

In addition, respondents also reported separately on the use and amount of time devoted to behavior management activities. These reports were used to create two binary variables: (1) whether teachers reported that they had engaged in activities to support behavior management, and (2) whether teachers reported that they had engaged in activities to support behavior management for at least 1 hour per week.

In total, this domain contains 16 outcome variables: (1) Six variables regarding teachers' reported use of SCD activities to promote each of the six SCD goals; (2) six variables regarding teachers' reported use of SCD activities for more than an hour per week to promote each of the six SCD goals, (3) two variables regarding teachers' reported promotion of any of the six SCD goals using SCD activities or using SCD activities for at least an hour per week, and (4) two variables

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regarding teachers' reported promotion of behavior management using activities or using activities for at least an hour per week

- B. *Use of Social and Character Development Activities Associated With a Named Program.* When teachers provided the data described above, regarding their engagement in activities to promote the six SCD goals and behavior management, they also could note whether the activity was associated with a specific SCD program. Two sets of 7 variables were developed from these responses for a total of 14 variables within this domain. The first set of seven variables was composed of binary variables (*yes* or *no*) as to whether teachers reported that they had engaged in a SCD activity linked to a named SCD program for each SCD goal separately (6 variables) and whether they reported that they had engaged in a SCD activity linked to a named SCD program for any of the SCD goals (1 variable). The second set of 7 variables was composed of binary variables as to whether teachers reported that they had engaged in a SCD activity linked to a named SCD program for at least 1 hour per week for each SCD goal separately (6 variables) and whether they reported that they had engaged in a SCD activity linked to named SCD program for at least 1 hour per week for any of the SCD goals (1 variable). Few respondents mentioned a specific behavior management program by name, so no measures were created for use of behavior management associated with a named program.
- C. *Classroom Materials and Strategies Used to Promote Social and Character Development.* Teachers were asked about their use of six specific types of materials and 20 specific classroom strategies to promote social and character development in the classroom. Responses to these questions were used to create variables indicating the teacher-reported use of each type of material and strategy. Twenty-nine outcome variables are contained under this domain, including 28 binary variables (*yes* or *no*) and 1 count variable: (1) 7 binary variables regarding reported use of materials, with 1 for each of the six types of materials plus a binary variable for no report of using any of the six materials; (2) 21 binary variables regarding reported use of the strategies, with 1 for each of the 20 types of strategies plus a binary variable for reported use of any of the 20 strategies; and (3) 1 count variable for the average number of strategies reported used.
- D. *Schoolwide Strategies Used to Promote Social and Character Development.* Teachers were asked whether their school used six specific types of schoolwide strategies to promote social and character development. These included morning announcements or videos, school assemblies, school newspapers or bulletins, special school days, special events, or other activities. Responses to these questions were used to create six binary variables for whether or not the teacher reported that the school used each specific schoolwide strategy.
- E. *Professional Development of Teachers to Promote Social and Character Development.* Teachers were asked about the training they received in instructional methods related to social and character development during the prior 12 months. Information was collected on whether any training was received, the total number of hours of training, whether training was received in each of the six SCD goal areas, and whether teachers participated in behavior management training. Nine outcome variables (eight binary and one count) were developed from these responses: (1) one binary variable as to whether teachers reported any such training within the past 12 months, (2) seven binary variables as to whether teachers reported any such training within the past 12 months linked to each of the six SCD goals separately or to behavior management, and (3) one count variable as to the number of reported hours spent in such training during the past 12 months.
- F. *Attitudes Toward SCD Efforts and School Practices Conducive to SCD.* Teachers were asked to characterize their own attitudes about efforts to promote social and character development (enthusiastic, cooperative, or in open dislike) and to characterize whether the culture of their school reflected the use of six practices (most of the time) conducive to the social and character

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development of students. These practices included teacher modeling of positive character and behavior with students and with other staff, involvement of students in discussions, students' voice in governance, school encouragement of parent involvement, and discipline practices that included promoting development rather than only punishing misbehavior. Nine binary outcome variables were developed from these responses: (1) three regarding whether teachers reported being enthusiastic, cooperative, and in open dislike to promoting social and character development, and (2) six regarding the reported use of each school practice.

III. Teacher Experience

The Teacher Survey on Professional Development and Training was developed for the SACD multiprogram evaluation as a 10-item questionnaire to which teachers responded about their demographic background, education, teaching experience, and engagement in professional development activities. Items for this survey were drawn from those used in an earlier study on teacher quality carried out by the National Center for Education Statistics (Lewis et al. 1999).

Principal Interview

Principals were individually interviewed in a 45-minute period about the prevalence and characteristics of the activities used to promote social and character development and about the percentage of staff trained in them and staff support of their use. Interviewers used both open-ended prompts and questions with defined answers. In fall 2004 and spring 2005, interviews were conducted in person. However, the recording of the open-ended responses was not of acceptable quality, including differences in the level of detail provided by interviewers. For the second and third years of the project, principal interviews were done by a smaller group of more experienced staff through phone interviews. Because of the quality concerns, the spring 2005 open-ended data are not reported. The principal interviews were used to develop six measures of the SACD implementation in all the schools.

I. Percentages of Schools Using Activities to Address Each SACD Goal

The percentages of treatment and control schools for which the principal noted that social and character development activities were directed toward each of the following six SACD goals: (1) Violence Prevention and Peace Promotion, (2) Social and Emotional Development, (3) Character Education, (4) Tolerance and Diversity, (5) Risk Prevention and Health Promotion, and (6) Civic Responsibility and Community Service. In addition, principals reported on the number of activities per goal. Both open- and closed-ended questions were used.

II. Delivery Method

Both open- and closed-ended questions were used to code data into *yes* or *no* variables on 13 methods and seven actors used to deliver activities to promote social and character development. Delivery methods included the use of assemblies, structured lessons, targeted reading or writing, and words of the day; and the actors included the classroom teacher, other teachers, and guidance counselors or social workers.

III. Targeting

Principals were asked to specify whether the SACD activities were targeted to the *whole school*, *specific grades*, or *other*. If the principal selected *other*, he or she was asked to describe which students the activity targeted. Both open- and closed-ended questions were used.

IV. Teacher Professional Development

Data about teacher training were collected in both open- and closed-ended questions. In the open-ended responses, principals described the training teachers received for each activity designed to promote social and character development. These responses were coded to indicate whether a teacher received guided or self-guided training. In the closed-ended responses, principals reported, at

the school level, the percentages of teachers and staff who received training in activities to promote social and character development and how many hours of training teachers received.

V. Staff Response

Data about the staff response and support of SCD were collected in the closed-ended questions. Principals reported, at the school level, on the level of staff enthusiasm for activities to promote social and character development. Principals also reported on whether teachers and staff modeled positive behaviors, whether students were involved in decisionmaking at the school, and whether discipline strategies focused on promoting development rather than only punishing misbehavior.

VI. Parental Involvement

Data on whether parents were actively or passively involved in activities to promote social and character development were coded from responses to open-ended questions that asked principals to describe how parents were involved in these activities.

Implementation Fidelity Rating

In order to develop a common implementation measure for the multiprogram evaluation, the SCD Research Program Global Fidelity Ratings form was provided to each grantee for each of the 3 study years. The form contained a request that each grantee rate the fidelity with which the SCD program was implemented in each treatment school during each school year. The instructions explained that, for the fidelity ratings, the standard of comparison should be program standards or benchmarks. Furthermore, the instructions explained that the basis of all fidelity ratings should be the site-specific fidelity data collected as part of the grantee's own evaluation work,¹¹ the program benchmarks, and the rater's own judgment. In addition to rating each school, each grantee was asked to provide a justification for each rating. Two individuals with the most experience in monitoring program implementation in the SCD treatment schools and interpreting the site-specific fidelity data were to complete the ratings independently, discuss each rating, and then decide on a final consensus rating for each treatment school.

For each school, each rater was to rate the amount of implementation and the quality of implementation. After making individual ratings, each pair was to discuss their ratings and arrive at a consensus rating. The rating values ranged from 1 to 5. For example, a rating of 1 for the amount of implementation at a school indicated that "On average, the program was delivered at a level *substantially below* program benchmarks." A rating of 2 indicated "On average, the program was delivered at a level *somewhat below* program benchmarks." A rating of 3 indicated the program *met* benchmarks; while ratings of 4 and 5 were for delivery at levels *somewhat above* and *substantially above* program benchmarks, respectively. The ratings for the quality of implementation at a school were analogous. For example, a rating of 1 for the quality of implementation at a school indicated that "On average, the program was delivered with quality *substantially below* program benchmarks."

Construction of Outcome Variables

To develop a set of student and school climate outcome measures with better psychometric characteristics and to determine whether a smaller number of scales could represent them,¹² a set of exploratory factor analyses using the fall 2004 survey data for each group of respondents (children, primary caregivers, and

¹¹ For their independent evaluations, the research teams developed their own approaches and used a variety of methods (including training logs, teacher reports, and classroom observations) to measure the implementation fidelity of their separate programs.

¹² A preliminary factor analysis of the fall 2004 data indicated that certain scales had poor internal consistency while others were highly intercorrelated.

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teachers) was done on a randomly selected half of the sample.¹³ Exploratory analysis of data for each reporter found that the item responses of children, primary caregivers, and teachers were optimally represented by 10, 3, and 5 underlying factors, respectively, for a total of 18 constructs. Factors representing 2 constructs (Altruistic Behavior and Problem Behavior) were identified for all three respondent groups. A factor representing a third construct (Positive Social Behavior) was identified for both primary caregivers and teachers, and a factor representing 2 highly related constructs was identified for teachers and children (Academic Competence and Motivation, and Engagement with Learning). The remaining identified factors were specific to each responding group. These 18 factors were subjected to a confirmatory factor analysis with the remaining half of the fall 2004 sample using structural equation modeling procedures. Two additional constructs (Feelings of Safety, and Student Support for Teachers) were developed through a principal component analysis of the Teacher Report on Classroom and School. Further analysis determined that the results were robust across gender and race/ethnic subgroups, individually for each of the seven SCD programs, when missing item responses were imputed, and when the full fall 2004 and spring 2005 data were used. As a result of these analyses, 20 constructs were identified and these were used as the outcome measures for the SCD evaluation. Table 1.5 lists the outcome measures by report and details the number of items in each, their reliability, and the original measures that provided the items for them. Changes in these measures may be beneficial or detrimental depending on the specific outcome, so a positive change does not automatically reflect an improvement or a negative change a decline. The +/- sign in parentheses next to each outcome in the first column of table 1.6 notes whether a gain or loss can be interpreted as beneficial for each outcome (as do the first columns of all tables reporting impacts on the outcomes). The 20 outcome measures were grouped under four domains based on the conceptual model: Social and Emotional Competence, Behavior, Academics, and Perceptions of School Climate (table 1.6).¹⁴

¹³ See appendix B for details on the development of the outcome measures.

¹⁴ One further analysis was done to determine whether the multiple reports for each of three constructs within the Behavior domain could be combined: Altruistic Behavior (child, caregiver, and teacher), Positive Social Behavior (caregiver and teacher), and Negative Behavior (child, caregiver, and teacher). A series of exploratory multitrait, multirespondent analyses found that these outcomes were affected by both the behavior construct being assessed and by the reporter. As a result, separate outcome measures for each reporter (child, caregiver, and teacher) were retained.

Table 1.5. Outcome variables

Report/Outcome variable	Items	Range	Reliability ¹	Original measure from which items were taken
Child Report				
Altruistic Behavior	8	0-3	0.88	Altruism Scale, Child Version
Engagement with Learning	4	1-4	0.84	4 items from Engagement vs. Disaffection with Learning Scale
Normative Beliefs About Aggression	8	1-4	0.83	Normative Beliefs About Aggression Scale
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interaction	12	1-4	0.83	Self-Efficacy for Peer Interaction Scale
Empathy	11	1-3	0.78	11 items from the Children's Empathy Questionnaire
Problem Behavior	12	0-3	0.86	6 items from Frequency of Delinquent Behavior Scale and 6 items from Aggression Scale
Positive School Orientation	10	1-4	0.86	9 items from Sense of School as a Community Scale and 1 item from Feelings of Safety at School Scale
Negative School Orientation	8	1-4	0.78	4 items from Engagement vs. Disaffection with Learning Scale and 4 items from Sense of School as a Community Scale
Student Afraid at School	4	1-4	0.79	4 items from Feelings of Safety at School Scale
Victimization at School	6	0-3	0.86	Victimization Scale
Primary Caregiver Report				
Altruistic Behavior	8	1-4	0.88	Altruism Scale, Primary Caregiver Version
Positive Social Behavior	25	1-4	0.93	6 items from Responsibility Scale and 19 items from Social Competence Scale
Problem Behavior	20	1-4	0.86	12 items from BASC Aggression Subscale, 6 items from BASC Conduct Problems Subscale, and 2 items from the Responsibility Scale

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.5. Outcome variables—Continued

Report/Outcome variable	Items	Range	Reliability ¹	Original measure from which items taken
Teacher Report on Student				
Altruistic Behavior	8	1-4	0.89	Altruism Scale, Teacher Version
Academic Competence and Motivation	5	1-5	0.95	Academic Competence and Motivation Scale
Positive Social Behavior	25	1-4	0.97	6 items from Responsibility Scale and 19 items from the Social Competence Scale
Problem Behavior	23	1-4	0.95	14 items from BASC Aggression Subscale, Teacher Version, 7 items from BASC Conduct Problems Subscale, Teacher Version and 2 items from Responsibility Scale
ADHD-Related Behavior	10	1-4	0.91	5 items from DSM-IV Criteria for ADHD and 5 items from IOWA Conners Teacher Rating Scale
Teacher Report on Classroom and School				
Feelings of Safety	4	1-5	0.89	Feelings of Safety at School Scale
Student Support for Teachers	7	1-5	0.89	7 items from the School-Level Environment Questionnaire

¹ Internal consistency as measured by Cronbach's alpha.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 1.6. Outcomes, by domain and data instrument

Domain/Outcome	Instrument			
	Child Report	Primary Caregiver Report	Teacher Report on Student	Teacher Report on Classroom and School
Social and Emotional Competence Domain				
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interaction (+)	✓			
Normative Beliefs About Aggression (-)	✓			
Empathy (+)	✓			
Behavior Domain				
Altruistic Behavior (+)	✓	✓	✓	
Positive Social Behavior (+)		✓	✓	
Problem Behavior (-)	✓	✓	✓	
ADHD-Related Behavior (-)			✓	
Academics Domain				
Engagement with Learning (+)	✓			
Academic Competence and Motivation (+)			✓	
Perceptions of School Climate Domain				
Positive School Orientation (+)	✓			
Negative School Orientation (-)	✓			
Student Afraid at School (-)	✓			
Victimization at School (-)	✓			
Feelings of Safety (+)				✓
Student Support for Teachers (+)				✓

NOTE: Abbreviations are

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

✓: Outcome addressed

Blank cell: Outcome not addressed

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Construction of Moderator Variables

The impact of the SACD programs was hypothesized to vary by student, family, and community characteristics and by the level of implementation. Collected student demographic characteristics (such as gender) could be directly used in the analysis. Other characteristics required the use of scales and the construction of moderator variables for use in the analysis.

Initial Risk Factors

Certain individual, family, and community characteristics are associated with greater prevalence of child behavior problems. Students with these characteristics began the SACD study with initial risks that were hypothesized to lead to more negative outcomes. To help determine the impact of these initial risks on the effects of the SACD programs, four risk factors were constructed to represent (1) socioeconomic risk, (2) family risk, (3) perceived community risk, and (4) child behavior risk. To select the measures to be included in the first three risk domains, associations were examined between the risk measures and a set of baseline outcome measures.

Socioeconomic risk was defined as the number of the following risk factors present in the child's life at the initial data collection: (1) the child was in a single-parent household, (2) the child was in a low-income household (below 135% of the poverty level), and (3) the child's primary caregiver had failed to graduate from high school. A cumulative risk index across the three risk factors was calculated by adding the number

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of these factors each child had: 0 (no risk factors), 1 (one risk factor), and 2 (two or three risk factors). Scores ranged from 0 to 2, with a mean of 0.73 and a standard deviation of 0.74. The fourth measure of socioeconomic risk collected, employment status of the child's caregiver, was not included in the socioeconomic risk measure because it was not found predictive of baseline outcomes when the other three measures were included.

Family risk was measured using the Poor Monitoring and Supervision Subscale from the Alabama Parenting Questionnaire (Shelton et al. 1996) collected in the Primary Caregiver Report. Scores ranged from 1 to 3.5, with a mean of 1.1 and standard deviation of 0.20. The other two measures of family risk collected, the Positive Parenting Subscale and the Confusion, Hubbub, and Order Scale, appeared to reflect reporter variance rather than construct variance and so were not included in family risk measure.

Perceived community risk was measured using items on the Community Risk Scale (Forehand et al. 2000), collected in the Primary Caregiver Report. Scores ranged from 1 to 4, with a mean of 1.5 and a standard deviation of 0.64. The other two measures of community risk collected, the Community Resources Scale and the Child-Centered Social Control Scale were less consistently related to the outcome variables and so were not included in the community risk measure.

Child behavior risk was measured using the Conduct Problem Subscales from the BASC (Reynolds and Kamphaus 1998) collected in the Teacher Report on Student and the Primary Caregiver Report. For the teacher-reported child behavior risk variable, scores ranged from 42 to 120, with a mean of 50.82 and a standard deviation of 9.78. For the parent-reported child behavior risk variable, scores ranged from 36 to 113, with a mean of 50.33 and a standard deviation of 9.02.

Fidelity of Implementation

How well an intervention was implemented was hypothesized to be associated with how the SCD programs affected the outcomes. The constructs used for the fidelity data analysis were developed so that the SCD evaluation would be able to examine whether impacts on student outcomes were estimated to be larger in treatment group schools that achieved high-fidelity implementation of their SCD program (relative to their matched control group counterparts) than were impacts in treatment group schools that achieved lower fidelity implementation (relative to their control group counterparts). Data collection was designed in such a way that each program was to be assessed relative to the benchmarks or expectations established for the specific program. Consensus ratings on a quality-of-implementation 5-point scale and on a quantity-of-implementation 5-point scale were to be used to categorize the treatment schools as high in implementation fidelity (high-fidelity subgroup) or low in implementation fidelity (low-fidelity subgroup) (see Measures section). The ratings on quality and quantity of implementation were found to be highly correlated for each school (0.78 in Year 1, 0.82 in Year 2, and 0.83 in Year 3). As a result, they were combined into a single 10-point composite measure of fidelity of implementation, which was used to create the high- and low-fidelity subgroups.

The cutoff point on the consensus score used to place the schools into the two fidelity subgroups was established using two criteria. First, every year a pair of raters independently rated each school within a specific program and then agreed on a consensus score for each school.¹⁵ The cutoff point was to be set so that the individual ratings were to agree on the placement for the largest possible percentage of schools. The agreement between the two raters' individual scores on their schools' placement was measured using Cohen's kappa, which adjusts the empirical match rate by the expected number of exact matches that would occur by chance. Second, a sufficient number of schools were to be placed in each subgroup so that the size of each

¹⁵ Over the 3 years, the ratings were not always consistently provided by the research teams. In Year 1, four teams provided both the ratings from the independent raters and the consensus ratings, two teams provided only the independent ratings, and one team provided a single rating. In Year 2, all teams provided the requested ratings. In Year 3, six teams provided the requested ratings and one team provided only the independent ratings.

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was sufficient to generate precise estimates. When applying these two criteria to the spring 2005 data, placement into the high- versus low-fidelity subgroup was defined using a cutoff of 7 for the consensus score: high implementers had consensus scores that were 7 or greater; and low implementers had consensus scores less than 7. The cutoff value of 7 led to the highest agreement rate between the raters and the most balanced division of the sample.¹⁶

The seven rater pairs placed 30 of the 36 schools in the same fidelity group, and there was an overall kappa value of 0.67.¹⁷ Twenty schools were categorized as high implementers and 22 were categorized as low implementers. Replication of this procedure with the 2006 and 2007 data yielded similar results, including kappas of 0.71 and 0.76, respectively, and 20 and 19 high-implementing schools and 22 and 23 low-implementing schools, respectively. Table 1.7 shows these results by program and provides the inter-rater reliability for the two raters in each program, the agreement rate between raters for the categorization of schools as high implementers, and Cohen's kappa for this rate. The overall inter-rater reliability coefficients (Cronbach's alpha) were 0.71 in Year 1 (0.83 if the LBW's alpha of -0.08 is excluded), 0.90 in Year 2, and 0.94 in Year 3. The program-specific alphas were 0.70 or higher in Year 1 (except for LBW and SS, for which only a single rating was provided), 0.74 or higher in Year 2, and 0.72 or higher in Year 3. These findings suggest that, in most programs, the variance of ratings across observers was small relative to the variance of mean ratings across schools.

¹⁶ Alternative cutoff values led to lower kappa values (almost half the size) and less balanced groups.

¹⁷ While there were 42 treatment schools, one research team did not provide rater-specific information for the spring 2005 fidelity data so there were only 36 schools for which rater-specific information was available.

Table 1.7. Fidelity ratings of program implementation at treatment schools

Program	Number of treatment schools	Inter-rater reliability (Cronbach's alpha)	Rater fidelity agreement rate (%)	Cohen's kappa ¹
Year 1				
Total	42	0.71	83	0.67
ABC	6	1.00	100	1.00
CSP	5	0.70	80	0.62
LBW	6	-0.08	67	—
PA	7	0.85	86	0.72
PATHS	5	0.78	80	0.55
4Rs	7	0.84	86	0.70
SS ²	6	—	—	—
Year 2				
Total	42	0.90	86	0.71
ABC	6	0.98	100	1.00
CSP	5	0.80	80	0.55
LBW	6	0.83	100	1.00
PA	7	0.74	71	0.46
PATHS	5	0.93	60	0.17
4Rs	7	0.78	86	0.59
SS	6	1.00	100	1.00
Year 3				
Total	42	0.94	88	0.76
ABC	6	0.99	83	0.67
CSP	5	0.99	100	1.00
LBW	6	0.97	100	1.00
PA	7	0.98	100	1.00
PATHS	5	0.86	60	0.29
4Rs	7	0.72	71	0.30
SS	6	0.99	100	1.00

— Not available.

¹ Cohen's kappa adjusts the agreement rate for the expected number of Rater 1 and Rater 2 exact matches that would occur because of chance.² In Year 1, *Second Step* provided a single consensus rating.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

ABC: *Academic and Behavioral Competencies Program*CSP: *Competence Support Program*LBW: *Love In a Big World*PA: *Positive Action*PATHS: *Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies*4Rs: *The 4Rs Program (Reading, Writing, Respect, and Resolution)*SS: *Second Step*

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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In Year 1, these high- or low-fidelity subgroups were used directly in the analysis. In Years 2 and 3, the actual subgroups used in the analysis were based on a school's assignment to the high- or low-fidelity subgroup in each year. This was done to address the possibility that a program's fidelity over time might have cumulative effects on students. As a result, three subgroups were created for Year 2 and Year 3 by combining the annual results: (1) high: placement in the high-fidelity subgroup in all years; (2) low: placement in the low-fidelity subgroup in all years; and (3) mixed: placement in the high- and low-fidelity subgroups in different years.

The multiprogram evaluation examined seven different SCD programs, each with unique features, and the fidelity rating measured fidelity of implementation relative to the targets established for each specific intervention.¹⁸ In this way, the ratings were standardized relative to each site's program-specific benchmarks and could be compared across programs and years. Thus, for example, a rating of 6 at a school using one program shows higher fidelity to implementation of that program than a rating of 4 at another school using a different program (relative to that program's benchmarks). The compromise in developing this fidelity measure was that basing the ratings on implementation relative to each program's standards allows for cross-program comparisons but it cannot account for differences among the programs' implementation standards. For example, one SCD program might be simple to implement and so require a less intensive implementation, which would make high fidelity easier to reach. Another program might be very difficult to fully implement and require intensive implementation, which would make high fidelity difficult. As a result, schools using the first program might score higher on the fidelity rating scale than schools using the second program because high fidelity was easier for them to obtain. However, if the second program was more effective than the first, even when not fully implemented, then an analysis comparing the fidelity subgroups might erroneously lead to the conclusion that it is better to implement programs with a low level of fidelity.

In addition, high and low fidelity were not randomly assigned, therefore programs and schools were not necessarily represented in the fidelity subgroups by chance. Instead, they may have ended up in their subgroup because of pre-existing characteristics. Comparisons of the estimated impacts at high-fidelity schools to those of low-fidelity schools would lead to an erroneous conclusion regarding the effect of fidelity of implementation if the impact of fidelity was due to other differences between the subgroups. In other words, if high and low fidelity occurred because of differences among schools and these differences also had an impact on the student outcomes, then fidelity would be an outcome of these differences between the schools rather than a cause of student outcomes. These differences might be more observable (e.g., schools with high fidelity had students who, on average, had a different socioeconomic status than schools with low fidelity) or less observable (e.g., differences in the talent and dedication of the staff or strength of school leadership).

In sum, the fidelity ratings provided an indicator of the extent to which the SCD programs were implemented according to program benchmarks. Because of how the ratings were constructed and the possibility that program and school characteristics may have contributed to each school's rating, differences in estimated impacts by implementation group could reflect differences in the level of implementation and/or underlying differences between the students, the schools, and the SCD programs. As these effects cannot be fully disentangled, the analysis making use of the fidelity data was considered exploratory rather than definitive.

Data Collection

The SCD study had five data collection points, beginning with the initial collection of data in fall 2004 (start of third grade) and followed by four follow-up points: spring 2005 (end of third grade), fall 2005 (start of

¹⁸ One drawback of this approach is that the fidelity data provide little information about why implementation was of a certain quality. The fidelity data collected by each research team using team-chosen criteria were expected to provide this type of information rather than facilitate the multiprogram analysis.

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fourth grade), spring 2006 (end of fourth grade) and spring 2007 (end of fifth grade).¹⁹ Ideally, fall data collections would have occurred at the very beginning of the school year to reduce the possibility that the implementation of the program could affect the data (for fall 2004) and to maximize the length of time that the intervention would have to affect the annually collected outcomes. Spring data collections would ideally have occurred near the end of the school year in order to maximize the length of time the program had to affect annually collected outcomes.

For practical reasons, fall data collections were often delayed for several weeks to allow school populations to settle, to obtain primary caregiver consent, and to avoid disrupting planned school activities. Spring data collections occurred earlier than the end of school to fit into school schedules that included spring district testing and vacations.

Across the seven SCD programs, the fall 2004 data collection encompassed a 3-month period, although on-site data collection in each program typically took 2 to 4 weeks (table 1.8). The earliest fall 2004 data collection started on August 23, 2004 (LBW), and the last ended on November 12, 2004 (ABC). In all programs except LBW, implementation of the program started before the fall 2004 data collection visit. In the other six programs, the interval between program implementation and fall 2004 data collection was 2 to 6 weeks, which may have had some effect on student reports. Teachers and principals received training on the intervention before the fall 2004 data collection, and this could have affected their reports on the use of activities to promote social and character development in their classrooms and schools. As a result, the fall 2004 reports, especially those from teachers and principals, are unlikely to reflect the true pre-intervention conditions but instead capture what was being done near the beginning of the evaluation. For this reason, the fall 2004 data are termed “initial data” rather than “baseline data.”

The spring 2005 data follow-up occurred between March 21 and June 3, with most of it concentrated in April and May. On-site data collection in each program typically took 2 to 4 weeks. Because of differences in the start dates of implementation and the dates of spring data collection, there was variation among the programs in terms of how long they had been implemented by the time of the spring data collection. This interval ranged from a low of 26 weeks for 4Rs to a high of 36 weeks for CSP. These differences should be kept in mind when viewing the results of the analysis comparing the outcomes of students at spring 2005 in treatment schools with those of students at spring 2005 in control schools (while controlling for the fall value of the relevant outcome measure), although they did not affect individual program evaluations as each program’s treatment and control group was compared over the same period.

The fall 2005 data collection encompassed a 3-month period from August to November, with on-site data collection in each program typically taking 3 to 4 weeks. The gap between the start of school and the fall data collection was 5 weeks for six of the programs and 8 weeks for the seventh, SS. The 2006 spring data collection lasted for approximately a 2-month period, occurring between March 20, 2006, and May 26, 2006. The length of the data collection ranged from less than 2 weeks to about 6 weeks. The time between the start of the school year and the spring data collection varied from 29 to 40 weeks across the programs.

The spring 2007 data collection lasted approximately 2 months and occurred between March 26 and June 1. On-site data collection in each program took 2 to 5 weeks. The time between the start of the school year and spring data collection ranged from 29 to 40 weeks, similar to Year 2.

¹⁹ Data collection for the second cohort (discussed in appendix A) began in fall 2005 (start of third grade) with follow-ups in spring 2006 (end of third grade), and spring 2007 (end of fourth grade).

Table 1.8. Period between implementation and data collection and between data collections, by program

Data collection schedule	ABC	CSP	LBW	PA	PATHS	4Rs	SS
Fall 2004 data collection							
Start date	10/18/04 ¹	8/30/04	8/23/04	10/12/04	10/18/04	10/18/04	10/11/04
End date	11/12/04	9/16/04	9/9/04	10/28/04	10/28/04	11/10/04	10/29/04
Calendar weeks from program implementation	6	4	† ²	2	6	4	5
Spring 2005 data collection							
Start date	4/11/05	4/11/05	5/2/05	5/16/05	3/28/05	3/21/05	4/25/05
End date	5/6/05	4/29/05	5/20/05	6/3/05	4/28/05	5/5/05	5/13/05
Calendar weeks from end of fall data collection	21	30	34	29	22	17	25
Calendar weeks from program implementation	31	36	33	33	29	26	33
Fall 2005 data collection							
Start date	10/10/05 ¹	9/26/05 ³	8/29/05	10/11/05	10/11/05	10/11/05	10/24/05
End date	10/27/05	10/20/05	9/23/05	11/2/05	10/27/05	11/16/05	11/11/05
Calendar weeks from start of school	5	5	5 ⁴	5	5	5	8
Spring 2006 data collection							
Start date	3/27/06	4/24/06	5/1/06	5/1/06	3/20/06	3/27/06	4/24/06
End date	5/1/06	5/5/06	5/19/06	5/26/06	4/11/06	5/8/06	5/12/06
Calendar weeks from end of fall data collection	21	27	31	26	20	20	23
Calendar weeks from start of school	29	35	40	34	29	29	34

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.8. Period between implementation and data collection and between data collections, by program—Continued

Data collection schedule	ABC	CSP	LBW	PA	PATHS	4Rs	SS
Spring 2007 data collection							
Start date	4/18/07	4/26/07	5/1/07	5/7/07	3/26/07	3/26/07	4/23/07
End date	5/8/07	5/10/07	5/16/07	6/1/07	4/27/07	4/26/07	5/10/07
Calendar weeks from start of school	32 ⁵	35	40 ⁶	35	29	29	34

† Not applicable.

¹ At two schools data collection began the week of 9/20 in 2004 and 2005.

² Data collection occurred before program implementation.

³ Data collection at one school occurred 3 weeks earlier.

⁴ One-third of the schools started 2 weeks later.

⁵ Two schools started several weeks earlier.

⁶ Two schools started 2 weeks later.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

ABC: *Academic and Behavioral Competencies Program*

CSP: *Competence Support Program*

LBW: *Love In a Big World*

PA: *Positive Action*

PATHS: *Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies*

4Rs: *The 4Rs Program (Reading, Writing, Respect, and Resolution)*

SS: *Second Step*

There may be slight discrepancies in the end dates for field data collection due to scheduling of Child Report make-up sessions and principal interviews.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Training of Data Collectors

Data collection was done by MPR (along with its subcontractor Decision Information Resources, Inc. [DIR]) and the research teams. MPR established on-site data collection teams to administer and collect the Child Report from the study schools. These teams were trained by senior MPR and DIR data collection managers at one of two 4-day training sessions held August 7-10, 2004, in Tennessee and September 18-21, 2004, in New Jersey. At these sessions, data collectors were introduced to the study objectives, reviewed data collection procedures, discussed working in schools, and reviewed the distribution and collection of all survey materials. To monitor quality and consistency of data collection across all sites, senior MPR and DIR data collection managers observed the first day or two of on-site data collection at each site in fall 2004 and spring 2005. Because most of the data collectors from fall 2004 returned for spring 2005 data collection, MPR held a refresher training session in spring 2005. This refresher training included several activities: (1) distribution of a revised training manual, (2) a videotape and detailed memorandum on changes in procedures and/or instruments since fall data collection for home study, (3) a telephone conference call to review home study materials, and (4) an in-person half-day meeting a few days before the beginning of data collection. Ninety-three percent of the collectors returned for the fall 2005 data collection; at one site it proved difficult to hire new collectors so a team was composed of collectors from other sites. MPR provided training through a review memo mailed to collectors, conference calls, and a 4-hour refresher course with each team prior to data collection. Again an MPR or DIR representative worked with each team for the first day or two of data collection. By spring 2006, turnover was high enough that new collectors were provided a 2-day training in March or April. Each team also went through the 4-hour refresher course prior to data collection. A similar approach was taken for spring 2007, with a 2-day training for new data collectors and a 4-hour refresher course before data collection.

The two teacher reports and the primary caregiver report were self-administered questionnaires prepared by MPR. They were distributed either by MPR or the research team during on-site data collection (in some sites teachers received their questionnaires before spring on-site data collection). Teachers received their surveys directly and sent the primary caregiver surveys home with students. If a completed Primary Caregiver Report was not returned within 2 to 4 weeks, MPR attempted to contact the child's primary caregiver by telephone, and if the primary caregiver was willing, the Primary Caregiver Report was administered as a computer-assisted telephone interview.

Consent Rates, Completion Rates, and Percentage of Sample With Data

Data collection required a two-part process: consent and completion of data reports. First, written consent had to be obtained from primary caregivers before their children could fill out the Child Report, their children's teachers could fill out the Teacher Report on Student, and they themselves could fill out the Primary Caregiver Report. Written consent from teachers had to be obtained before they could fill out the Teacher Report on Classroom and School. Second, even when consent was received, reports might not be completed for other reasons. Students may have decided not to complete the Child Report or were absent on the days of the data collection and make-up sessions. Primary caregivers may have failed to complete the Primary Caregiver Report or did not complete the follow-up phone interview. Teachers may have failed to complete the Teacher Report on Student or the Teacher Report on Classroom and School.

The percentage of the sample for which there are data is calculated by multiplying the consent rate and the completion rate for each report. This section discusses the percentage of the sample for which there are data as follows: (1) the overall sample, which includes treatment and control groups; (2) students from the original cohort (stayers) versus new entrants; and (3) by individual SACD program. The consent and completion rates are also provided for the first two and are available in chapters 2 to 8 by program.

Table 1.9 presents the percentage of sample for which there are data for each report by year and by treatment versus control group. For the Child Report and the Teacher Report on Student, between 61 percent and 65 percent of students have data over the 3 years. In Year 1 (third grade), the treatment group had statistically

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significantly larger percentages of data but this was not the case in Years 2 and 3. For the Primary Caregiver Report, the percentage of primary caregivers with data ranged from 57 percent in Year 1 to 46 percent in Year 3, due to declines in completion rates. The treatment group had a significantly higher percentage of primary caregivers with data in the fall of Year 1 but not thereafter. For the Teacher Report on Classroom and Schools, the percentage of teachers with data ranged from 87 percent to 90 percent over the 3 years, with no significant difference between the treatment and control schools.

Table 1.10 examines differences for stayers versus new entrants. For all three reports on students (student, primary caregiver, and teacher) stayers had statistically significantly higher percentages of data than new entrants due to higher consent rates.

Table 1.11 presents the percentage of sample with data for treatment versus control group by SCD program. Out of 112 comparisons, 18 showed statistically significant differences (6 such differences would be expected by chance) with all but 2 favoring the treatment group. These break out as 6 differences in the Child Report, 3 differences in the Primary Caregiver Report, 7 differences in the Teacher Report on Student, and 2 differences in the Teacher Report on Classroom and School.

In sum, over the 3 years of the SCD evaluation, 61 percent to 65 percent of the student sample had data (with 46% to 57% having primary caregiver data).²⁰

²⁰ The majority of the students without data (67% to 97%, depending on report) did not have consent to take part in the study. As data could not be collected on these students, no comparisons could be made to determine whether they significantly differed from those taking part in the study.

Table 1.9. Consent rates, completion rates, and percentage of sample with data from each report

Report	Year 1 (Fall 3rd grade)			Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Total	Treat- ment Control		Total	Treat- ment Control		Total	Treat- ment Control		Total	Treat- ment Control	
Student sample size	6,567	3,367	3,200	6,597	3,388	3,209	6,415	3,327	3,088	6,249	3,172	3,077
Child Report (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate	65	67**	63	66	68**	64	67	67	66	66	67	66
Student completion rate	94	93*	94	96	96	96	95	96	95	96	97	96
Students with data ¹	61	62*	60	63	65**	61	63	65	62	64	65	63
Primary Caregiver Report (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate	63	64**	61	64	66**	62	64	65	63	64	65	64
Primary caregiver completion rate	92	92	92	80	80	81	78	78	77	72	71	72
Primary caregiver with data ¹	57	59*	56	51	52	50	50	51	49	46	46	46
Teacher Report on Student (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate ²	65	67**	63	66	68**	64	67	67	66	66	67	66
Teacher completion rate	96	96	96	99	99	99	100	100**	99	98	98	99
Students with data ¹	62	64**	61	65	67**	63	66	67	65	65	66	65
Teacher Report on Classroom and School (3rd- to 5th-grade teachers) (percent)												
Teacher consent rate	96	98***	92	95	97*	94	95	97	94	96	97	95
Teacher completion rate	91	90	93	91	90	91	94	94	94	92	91	93
Teachers with data ¹	87	88	86	87	88	86	90	90	89	89	88	89

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

*** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .001 level.

¹ Calculated as consent rate x completion rate.

² The primary caregiver consent rates for the Child Report and the Teacher Report on Student are identical, as the primary caregiver gave consent to both together.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 1.10. Consent rates, completion rates, and percentage of sample with data: Stayers versus new entrants

Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Total	Stayers	New entrants	Total	Stayers	New entrants	Total	Stayers	New entrants
Student sample size	6,597	6,203	394	6,415	5,110	1,305	6,249	4,500	1,749
Child Report (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate	65.9	66.5***	56.1	66.5	69.4***	55.2	66.4	69.1***	59.7
Student completion rate	95.9	96.0	94.6	95.4	95.2	96.7	96.2	96.1	96.4
Students with data ¹	63.2	63.8***	53.0	63.5	66.0***	53.4	63.9	66.4***	57.5
Primary Caregiver Report (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate	63.8	64.5***	53.8	64.2	66.7***	54.1	64.2	66.3***	58.8
Primary caregiver completion rate	80.3	80.2	81.6	77.7	77.5	78.6	71.7	70.7*	74.5
Primary caregivers with data ¹	51.3	51.7**	43.9	49.9	51.7***	42.5	46.0	46.9*	43.8
Teacher Report on Student (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate ²	65.9	66.5***	56.1	66.5	69.4***	55.2	66.4	69.1***	59.7
Teacher completion rate	98.8	98.9*	97.3	99.7	99.7	99.4	98.5	98.6	98.0
Students with data ¹	65.1	65.7***	54.6	66.3	69.2***	54.9	65.4	68.1***	58.5

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

*** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .001 level.

¹ Calculated as consent rate x completion rate.

² The primary caregiver consent rates for the Child Report and the Teacher Report on Student are identical, as the primary caregiver gave consent to both together.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 1.11. Percentage of sample with data by report and program¹

Report	Year 1			Year 1			Year 2			Year 3		
	(Fall 3rd grade)			(Spring 3rd grade)			(Spring 4th grade)			(Spring 5th grade)		
	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control
Child Report												
ABC	59.4	62.7*	56.7	62.5	66.0	60.0	62.3	62.7	62.0	63.4	69.1**	59.5
CSP	64.8	62.8	66.6	67.8	67.2	68.4	66.5	66.2	66.7	65.4	59.2***	71.2
LBW	60.1	61.5	58.4	60.8	61.4	60.0	60.4	60.4	60.3	58.6	59.1	57.8
PA	74.4	73.9	74.8	71.2	71.6	70.7	66.6	66.8	66.4	76.5	78.3	74.7
PATHS	52.2	54.4	50.1	56.1	58.6	53.8	55.8	59.0	52.8	55.4	59.5*	51.5
4Rs	54.9	56.0	53.6	59.1	62.3*	55.4	61.2	62.8	59.4	62.4	63.5	61.3
SS	62.3	65.7*	58.0	65.6	68.4	62.2	71.0	72.4	69.2	68.0	70.4	65.4
Primary Caregiver Report												
ABC	56.6	60.0	53.9	48.1	52.5	44.8	45.8	45.8	45.9	44.3	47.3	42.3
CSP	59.6	56.3*	62.9	53.9	50.9	56.9	52.1	50.2	53.9	46.7	43.4	49.7
LBW	62.6	64.8	59.8	53.1	54.0	52.0	51.2	52.9	48.9	46.9	45.7	48.8
PA	72.3	72.7	71.8	58.9	58.9	58.8	52.2	50.6	54.3	50.5	51.7	49.4
PATHS	53.6	56.0	51.3	48.3	52.9	44.0	45.5	49.6**	41.7	43.4	45.2	41.8
4Rs	41.0	42.2	39.6	41.7	41.9	41.5	41.0	40.9	41.2	33.1	32.0	34.4
SS	62.3	65.7*	57.8	57.3	58.0	56.5	61.8	63.2	60.1	56.7	58.3	54.8
Teacher Report on Student												
ABC	59.7	65.3**	55.5	63.7	66.8	61.4	64.7	65.4	64.1	67.2	73.7*	62.7
CSP	66.4	64.1	68.7	68.7	67.8	69.6	68.3	67.3	69.3	62.8	55.0***	70.1
LBW	64.3	66.3	61.9	66.1	67.8	63.8	64.4	65.5	63.0	63.7	63.8	63.4
PA	74.6	72.9	76.3	74.8	73.3	76.3	72.4	71.1	74.0	78.3	79.5	77.1
PATHS	56.4	58.6	54.3	58.4	62.0*	55.0	57.6	60.9	54.6	56.3	60.3*	52.5
4Rs	53.8	55.5	51.8	59.6	62.4*	56.3	65.5	67.3	63.3	64.1	64.4	63.9
SS	64.8	68.5**	60.2	65.6	68.4	62.2	70.8	72.0	69.2	68.1	70.4	65.6

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.11. Percentage of sample with data by report and program¹—Continued

Report	Year 1 (Fall 3rd grade)			Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Treat- ment			Treat- ment			Treat- ment			Treat- ment		
	Total		Control	Total		Control	Total		Control	Total		Control
Teacher Report on Classroom and School (3rd- to 5th-grade teachers)												
ABC	85.6	91.8	80.8	84.2	83.6	84.6	86.0	84.7	87.0	81.6	86.7	77.8
CSP	84.1	83.1	85.2	78.5	77.9	79.0	88.0	85.1	90.9	90.6	86.3	95.4
LBW	88.4	84.0	93.8	95.9	95.2	96.9	87.9	89.7	85.2	91.9	90.4	94.3
PA	89.5	90.0	88.9	82.6	82.0	83.3	86.3	86.0	86.7	83.7	78.0	90.5
PATHS	78.7	88.9**	69.9	80.1	92.1**	69.9	83.6	90.0	78.4	83.5	81.7	84.9
4Rs	92.7	92.0	93.4	90.6	89.0	92.4	97.2	96.8	97.6	96.4	97.8	94.9
SS	92.2	90.3	94.4	93.1	93.5	92.6	96.6	96.8	96.2	89.0	90.8	86.8

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

*** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .001 level.

¹ Calculated as consent rate x completion rate.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

ABC: *Academic and Behavioral Competencies Program*

CSP: *Competence Support Program*

LBW: *Love In a Big World*

PA: *Positive Action*

PATHS: *Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies*

4Rs: *The 4Rs Program (Reading, Writing, Respect, and Resolution)*

SS: *Second Step*

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Initial Characteristics

This section examines the initial characteristics of the students, primary caregivers, teachers, and schools participating in the SCD evaluation. These characteristics were collected from students who were enrolled in the third grade at the study schools in fall 2004, as well as from their primary caregivers and third-grade teachers. In addition, third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers and principals in the study schools provided information about activities related to social and character development in these schools. Documenting the characteristics of students, primary caregivers and the students' households, teachers, and schools—and initial measures of key outcomes at a point before the programs had been operating for an extended period—helps to determine whether the random assignment of schools to treatment and control status produced treatment and control groups with similar distributions of observed characteristics.

For the treatment schools that were implementing six of the seven programs (36 of the 42 treatment schools), implementation began 2 to 6 weeks before the fall 2004 data were collected (as shown in table 1.8). The implementation of the six programs, and the training of teachers that preceded the implementation of all seven programs, could have affected the student, primary caregiver, and teacher reports from the treatment schools. If such effects occurred, they could not be disentangled from pre-existing differences between the treatment and control schools. The likelihood of an implementation effect differed by the type of characteristic reported on. Some characteristics could not be affected (e.g., gender and race/ethnicity). Some were unlikely to be affected (e.g., primary caregiver's highest education level) and others could have been affected (e.g., student outcomes and risk factors) but the likelihood was low given how short the time the students were exposed to the programs before the data collection. Other characteristics were likely to have been affected (e.g., teacher reports of SCD activities and professional development over the past year) given that teachers prepared for implementation and implemented the programs before data collection. How likely a characteristic was to have been affected should be kept in mind when considering how similar the treatment and control groups appeared from the fall 2004 data collection. For example, the lack of significant differences in family characteristics discussed below appears to provide valid evidence that the treatment and control groups were similar, while the lack of differences in student outcomes and risk factors gives similar but perhaps less valid evidence. On the other hand, the findings that treatment teachers used more SCD activities in the classroom and received more SCD training provide evidence of a difference between the treatment and control schools before the study began, but the training in and implementation of the programs before data collection lead to less confidence in this finding.

Characteristics of Children, Their Families, and Communities

The sample's treatment and control groups were similar along the observed student, primary caregiver, and community characteristics (table 1.12). For the comparison of 21 characteristics, the expectation would be that 1 would be significant by chance. For all seven programs together, there was only 1 statistically significant difference (treatment group students were more likely to come from smaller households than control group students: 4.5 versus 4.7 people per household). At the program level, there was only 1 statistically significant difference (control group primary caregivers had significantly higher levels of education than treatment group primary caregivers for the SS program) versus the 7 that would be expected by chance.²¹ For students, the mean age was 8 years. The sample contained more girls than boys (53% versus 48%, respectively) but the difference was not statistically significant. This pattern prevailed in five of the seven programs. The sample was ethnically diverse. White non-Hispanic students made up 42 percent of the sample, Black non-Hispanic students made up 31 percent, and Hispanic students made up 19 percent. In four programs, a single ethnic group comprised the majority of all students (White non-Hispanics made up 83% of SS students, 65% of LBW students, and 56% of PATHS students, while 51% of PA students were Black non-Hispanic).

²¹ Program-level results are detailed in the program-specific chapters.

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The sample was also diverse in levels of family income, education levels of primary caregivers, and family situation. Thirty-nine percent of children lived in a household in which the income was 135 percent of the federal poverty level or lower, which is the income threshold for eligibility for free school meals. About 15 percent of primary caregivers had not completed high school. Sixty percent of the children lived with both their father and their mother. Programs varied in their economic diversity. Three of the programs operated in schools in which the majority of children were in families that had incomes below 135 percent of the federal poverty level (66% for PA, 58% for 4Rs, and 50% for ABC). These three programs also had between 47 percent and 50 percent of children living with both parents; 27 percent to 28 percent of primary caregivers lacked a high school diploma in 4Rs and PA. On the other hand, for SS, only 5 percent of children were from families with incomes below 135 percent of the federal poverty level, only 4 percent of primary caregivers reported not having a high school diploma, and 80 percent of children lived with both parents.

Table 1.12. Initial characteristics of children, their families, and communities

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Student sample size	3,774	1,980	1,794
Student demographics			
Gender (percent)			
Male	47.5	46.9	48.1
Female	52.5	53.1	51.9
Race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	42.1	39.7	44.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	31.0	34.2	27.9
Hispanic	19.2	18.5	20.0
Other	7.7	7.7	7.6
Age (in years) (mean)	8.1	8.1	8.1
Primary caregiver and family characteristics			
Primary caregiver's age (in years) (mean)	36.0	36.0	36.0
Primary caregiver's race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	46.1	43.8	48.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	30.7	33.8	27.6
Hispanic	17.6	16.9	18.3
Other	5.6	5.5	5.6
Primary caregiver's education (percent)			
Did not complete high school	14.7	13.5	15.9
Completed high school or equivalent	24.3	23.3	25.4
Some college	39.7	41.3	38.1
Bachelor's or higher degree	21.2	21.9	20.5
Primary caregiver's employment (percent)			
Full-time	48.3	48.6	48.0
Part-time	14.7	14.5	14.9
Student and employed	4.6	5.1	4.1
Not employed	31.3	30.8	31.8
Other	1.1	1.0	1.2
Primary caregiver's marital status (percent)			
Single	23.9	24.5	23.2
Married	57.0	56.4	57.7
Separated or divorced	12.7	12.6	12.9
Widowed	1.2	1.2	1.1
Other ¹	5.2	5.2	5.2
Students who live in one household (percent)	93.6	93.6	93.6
Number of individuals in household (mean)	4.6	4.5*	4.7

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.12. Initial characteristics of children, their families, and communities—Continued

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Primary caregiver's relationship to child (percent)			
Mother (stepmother)	86.1	86.3	85.9
Father (stepfather)	9.0	8.1	9.8
Grandparent	2.9	3.2	2.6
Other relative	1.3	1.4	1.1
Nonrelative	0.8	1.0	0.6
Student lives with (percent)			
Mother (stepmother) and father (stepfather)	60.0	58.5	61.6
Mother (stepmother) only; father (stepfather) not present	33.6	34.9	32.3
Father (stepfather) only; mother (stepmother) not present	2.5	2.3	2.8
Other relative/nonrelative, parents not present	3.9	4.4	3.3
Highest education of anyone in household (percent)			
Did not complete high school	10.0	8.7	11.4
Completed high school or equivalent	21.9	20.8	23.0
Some college	40.3	42.4	38.2
Bachelor's or higher degree	27.8	28.1	27.5
Total household income (percent)			
Less than \$20,000	33.2	31.7	34.7
\$20,000 to \$39,999	24.4	25.3	23.4
\$40,000 to \$59,999	15.1	15.9	14.4
\$60,000 or more	27.3	27.1	27.5
Household income-to-poverty threshold ratio (percent)			
Below 135 percent	39.0	37.0	41.0
135 to 185 percent	18.2	18.9	17.5
Above 185 percent	42.8	44.1	41.5
Alabama Parenting Questionnaire—Poor Monitoring and Supervision Subscale (mean)	1.2	1.1	1.2
Alabama Parenting Questionnaire—Positive Parenting Subscale (mean)	3.5	3.5	3.5
Confusion, Hubbub, and Order Scale (mean)	2.2	2.2	2.2
Community characteristics (mean)			
Community Risks Scale	1.5	1.5	1.5
Community Resources Scale	2.7	2.7	2.7
Child-Centered Social Control Scale	3.1	3.1	3.1

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

¹ Categories combined to protect confidentiality.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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The mean values of the outcome measures for children's behavior and attitudes as reported by the primary caregiver, child, and teacher in fall 2004, along with each measure's range, are shown in table 1.13. The values were similar for the treatment and control groups. There were three statistically significant differences at the program level (these data are not shown in a table) but their number and pattern suggest that they may have been due to chance; at the 5 percent significance level, 6 of the 126 comparisons made would have been expected to show statistical significance by chance. Table 1.13 also addresses the issue of whether students had room to improve from their initial scores on the outcome measures. Five of the mean outcomes were within 0.4 units of the minimum or maximum outcome range (Normative Beliefs About Aggression; Altruistic Behavior, Teacher Report on Student; Problem Behavior, Child Report and Teacher Report on Student; and Engagement with Learning). However, these five were more than half a standard deviation from their minimum or maximum value, which is larger than the minimal detectable impacts for the study. In addition, the other mean outcomes were one or more standard deviations from their boundaries. In sum, the evaluation had enough power to identify a minimum detectable effect for all the outcomes before potential ceiling and floor effects could occur.

The mean values of the five risk factors as reported in fall 2004 showed no statistically significant difference between the treatment and control groups (table 1.14). In addition, there were no statistically significant differences at the program level (these data are not shown in a table).

Table 1.13. Mean scores and standard deviations for initial outcome measures

Outcome measure—Report	Range	Total		Treatment		Control	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Social and Emotional Competence Domain							
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interaction—CR	1-4	2.9	0.6	2.9	0.6	2.9	0.6
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR	1-4	1.2	0.4	1.2	0.4	1.2	0.4
Empathy—CR	1-3	2.4	0.4	2.4	0.4	2.4	0.4
Behavior Domain							
Altruistic Behavior—CR	0-3	1.5	0.8	1.5	0.9	1.4	0.8
Altruistic Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.4	0.5	1.4	0.5	1.4	0.4
Altruistic Behavior—PCR	1-4	2.3	0.7	2.3	0.7	2.3	0.7
Positive Social Behavior—TRS	1-4	3.0	0.7	3.0	0.7	3.0	0.7
Positive Social Behavior—PCR	1-4	3.0	0.5	3.0	0.5	3.0	0.5
Problem Behavior—CR	0-3	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4
Problem Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.4	0.4	1.4	0.4	1.3	0.4
Problem Behavior—PCR	1-4	1.6	0.3	1.6	0.3	1.6	0.3
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.7	0.6	1.7	0.7	1.7	0.6
Academics Domain							
Academic Competence and Motivation—TRS	1-5	2.9	0.9	2.9	0.9	2.9	0.9
Engagement with Learning—CR	1-4	3.7	0.6	3.7	0.6	3.7	0.6
Perceptions of School Climate Domain							
Positive School Orientation—CR	1-4	3.2	0.7	3.2	0.7	3.2	0.6
Negative School Orientation—CR	1-4	1.8	0.7	1.9	0.7	1.8	0.7
Student Afraid at School—CR	1-4	2.4	0.9	2.4	0.9	2.4	0.9
Victimization at School—CR	0-3	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Sample size—PCR ¹		3,774		1,980		1,794	
Sample size—CR ¹		3,997		2,092		1,905	
Sample size—TRS ¹		4,104		2,158		1,946	

¹ Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

SD: Standard deviation

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

No findings were found statistically significant at or below the .05 level. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, overall means, and standard deviations. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 1.14. Mean scores and standard deviations for initial risk factors

Risk factor	Total		Treatment		Control	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Family risk	1.2	0.2	1.1	0.2	1.2	0.2
Community risk	1.5	0.7	1.5	0.7	1.5	0.7
Child behavior risk—TRS	50.9	10.3	51.2	10.4	50.5	10.2
Child behavior risk—PCR	50.5	10.1	50.5	9.8	50.6	10.3
Socioeconomic risk ²						
No risk factors	58.8	49.2	60.9	48.8	56.8	49.5
One risk factor	29.8	45.7	29.0	45.4	30.6	46.1
Two or three risk factors	11.4	31.7	10.1	30.1	12.6	33.2
Sample size—PCR ¹	3,774		1,980		1,794	
Sample size—CR ¹	3,997		2,092		1,905	
Sample size—TRS ¹	4,103		2,157		1,946	

¹ Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

² As a sensitivity test, the index was also treated as a continuous variable and no significant differences were found.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

SD: Standard deviation

No findings were found statistically significant at or below the .05 level. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, overall means, and standard deviations. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Characteristics of Teachers and Schools

The third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers at the study schools were predominantly White non-Hispanic (75%), female (88%), and had an average of nearly 13 years of total teaching experience. About 60 percent held an advanced or specialist degree (table 1.15). Six characteristics were compared, with less than one expected to be significant by chance. The only statistically significant difference between the treatment and control group of teachers concerned degree attainment: a test of the distribution of teachers' education levels across five categories yielded a *p*-value of 0.043. Among the programs there was one significant difference versus six expected by chance: for PATHS, male teachers made up a smaller percentage of the treatment teachers than the control teachers (17% versus 35%).

Data regarding school characteristics were drawn from the U.S. Department of Education's Common Core of Data (2003-04) in order to compare treatment versus control schools (table 1.16). Comparisons were made on nine characteristics, with less than one expected to be found significant by chance. These characteristics included student composition (race/ethnicity and school lunch eligibility), number of students, number of full-time teachers, Title I status, highest and lowest grades, school location, and years the principal had been at the school. Overall, one significant difference was found: a smaller percentage of treatment schools than control schools (50% versus 67%) had prekindergarten. No significant differences were found among the programs.

In the Teacher Report on Classroom and School, teachers reported on nine dimensions concerning their school environment, including feelings of safety, resource adequacy, student support, staff freedom to teach as desired, affiliation with and ties to colleagues, innovation regarding trying new approaches to teaching, professional interest, participatory decisionmaking, and work pressure. There were no statistically significant differences (these data are not shown in a table) in these reports between treatment and control schools, overall or at the program level.

Table 1.15. Initial characteristics of teachers

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Teacher sample size	847	436	411
Gender (percent)			
Male	12.3	11.9	12.7
Female	87.7	88.1	87.3
Race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	75.2	73.1	77.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	16.8	18.6	15.1
Hispanic	4.9	5.9	3.8
Other	3.1	2.4	3.7
Number of years teaching (mean)	12.8	12.5	13.0
Number of years teaching in this school (mean)	7.3	6.8	7.7
Type of teaching certificate (percent)			
Regular state certificate or advanced professional certificate	84.7	83.4	86.0
Provisional certificate (for those in alternative certification programs)	6.2	6.8	5.5
Probationary certificate (for those who have satisfied all requirements except for completing the probationary period)	4.9	5.7	4.2
Emergency certificate or waiver (for those who must complete a certification program to continue teaching)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other ¹	4.1	4.1	4.2
Education (percent)		*2	
Less than a bachelor's degree	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bachelor's degree	40.2	37.6	42.8
Master's degree, Ph.D.	56.2	60.2	52.3
Specialist degree	2.1	1.0	3.2
Other	1.5	1.3	1.7

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

¹ Categories, including no certificate and temporary certificate, combined to protect confidentiality.

² A test of the distribution of teachers' education levels across all five categories yielded a *p*-value of 0.043.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 1.16. Initial characteristics of schools

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
School sample size	84	42	42
Student race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	37.3	36.4	38.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	39.7	40.9	38.5
Hispanic	18.7	18.0	19.5
Other	4.2	4.6	3.8
Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (percent)	61.3	62.3	60.4
Number of students enrolled (mean)	567.1	555.7	578.9
Number of full-time teachers (mean)	38.5	37.3	39.6
Title I status (percent)			
Title I eligible school	74.2	73.2	75.2
Schoolwide Title I	63.7	61.2	66.2
Lowest grade offered (percent)			
Prekindergarten	58.5	50.4*	66.7
Kindergarten	41.5	49.6	33.3
Highest grade offered (percent)			
Fifth grade	55.4	58.1	52.8
Sixth grade	22.0	19.0	25.1
Eighth grade	22.5	22.9	22.1
Location of school (percent)			
City	56.2	58.6	53.8
Suburbs	26.7	25.2	28.1
Rural	17.1	16.2	18.1
Number of years principal has been at this school (mean)	5.5	4.8	6.1

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Data are missing from *Love In a Big World* for student race/ethnicity, percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, and number of full-time teachers.

SOURCE: NCES Common Core of Data (2003-04), The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

The Initial Level of Social and Character Development Activities in the Schools

During the initial data collection in fall 2004, principals and teachers reported on the SCD activities used in the schools and classrooms, the availability of SCD materials and instructional practices used, and the professional development teachers received on SCD over the past 12 months. These reports were likely to have been influenced by the implementation of six programs (in 36 of the 42 treatment schools) and the training of treatment teachers in all schools that preceded the data collection. For this reason, the fall 2004 data did not provide baseline data on how the use of SCD activities differed between treatment and control before the intervention but, instead, provided data on how this use differed early on in the study.

Table 1.17 shows that most school principals reported activities to promote six social and character development goals: violence prevention and peace promotion (93%), social and emotional development (95%), character education (96%), tolerance and diversity (86%), risk prevention and health promotion (81%), and civic responsibility and community service (90%). In addition, most (91%) also reported activities directed toward behavior management. There were no statistically significant differences in the percentages of principals who reported, in the treatment group schools and the control group schools, that their school had programs or activities to promote each of these goals.

Most teachers reported the use of these activities in their classroom to promote the six social and character development goals and behavior management (ranging from 53% to 87%). From the eight comparisons made (including a “none of the above” comparison) less than one significant difference would have been expected. Unlike the principals, a significantly larger percentage of treatment teachers than control teachers reported using activities to promote three SCD goals: violence prevention and peace promotion activities (70% versus 59%), social and emotional development activities (79% versus 68%), and behavior management (90% versus 84%). In addition, seven comparisons were made as to whether teachers used the activities for each of the six SCD goals and behavior management with all, some, or no students (less than one significant difference would be expected by chance). Treatment teachers were statistically significantly more likely to report engaging all students, as opposed to some or no students, with activities to promote the same three SCD goals (these data are not shown in a table).

The majority of teachers reported that their schools used schoolwide activities to promote social and character development. These activities included morning announcements or videos (reported by 80% of teachers), school assemblies (71%), school newspapers or bulletins (67%), special school days (54%), and special events (72%). Only 13 percent reported the use of other activities. There were no significant differences in the percent of treatment versus control teachers reporting the use of these six activities.

Table 1.17. Principal and teacher initial reports on use of SADC programs or activities

SADC program or activity	Total	Treatment	Control
Principal sample size	84	42	42
Teacher sample size	847	436	411
Principals reporting that school had programs or activities to promote the following SADC goals (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	92.8	92.9	92.7
Social and emotional development	95.0	95.3	94.7
Character education	96.4	95.6	97.1
Tolerance and diversity	85.8	84.7	87.0
Risk prevention and health promotion	80.8	85.1	76.5
Civic responsibility and community service	89.7	92.3	87.0
Behavior management	91.4	93.9	89.0
Teachers reporting on using programs or activities in their class to promote the following SADC goals (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	64.6	69.8*	59.4
Social and emotional development	73.2	78.5**	67.9
Character education	82.5	84.4	80.5
Tolerance and diversity	63.3	64.4	62.1
Risk prevention and health promotion	52.9	51.7	54.1
Civic responsibility and community service	59.2	59.6	58.7
Behavior management	86.8	89.6*	83.9
None of the above	2.4	1.6	3.2
Teachers reporting schoolwide use of the following activities to promote SADC (percent)			
Morning announcements or videos	80.2	77.2	83.3
School assemblies	71.0	69.1	72.9
School newspapers or bulletins	66.7	62.3	71.1
Special school days	53.8	53.8	53.9
Special events	71.5	72.5	70.5
Other activities	12.8	12.5	13.1

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SADC) Research Program.

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Teachers reported on their use of a broad range of teaching materials (table 1.18). The materials most used with SCD activities were teacher guides (used by 65% of teachers), student materials (used by 50%), and children's literature (used by 50%). Of the seven materials reported on, teachers at treatment schools had three reports of use that statistically significantly differed from teachers in control schools (versus less than one by chance): teacher guides (72% versus 59%), instructional aids such as games or videos (37% versus 29%), and other types of materials (11% versus 16%). There were no significant differences in the reported use of student materials, children's literature, giveaway materials, or in not using any of these materials.

Teachers reported using a wide variety of instructional strategies (table 1.18). Treatment teachers reported significantly higher use on 5 of the 22 items than control teachers (1 significant difference would have been expected by chance). These included role-playing (73% versus 59%), direct instruction of social and character development (87% versus 76%), incorporating social and character development into the academic curriculum (80% versus 69%), targeted story reading or writing on social and character development themes (80% versus 71%), and the average number of strategies used (12.2 versus 11.3).

Table 1.18. Teacher initial reports on use of SACD materials and classroom strategies

SACD material and strategy	Total	Treatment	Control
Teacher sample size	847	436	411
Teachers using the following materials in conjunction with social and character development activities (percent)			
Teacher guides (manuals, curricula)	65.3	71.6**	59.1
Student materials (workbooks, worksheets)	50.1	53.1	47.1
Instructional aids (games, software, videos)	33.2	37.4*	28.9
Giveaways (bookmarks, stickers)	47.2	45.3	49.1
Children's literature	50.0	53.5	46.6
Other types of materials	13.2	10.6*	15.8
Do not use any of the materials listed above	10.1	9.1	11.1
Teachers using any of the strategies listed below to promote social and character development in the classroom (percent)			
	99.8	99.6	100.0
Number of strategies (listed below) used by teachers to promote social and character development in the classroom (mean)			
	11.8	12.2**	11.3
Teachers using each of the following strategies to promote social and character development (percent)			
Role-playing	65.7	72.5**	58.9
Cooperative learning	96.1	97.0	95.3
Peer group discussions	87.7	90.3	85.1
Direct instruction of social and character development	81.6	87.4**	75.9
Skill training	43.1	46.8	39.5
Incorporating social and character development into academic curriculum	74.7	80.3**	69.2
Parent training	7.8	6.8	8.9
Parent/community involvement in program development or delivery	24.0	26.7	21.4
Mentoring	36.3	35.8	36.7
Good behavior notes sent home daily or weekly	75.4	76.7	74.1
Presenting role models	67.2	68.2	66.2
Targeted story reading or writing on SACD themes	75.1	79.8*	70.5
Peer mediation	38.8	40.9	36.7
Honor roll for positive behavior	51.2	50.4	52.1
Pledges or recitations on social and character development themes	38.1	38.6	37.6
Guided visualization	44.9	47.2	42.7
Student-led/student-assisted instruction	48.5	50.9	46.1
Journaling	72.0	73.6	70.3
Time out for negative behavior	84.9	86.5	83.3
Daily or weekly rewards for positive behavior	92.0	91.6	92.3

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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Principals and teachers reported on participation in and amount of SACD training and staff development provided over the previous 12 months (table 1.19). This period overlapped with the time that treatment schools received training in the SACD programs. Principals reported staff participation rates of 92 percent and a mean of 8.3 hours of training, with no significant difference between treatment and control principals.

On the nine training items asked of teachers, treatment teachers' reports were statistically significantly higher for five of them (versus less than one expected by chance). These included staff participation rates in SACD training over the past 12 months (86% for treatment teachers versus 63% for control teachers), number of training hours received (9.5 versus 6.4), and participation rates in training in specific areas: social and emotional development (39% versus 17%), character education (55% versus 27%), and behavior management (42% versus 32%).

Table 1.19. Principal and teacher initial reports on SACD professional development

SACD professional development	Total	Treatment	Control
Principal sample size	84	42	42
Teacher sample size	847	436	411
Principals reporting that staff participated in social and character development training within the past year (percent)	92.0	97.5	86.2
Teachers reporting participation in social and character development training within the past 12 months (percent)	74.3	86.1**	62.5
Number of hours of social and character development training principals report were provided to each staff person last year (mean)	8.3	9.4	7.1
Number of hours of social and character development training teachers report receiving during the past 12 months (mean)	7.9	9.5**	6.4
Teachers reporting receiving training in the past 12 months in the following areas (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	22.6	23.8	21.5
Social and emotional development	27.9	38.5**	17.2
Character education	40.9	54.8**	26.9
Tolerance and diversity	18.8	20.8	16.9
Risk prevention and health promotion	11.3	11.5	11.1
Civic responsibility and community service	6.6	6.4	6.7
Behavior management	36.8	41.6*	32.0

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

The data on the initial level of SCD activity led to two findings. First, treatment teachers reported greater use of and training in SCD activities than control teachers more often than would be expected by chance. There are two potential causes for this finding, and the analysis cannot be used to determine whether the reason for such a difference was that the two groups did differ on their initial use of SCD activities (i.e., that randomization did not create similar treatment and control groups) or that the training of all treatment teachers and the implementation of six of the programs before the initial data were collected influenced the teacher reports. Because it is likely (though unproven) that the training and implementation affected the teacher reports, these data were not considered appropriate for use as a baseline measure of SCD activities and training in the treatment schools.

Second, these data indicate that the control condition for the SCD project was not a “no treatment” control but a “standard practice” control. Because the control teachers were not affected by the implementation of the SCD programs before data collection, their reports reflect standard practice in the control schools. Standard practice at the control schools included reports of 54 percent to 84 percent of teachers using SCD activities, 89 percent of teachers reporting the use of specific materials in conjunction with these activities, 100 percent reporting the use of at least one of the specified instructional strategies, and 63 percent reporting participation in SCD training over the past 12 months.

Year-by-Year Impacts on Use of Social and Character Development Activities

Under the first research questions, the SCD programs were expected to increase the use of SCD activities in the treatment schools in comparison to the control schools. Two analyses of this impact were done: one based on teacher reports and the other on principal reports.

Analysis of Teacher Reports

Every spring, third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers provided information through the Teacher Report on Classroom and School about the social and character development activities they used in their classroom. As described in the Measures section, 83 variables were derived from individual items on the Teacher Report on Classroom and School. These were grouped under six domains and used to determine the difference between treatment and control teachers:

1. The use of SCD activities in their classrooms to promote the six social and character development goals (separately and all together) and behavior management, and the use of such activities for at least 1 hour per week for the same purposes;
2. The use of SCD activities linked to named SCD programs in their classrooms to promote the six social and character development goals (separately and all together), and the use of such activities for at least 1 hour per week for the same purposes;
3. The use of materials and strategies to implement the activities in the classroom;
4. The use of six schoolwide strategies to promote social and character development;
5. The use of staff development to support the teachers; and
6. Staff attitudes toward SCD activities and the use of practices conducive to the development of social and character development.

Teacher Report on Classroom and School consent and completion rates (presented in table 1.9) led to 87 percent to 90 percent of all teachers having data for the 3 years (varying by 1% to 2% for treatment versus control teachers). At the program level, the data available ranged from 83 percent to 100 percent of all teachers for the 3 years.

Chapter 1. The Social and Character Development Multiprogram Evaluation

To estimate the impacts of the SACD programs for each of the outcome measures, testing the statistical significance of the differences in means between the treatment and the control teachers was used.²² Before differences in the means were tested, the data were weighted such that each school received equal weight within a program and each program received equal weight in the combined-program estimates. Standard errors of the impact estimates accounted both for unequal weighting and for the clustering of teachers within schools.

In addition to estimating the impacts of the SACD programs on the individual outcome measures, the impacts on the six domains were also examined. Testing the impact on the domains was done to adjust for the multiple comparisons made within each domain in order to address the increased chances of finding a spurious outcome when more than one test was done. As a result, this section provides two sets of results: (1) the impacts on the individual outcomes unadjusted for multiple comparisons, and (2) the impacts on the domains that serve as the multiple comparison adjustment.²³

The testing of the significance of the impacts on the domains was based on a set of three heuristics modeled on the approach used by the U.S. Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse for determining whether domain-level effects are statistically significant when there are multiple outcome measures within a single domain (What Works Clearinghouse n.d.b). Each domain was checked using the three heuristics, and a statistically significant positive impact was found if any of the three were met.²⁴ The three heuristics were as follows:

1. Based on the results from the statistical test of each outcome variable within a domain (unadjusted for multiple comparisons), at least half of the impacts were positive and statistically significant and no impact was negative and statistically significant.
2. The omnibus impact for all the outcomes measured together was positive and statistically significant on the basis of a multivariate statistical test.²⁵

²² Three factors contributed to the decision to use differences in means. First, because of random assignment, simple treatment-control contrasts provided unbiased estimates of program impacts. Second, only initial values (rather than true baseline values) for these outcomes were available to use in a model because training (at all treatment schools) and program implementation (at 36 treatment schools) began before data collection. The decision to use initial values in an analysis partly depends on whether the initial training and implementation occurring before data collection would be expected to have immediate and large impacts on the outcomes (Schochet 2008b). For this analysis, the outcomes are based on teacher actions and so would likely be upwardly influenced by the teacher training and short period of teacher implementation before pretesting (in contrast to student outcomes, which would be less likely to be so influenced). For this reason a model-based analysis using the initial values as covariates was not chosen. Third, preliminary analyses indicated no gain in precision from the inclusion of other covariates.

²³ When the SACD evaluation was designed, there was no general agreement in the field about how best to adjust for multiple comparisons, and this approach was seen by the SACD Research Consortium as the best method available. For a more recent discussion of the issue, see Schochet 2008a.

²⁴ For ease of discussion, this section describes detecting positive significant impacts. These heuristics were also used to detect a significant negative impact on a domain.

²⁵ A multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) procedure (Harris 1975) was used. Suppose there are p domain outcomes (the dependent variables), n sample members, and for each dependent variable there is one treatment effect parameter and k parameters for other covariates. The MANOVA model can then be expressed as follows:

$$Y = Ta + Xb + e$$

where Y is a nxp matrix of domain outcomes, T is an $n \times 1$ vector of treatment indicators, a is a $1 \times p$ parameter vector of treatment effects, X is an $n \times k$ matrix of covariates (a limited set of covariates that included indicator variables for the programs and the intervention) with associated parameter matrix b , and e is a $n \times p$ matrix of error terms that accounts for school-level clustering. The omnibus F -test uses the MANOVA model to test the joint null hypothesis of zero treatment effects for each domain outcome (that is, $H_0: a = 0$). Wilks' lambda was used to assess statistical significance.

3. After applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (Benjamini and Hochberg 1995) procedure to each outcome under a domain, at least one of the outcomes remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant. The Benjamini-Hochberg procedure adjusts significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts.

A statistically significant impact on a domain was recognized if one or more of the three heuristics was met. There could be situations in which one or more of the heuristics indicated a statistically significant impact of the intervention on the domain, when the preponderance (or all) of the individual outcomes did not indicate statistically significant impacts. For example, this type of situation might have arisen when a test captured a latent construct underlying the individual outcomes within the domain; the latent construct might have had less statistical noise than did the individual outcomes and thus been more likely to have indicated statistical significance. There also could be situations in which one or more of the individual outcomes showed statistically significant impacts but none of the heuristics showed a significant impact on the domain.

Analysis of Principal Interviews

Every spring principals were individually interviewed about the prevalence and characteristics of the activities used to promote social and character development along with the percentage of staff trained in them and staff support of their use. As discussed in the Measures section, information from the interviews could be used to determine the difference in reports between treatment and control principals regarding (1) the percentages of schools using activities to address each of the six SACD goals, (2) the delivery methods for these SACD activities, (3) targeting of the activities, (4) teacher professional development, and (5) staff support for the promotion of social and character development.

The interviews had an almost perfect response rate; all principals completed them in Years 1 and 2 and all but one control school principal completed them in Year 3. Because of inconsistencies in the quality of interviewers' recording of answers to the open-ended questions during the spring 2005 interviews, the results from the spring 2005 open-ended data are not included.

The interview data on activity level for the six SACD goals were transformed in two ways: (1) an indicator of whether the school had any activities that addressed each SACD goal was created, and (2) the number of activities in a school that addressed each SACD goal was calculated. Logistic regression was used to determine whether there were differences between treatment and control schools in the likelihood of each implementation measure that was measured through a dichotomous school-level variable. Ordinary least squares regression was used to determine whether there were differences between the treatment and control schools in the number of activities to promote SACD goals within schools. The research team-specific characteristics were controlled for in the model by including indicator variables for each team. An indicator variable of school-level treatment status was included in the model. No other covariates were used in the models because of the small sample size. The What Works Clearinghouse heuristics were not used in this analysis, and the analysis was not done for each individual SACD program because of the small sample sizes.

Results From Teacher Reports

The SACD programs were expected to increase the use of SACD activities in the classroom and school, broaden the types of materials and instructional strategies used to implement these activities in the classroom and schoolwide, increase the amount of staff development for such activities, and generate positive attitudes and schoolwide practices. Eighty-three outcomes were measured each year for a total of 249 comparisons between treatment and control teachers tested over the 3 years (with 12 to 13 expected to be found statistically significant by chance). The analysis found 127 statistically significant differences in these 249 comparisons, with all showing greater reported use of SACD activities by treatment teachers. Here, the impacts on the outcomes (organized by domain) are described and followed by a discussion of the analysis of the impacts on the domains.

Use of Activities and Activities Linked to Named SCD Programs

Two patterns of findings emerged from a comparison of treatment-control group differences in teacher-reported activities to promote social and character development goals in the classroom and the use of behavior management. First, treatment teachers were more likely than control teachers to report implementing these activities in their classrooms and more likely to report conducting these activities for at least 1 hour per week in general and when reporting on activities linked to named SCD programs. Second, control group teachers also reported conducting activities to promote social and character development.

Table 1.20 shows the percentages of teachers who reported activities to promote each of six social and character development goals, the percentages who reported activities to promote any one of the six goals, and the percentages who reported that they used behavior management techniques. Impact estimates (which represent the difference in percentile points between treatment and control teachers who reported positively) are presented for each school year. The table is divided into four panels: (1) engagement in any activity, (2) engagement in any activity for at least an hour per week on average, (3) engagement in any activity as part of a named program, and (4) engagement in any activity as part of a named program for at least an hour a week.

Measuring teacher activity in these diverse ways contributes to an understanding of all activities that a teacher considered as promoting one of the six social and character development goals, distinguishes between activities that were conducted intensively (defined as at least 1 hour per week)²⁶ from those that might have been done only occasionally, and distinguishes between activities that were conducted as part of a named program and activities that might have been less structured and had less institutional support.

The first pattern of a larger percentage of treatment teachers than control teachers reporting engagement in SCD activities can be seen throughout table 1.20. In regard to teachers' reported use of SCD activities (panels 1 and 2), 48 comparisons were made over the 3 years, with 3 expected to be significant by chance. A significantly greater percentage of treatment teachers reported using SCD activities than control teachers in 31 of these 48 comparisons. In regard to teachers' reported use of SCD activities linked to named SCD programs (panels 3 and 4), 42 comparisons were made over the 3 years with 2 expected to be significant by chance. A significantly greater percentage of treatment teachers reported using the SCD activities in 39 of these 42 comparisons. In all 3 years, the percentages of treatment teachers reporting engagement in SCD activities were statistically significantly greater than for control teachers in regard to promoting any of the SCD goals and promoting four of the six individual SCD goals (violence prevention and peace promotion, social and emotional development, character education, and tolerance and diversity). For example, when looking at activities to support any SCD goal, the statistically significant difference favoring treatment teachers ranged from 5 to 10 percentage points for engagement in any activities (panel 1, Any SCD goal), 7 to 24 percentage points for engagement in any activity for at least an hour per week (panel 2, Any SCD goal), 29 to 34 percentage points for engagement in any activity linked to a named SCD program (panel 3, Any SCD goal), and 26 to 34 percentage points for engagement in any activity linked to a named SCD program for at least an hour per week (panel 4, Any SCD goal).

The second pattern of control teachers reporting engagement in SCD activities is most obvious in panel 1 (Any SCD goal), which shows that 86 percent to 90 percent of control teachers reported engaging in SCD activities to promote any SCD goal (and more than 50 percent reported engaging in SCD activities to promote each of the six individual SCD goals). More than half of the control teachers reported engaging in such activities for at least an hour a week (52% to 76%: panel 2, Any SCD goal) and 36 percent to 43 percent reported engaging in any activity linked to a named SCD program to promote any SCD goal (panel 3, Any SCD goal).

²⁶ Intensity was defined as being for at least 1 hour per week because this was about the amount of time that the SCD programs being evaluated considered desirable as part of their models.

Table 1.20. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities

Panel 1: Engagement in any activities to promote SACD goals

SACD activity	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	441	409			425	404			425	396		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	76.7*	64.7	12.0	0.005	76.1*	64.3	11.8	0.002	76.9*	63.0	13.9	0.001
Social and emotional development (percent)	81.3*	64.2	17.1	0.000	84.4*	60.4	24.0	0.000	81.1*	62.5	18.6	0.000
Character education (percent)	92.3*	79.3	13.0	0.000	92.3*	75.7	16.6	0.000	86.8*	72.6	14.2	0.000
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	75.7*	62.1	13.6	0.001	75.7*	59.8	15.9	0.000	73.8*	57.4	16.4	0.000
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	60.9	62.2	-1.3	0.795	63.5	61.9	1.6	0.744	63.7	62.3	1.4	0.778
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	63.4	61.7	1.7	0.687	60.2	58.4	1.8	0.669	60.3	59.1	1.2	0.795
Any SACD goal (percent)	95.3*	88.2	7.1	0.006	95.4*	90.3	5.1	0.007	95.5*	86.0	9.5	0.000
Behavior management (percent)	88.5	85.6	2.9	0.285	92.3*	82.1	10.2	0.000	85.0	82.4	2.6	0.389

Panel 2: Engagement in any activities to promote SACD goals for at least 1 hour per week

SACD activity	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	441	409			425	404			425	396		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	39.4*	21.9	17.5	0.000	41.9*	24.9	17.0	0.000	38.0*	24.2	13.8	0.002
Social and emotional development (percent)	46.9*	23.4	23.5	0.000	49.5*	24.7	24.8	0.000	42.6*	25.9	16.7	0.000
Character education (percent)	60.9*	31.3	29.5	0.000	60.4*	30.6	29.8	0.000	50.2*	30.5	19.7	0.000
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	36.7*	21.3	15.4	0.000	36.0*	23.1	12.9	0.001	32.8*	18.4	14.4	0.000
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	25.9	20.5	5.4	0.138	28.0	24.1	3.9	0.293	24.5	22.8	1.8	0.657
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	18.8	14.7	4.0	0.179	19.7	16.1	3.6	0.252	20.6^	14.6	6.0	0.087
Any SACD goal (percent)	75.2*	51.7	23.5	0.000	83.7*	72.6	11.1	0.003	83.0*	76.0	7.0	0.037
Behavior management (percent)	68.7	66.2	2.5	0.666	75.0*	58.9	16.1	0.001	68.6	64.9	3.7	0.377

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.20. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—Continued

Panel 3: Engagement in activities to promote SACD goals linked to named SACD programs

SACD activity	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	441	409			425	404			425	396		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	42.0*	17.0	25.0	0.000	48.1*	17.3	30.8	0.000	48.0*	17.4	30.6	0.000
Social and emotional development (percent)	48.9*	8.3	40.7	0.000	54.8*	11.2	43.6	0.000	48.8*	13.0	35.7	0.000
Character education (percent)	54.4*	15.5	38.8	0.000	58.8*	13.4	45.4	0.000	49.4*	13.3	36.1	0.000
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	34.3*	6.2	28.2	0.000	37.6*	7.2	30.4	0.000	33.4*	5.8	27.7	0.000
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	27.7	21.7	6.0	0.151	31.3*	21.7	9.6	0.013	28.5*	20.1	8.4	0.048
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	‡*	‡	4.4	0.009	13.3*	4.7	8.6	0.000	13.5*	7.2	6.4	0.021
Any SACD goal (percent)	70.0*	36.3	33.6	0.000	72.4*	42.6	29.8	0.000	68.4*	39.7	28.7	0.000

Panel 4: Engagement in activities to promote SACD goals linked to named SACD programs for at least 1 hour per week

SACD activity	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	441	409			425	404			425	396		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	29.4*	8.5	20.9	0.000	31.5*	11.2	20.3	0.000	29.2*	10.1	19.1	0.000
Social and emotional development	34.6*	4.0	30.7	0.000	36.9*	6.3	30.6	0.000	30.0*	6.9	23.1	0.000
Character education (percent)	41.3*	6.3	35.0	0.000	43.3*	6.7	36.5	0.000	33.2*	7.0	26.2	0.000
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	22.8*	1.4	21.3	0.000	24.1*	3.4	20.7	0.000	22.0*	2.7	19.3	0.000
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	15.8	11.2	4.6	0.132	18.4	13.9	4.5	0.197	15.8*	9.3	6.5	0.043
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	‡*	‡	3.5	0.021	7.6*	1.5	6.1	0.010	8.1*	1.3	6.8	0.024
Any SACD goal (percent)	52.7*	18.6	34.1	0.000	51.8*	23.4	28.5	0.000	46.0*	19.6	26.3	0.000

‡ Reporting standards not met. Value suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

^ Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

NOTE: Impact is the percentile point difference between treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Use of Materials and Strategies

The SCD programs had a statistically significant positive effect on teacher-reported use of specific materials and classroom strategies to promote social and character development (table 1.21). Over the 3 years, 87 comparisons were made between treatment and control teacher use of materials and strategies, with 4 expected to be significant by chance. A significantly greater percentage of treatment teachers reported using these materials and strategies to support SCD goals in 40 of these comparisons. Treatment teachers were significantly more likely than control teachers to report use of four of the five specific materials asked about in at least 2 of the 3 years. In all years, treatment teachers were significantly more likely than control teachers to report using teacher guides (by 22 to 24 percentage points) and children's literature (by 9 to 15 percentage points). In Years 2 and 3, treatment teachers were significantly more likely to report using student materials and instructional aids (by 10 to 12 percentage points). In addition, treatment teachers were significantly less likely to report not using any of these materials (by 7 to 10 percentage points) in all years. Control teachers reported rates of usage of materials from 36 percent for instructional aids to 60 percent for teacher guides, and they reported higher rates for not using any of the materials (13% to 14%).

Of the 20 teaching strategies asked about, 13 strategies were reported as being used by a statistically significant greater percentage of treatment teachers (2 to 22 percentage points more) for at least one of the years, and no strategy was reported as being used by a significantly greater percentage of control teachers. Treatment teachers reported using, on average, one more strategy than control teachers, and this was a significant difference.

Table 1.21. Impacts on use of SACD classroom materials and teaching strategies

SACD material and teaching strategy	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	441	409			425	404			425	396		
Use of SACD materials (percent)												
Teacher guides (manuals, curricula)	82.4*	58.1	24.2	0.000	82.3*	60.4	21.8	0.000	79.9*	58.0	21.9	0.000
Student materials (workbooks or sheets)	61.3	57.0	4.3	0.289	68.3*	56.1	12.2	0.002	66.2*	55.2	11.0	0.002
Instructional aids (games, software, videos)	43.9	39.1	4.9	0.294	46.3*	36.7	9.6	0.017	47.6*	35.7	11.9	0.001
Giveaways (bookmarks, stickers)	52.2	54.2	-1.9	0.688	52.9	47.3	5.6	0.157	49.9	52.6	-2.7	0.485
Children's literature	60.7*	46.2	14.6	0.002	60.4*	46.5	13.9	0.002	53.4*	44.6	8.8	0.013
Other types of materials	8.2	8.5	-0.4	0.854	9.1	12.2	-3.1	0.201	9.0	6.9	2.1	0.360
Did not use any of these materials	3.8*	14.2	-10.4	0.001	4.3*	13.5	-9.2	0.000	6.3*	13.1	-6.7	0.003
Use of teaching strategies (percent)												
Role-playing	85.5*	65.2	20.3	0.000	86.6*	65.1	21.5	0.000	87.1*	80.0	7.1	0.028
Cooperative learning	96.3	96.1	0.2	0.883	98.0	96.8	1.3	0.250	99.8*	97.7	2.1	0.022
Peer group discussions	92.9*	87.7	5.2	0.011	92.5^	88.2	4.3	0.060	97.5^	95.1	2.4	0.096
Direct instruction of SACD	91.8*	78.8	13.0	0.000	93.6*	75.9	17.6	0.000	97.1*	87.9	9.2	0.000
Skill training	63.0*	43.2	19.8	0.000	62.9*	40.5	22.4	0.000	82.1*	75.5	6.6	0.037
Incorporating SACD into academic curriculum	86.5*	73.6	12.9	0.000	85.3*	71.3	14.0	0.000	92.9	90.3	2.5	0.225
Parent training	8.1	8.9	-0.8	0.702	8.6	7.2	1.4	0.531	30.8*	21.5	9.3	0.016
Parent/community involvement	22.9	27.0	-4.1	0.237	26.5^	19.8	6.7	0.087	48.3*	39.7	8.6	0.022
Mentoring	44.8	44.5	0.3	0.909	43.8	43.1	0.7	0.821	68.1*	58.3	9.8	0.016
Good behavior notes sent home daily or weekly	75.8	72.5	3.3	0.409	78.2	71.9	6.3	0.108	91.7	89.5	2.1	0.270
Presenting role models	76.4	73.3	3.1	0.335	75.7*	68.4	7.2	0.026	85.3	81.6	3.7	0.175

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.21. Impacts on use of SACD classroom materials and teaching strategies—Continued

SACD material and teaching strategy	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Use of teaching strategies—Continued (percent)												
Targeted story reading or writing on social and character development themes	88.2*	75.9	12.3	0.000	88.2*	78.0	10.2	0.000	93.6	90.6	3.0	0.125
Peer mediation	51.2	45.8	5.4	0.205	54.4	48.5	6.0	0.190	68.8	65.0	3.8	0.337
Honor roll for positive behavior	55.1	57.9	-2.9	0.569	59.8	57.2	2.6	0.585	73.6	68.3	5.3	0.235
Pledges or recitations on social and character development themes	41.3	42.8	-1.4	0.802	43.4	44.6	-1.2	0.849	57.3	59.1	-1.8	0.721
Guided visualization	60.9*	45.7	15.2	0.000	60.5*	47.3	13.2	0.003	70.8*	59.0	11.9	0.001
Student-led/student-assisted instruction	56.0^	49.8	6.2	0.094	57.3*	49.0	8.3	0.028	75.9	70.3	5.6	0.113
Journaling	77.7	72.3	5.5	0.138	76.8	71.4	5.4	0.149	87.1^	82.1	5.0	0.093
Time out for negative behavior	86.2	85.3	0.8	0.803	85.5	83.0	2.4	0.349	94.1*	89.0	5.1	0.040
Daily or weekly rewards for positive behavior	91.0^	86.8	4.1	0.098	92.1	89.7	2.4	0.307	98.2^	96.0	2.2	0.092
Any strategy	100.0	99.7	0.3	†	100.0	100.0	0.0	†	99.8	99.4	0.4	0.429
Number of strategies (mean)	13.4*	12.3	1.1	0.000	13.6*	12.1	1.5	0.000	15.7*	14.6	1.1	0.000

† Not applicable.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

^ Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Use of Schoolwide Strategies

The SCD programs did not have an impact on the reported use of schoolwide strategies for supporting social and character development. Teachers were asked to report on the use of six schoolwide strategies to promote social and character development, including morning announcements or videos, assemblies, newspapers or bulletins, special school days, special events, and other activities. Over the 3 years, 18 comparisons were made, with 1 expected to be significant by chance. The SCD programs did not have a statistically significant effect on the use of any of these schoolwide strategies (these data are not shown in a table).

Participation in Professional Development

The SCD programs had a statistically significant positive effect on teachers' reports of participation in professional development for activities related to social and character development. Over the 3 years, 27 comparisons were made, with 1 expected to be significant by chance. A significantly greater percentage of treatment teachers reported such professional development in 13 of the comparisons (table 1.22). The percentage difference in treatment and control teacher reports on receiving SCD training in the previous 12 months ranged from 32 percentage points in Year 1 to 9 percentage points in Year 3. Mirroring the decline in effect over time, only in Year 1 was there a significant impact on the number of hours of professional development received (9 hours versus 4 hours). The significance of the impacts on percentages of teachers receiving training to help meet each of the six SCD goals varied by year: impacts were significant for four goals in Year 1, one goal in Year 2, and three goals in Year 3, with the differences ranging from 7 to 34 percentage points. In Year 1, there was a significant difference in reports on behavior management training (11 percentage points).

Table 1.22. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD professional development

	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
SACD professional development												
Teacher sample size	441	409			425	404			425	396		
SACD training in past 12 months (percent)	85.6*	53.8	31.8	0.000	64.1*	52.4	11.7	0.003	56.6*	47.3	9.3	0.027
Hours of SACD training (mean)	9.1*	4.3	4.9	0.000	5.3	4.8	0.6	0.580	4.5	3.7	0.8	0.196
Training by goal (percent)												
Violence prevention and peace promotion	26.9*	17.3	9.6	0.009	18.2	14.3	3.9	0.241	17.8*	10.0	7.8	0.012
Social and emotional development	36.3*	19.4	17.0	0.000	22.6	18.0	4.6	0.209	18.2*	11.2	7.0	0.044
Character education	60.9*	26.7	34.2	0.000	36.2*	19.3	16.9	0.000	28.0*	14.8	13.2	0.001
Tolerance and diversity	21.0*	12.3	8.7	0.017	16.8	19.0	-2.2	0.486	16.8	15.5	1.3	0.741
Risk prevention and health promotion	13.3	14.3	-1.0	0.738	13.6	14.8	-1.2	0.707	14.4	12.0	2.4	0.404
Civic responsibility and community service	9.8	7.0	2.7	0.221	7.5	4.8	2.7	0.130	3.9	4.8	-0.9	0.562
Behavior management	36.4*	25.0	11.4	0.023	26.7	25.6	1.1	0.784	23.5	21.4	2.1	0.613

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Attitudes and Practices

The SACD programs had a statistically significant positive effect on teachers' reports on the use of six practices²⁷ considered conducive to the social and character development of students but not on teacher attitudes toward social and character development. Twenty-seven comparisons were made over the 3 years, with 1 expected to be found significant by chance. A significantly greater percentage of treatment teachers reported that these practices were being used in 4 of these comparisons (these data are not shown in a table). In all 3 years, a significantly larger percentage of treatment teachers reported students having a voice in school governance (9% to 10% versus 4% to 5% of control teachers). In Year 3, treatment teachers reported significantly greater use of discipline for promoting development (57% versus 47% of control teachers).

There were no statistically significant estimated impacts on teachers' enthusiasm for SACD efforts in their schools in any of the years (these data are not shown in a table). For the 3 years, between 67 percent and 71 percent of treatment and control teachers reported that they were enthusiastic about their schools' efforts to promote social and character development and another 27 percent to 31 percent reported being cooperative (but not enthusiastic). Fewer than 2 percent reported an open dislike of the SACD efforts in their schools.

Domain Results

As discussed in the Analysis section, a set of heuristics was applied to determine whether the six outcome domains were statistically significant after adjustments were made for the multiple tests performed under each domain. These heuristics were applied to both the combined-program data and to each individual program's data. Table 1.23 shows the statistically significant impacts on the use of SACD activities by domain for all seven programs combined and for each program. In table 1.23, a plus sign stands for a significant positive impact on the domain, and numeral superscripts show which heuristics identified the domain as significant. For all seven programs combined, a significant positive impact was found for each of the 3 years on the reports of use of any SACD activities, the use of SACD activities linked to named SACD programs, the use of classroom materials and teaching strategies, and professional development.

Table 1.23 also shows the impacts on domain by individual program. In all cases, when a program's impact was significant it was also positive. Five of the programs had at least 2 years of significant impacts on teachers' reported use of activities, as did six programs for teachers' use of activities linked to named SACD programs. Two programs had at least 2 years of significant impacts on reported use of classroom materials and strategies. No programs showed impacts on reported use of schoolwide strategies or on attitudes and practices in at least 2 years. One program showed 2 years of impacts on reported professional development.

Results From Principal Interviews

The principal interviews in 2005,²⁸ 2006, and 2007 echoed the findings from the teacher survey that there was a high usage of SACD activities in both the treatment and control schools (these data are not shown in a table). Over the years, 88 percent to 100 percent of treatment principals and 71 percent to 98 percent of control principals reported that their schools used SACD activities to promote each of the six SACD goals. Classroom teachers were reported as having a major role in delivering SACD activities by 91 percent to 98 percent of treatment school principals and 64 percent to 90 percent of control school principals. SACD activities were being provided universally to all students rather than to targeted populations, as reported by 98

²⁷ These included teacher modeling of positive character and behavior with students, similar modeling with other staff, involvement of students in discussions, students having a voice in governance, school encouragement of parent involvement, and discipline practices that included promoting development.

²⁸ Only the results from the closed-ended items are reported for Year 1 because of problems with inter-rater reliability regarding the open-ended items. Results from both the closed- and open-ended items are reported for Years 2 and 3.

Table 1.23. Significant impacts on use of SCD activity domains, overall and by program

	SACD activity domain					
Program	Any SACD activities	Named SACD program activities	Classroom materials and strategies	Schoolwide strategies	Professional development	Attitudes and practices
Overall						
Year 1	+ ^{1,2,3}	+ ^{1,2,3}	+ ^{2,3}		+ ^{1,2,3}	
Year 2	+ ^{1,2,3}	+ ^{1,2,3}	+ ^{1,2,3}		+ ^{2,3}	
Year 3	+ ^{1,2,3}	+ ^{1,2,3}	+ ^{1,2,3}		+ ^{2,3}	
ABC						
Year 1	+ ²			+ ¹		
Year 2						
Year 3						+ ³
CSP						
Year 1	+ ²	+ ^{1,3}			+ ³	
Year 2		+ ³				
Year 3		+ ³				
LBW						
Year 1	+ ^{2,3}	+ ³	+ ³		+ ³	
Year 2	+ ³	+ ³		+ ²		
Year 3						
PA						
Year 1	+ ^{2,3}	+ ^{1,3}	+ ³			+ ³
Year 2		+ ^{1,3}				
Year 3	+ ³	+ ³				
PATHS						
Year 1	+ ^{2,3}	+ ^{1,3}			+ ^{1,3}	
Year 2	+ ³	+ ^{1,3}				
Year 3		+ ^{1,3}				
4Rs						
Year 1	+ ^{1,2,3}	+ ^{1,2,3}	+ ³		+ ^{1,3}	
Year 2	+ ^{1,3}	+ ^{1,3}				
Year 3	+ ^{1,3}	+ ^{1,2,3}	+ ³		+ ³	

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.23. Significant impacts on use of SCD activity domains, overall and by program—Continued

Program	Any SCD activities	SCD activity domain				Attitudes and practices
		Named SCD program activities	Classroom materials and strategies	Schoolwide strategies	Professional development	
SS						
Year 1	+ ³	+ ^{1,3}	+ ³			
Year 2	+ ^{1, 3}	+ ^{1,3}	+ ³			
Year 3	+ ³	+ ^{1,3}	+ ³			

¹ Based on univariate statistical tests, at least half of the impacts were positive and statistically significant and no impact was negative and statistically significant.

² The omnibus impact for all the outcomes measured together was positive and statistically significant on the basis of a multivariate statistical test.

³ At least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

ABC: *Academic and Behavioral Competencies Program*

CSP: *Competence Support Program*

LBW: *Love In a Big World*

PA: *Positive Action*

PATHS: *Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies*

4Rs: *The 4Rs Program (Reading, Writing, Respecting, and Resolution)*

SS: *Second Step*

+: Statistically significant beneficial impact on domain

Blank cell: Finding of no impact

Significance is based on $p \leq .05$. No detrimental impact was found statistically significant at or below the .05 level. Description of SCD activity domains and the heuristics used to determine the statistically significant beneficial impact on the domain.

SACD activities: based on 16 teacher-reported measures on the use of SCD activities in the classroom.

SACD activities linked to named programs: based on 14 teacher-reported measures on the use of SCD activities associated with a named program in the classroom.

Classroom materials and strategies: based on 29 teacher-reported measures, 7 concerning materials used in the classroom and 22 concerning classroom strategies.

Schoolwide strategies: based on six teacher-reported measures concerning strategies to promote SCD schoolwide.

Professional development: based on nine teacher-reported measures concerning their participation in SCD-related training

Attitudes and practices: based on nine teacher-reported measures, three concerning teacher attitudes toward SCD efforts in the school and six concerning school practices conducive to the social and character development of students.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SCD) Research Program.

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percent to 100 percent of treatment school principals and 91 percent to 94 percent of control school principals. Unlike the findings from the teacher surveys, the principal surveys did not show a significantly greater use of SADC activities among the treatment schools, although this might be due to the inability to perform significance tests in seven cases as discussed below. In regard to whether principals of treatment schools reported greater use of activities to promote each of the six SADC goals than principals of control schools, 18 comparisons were made over the 3 years, with 1 expected to be significant by chance. In two cases (both in Year 2), a significantly greater percentage of treatment principals reported the use of SADC activities to support SADC goals: (1) tolerance and diversity (98% of treatment school principals versus 83% of control school principals, with a p -value of 0.036) and (2) risk prevention and health promotion (88% versus 71%, with a p -value of 0.044). These results do not provide evidence in support of the SADC programs' impact on schools' use of SADC activities because they are small in number and are not replicated over multiple years. However, for five of the comparisons significance testing could not be done because 100 percent of the treatment principals reported that their schools had activities promoting a specific SADC goal.

In regard to staff development, 27 comparisons were made over the 3 years, with 1 expected to be found significant by chance. In two cases (both in Year 2), there was a significant difference favoring the treatment schools. First, the mean percentage of teachers per school reported by their principals to have received training in social and character development in the past year was significantly higher for treatment schools versus control schools (55% versus 31%, with a p -value of 0.003). Second, the percentage of principals reporting that only 0 percent to 25 percent of their faculty had received such training treatment was significantly smaller among treatment school principals than control school principals (33% versus 67%, with a p -value of 0.002). These results do not provide evidence in support of the SADC programs' impact on teacher training because they are small in number and are not replicated over multiple years. However, for two of the comparisons significance testing could not be done because 100 percent of the treatment principals gave the same report.

Findings Regarding Use of SADC Activities

The analysis of use of SADC activities had two main findings: (1) the SADC programs increased the reported use of and training in activities to promote students' social and character development in the classroom compared to what reportedly occurred in the control schools, and (2) the reports from the control schools identified them as a standard practice control in that their staffs reported the use of and training in similar activities as the treatment staff.

Evidence for the first finding came primarily from the teacher reports. Treatment teachers reported significantly greater implementation of activities than control teachers for 127 of the 249 outcomes measured and for four of the six SADC activity domains during the 3 years. Evidence for the second finding came from both the principal and teacher reports. The principals reported similar levels of SADC activities and teacher training among treatment and control schools (though statistical difficulties in testing all the comparisons may have contributed to this finding). The treatment teachers' reports were statistically significantly greater than those of the control teachers but the practical differences varied. For example, the significantly greater percentage of treatment teachers reporting use of activities to promote any SADC goal was 5 to 10 percentage points greater than the percentage of control teachers (86% to 90% of whom reported engaging in such activities), while the significant difference for the reported use of activities linked to named programs to promote any SADC goal ranged between 29 and 34 percentage points (with 36% to 42% of control teachers reporting engaging in these activities).

Year-by-Year Impacts on Students and Perceptions of School Climate

The second and third of the primary research questions for the SCD evaluation were as follows:

What is the average effect of the seven universal, school-based, social and character development programs on students' social and emotional competence, behavior, academics, and on perceptions of school climate?

What is the average effect of each specific SCD program on students' social and emotional competence, behavior, academics, and on perceptions of school climate?

One method to answer these questions was to examine the year-by-year impacts of the SCD programs on these outcomes over the 3 years as the students progressed from third through fifth grades. The examination of year-by-year impacts entailed three sets of analyses resulting in three sets of impacts. The first set of analyses compared the outcomes of treatment and control students from the fall of third grade to the spring of third grade. The second set compared the outcomes from the fall of third grade to the spring of fourth grade, and the third set compared the fall of third grade to the spring of fifth grade. Within each set of year-by-year analyses, an analysis of all the programs together provided impact results for the set of seven coherent, universal, school-based programs, and individual program analysis provided results specific to each program. In answering the first question above, the analysis of the combined seven programs was able to detect smaller statistically significant impacts because of its larger sample size and associated greater power than the analysis of individual SCD programs, which were based on the smaller samples available to answer the second question above.

Analysis

The random assignment design ensured that the main difference between the treatment and control group schools at the point of random assignment was exposure to the mix of classroom-based and other activities that comprised the SCD program being tested in each site. Thus, unbiased estimates of the average impacts of the SCD programs (relative to the social and character development activities offered in the control schools) could be computed as the difference in the average outcomes of students and teachers in the treatment and control schools. Because of the repeated cross-sectional design, this approach yielded unbiased estimates of the combined effects of the SCD programs on student outcomes and on potential treatment-induced school entry and exit effects that could have influenced the composition of students and teachers in the schools at the follow-up points.

Statistical precision was a concern for the SCD multiprogram evaluation because of design effects due to the clustering of students within schools (students shared the same teachers and school environment) and the relatively small numbers of schools available for program-level analyses. Therefore, regression procedures were used rather than simple differences-in-means procedures to estimate impacts to improve the statistical precision of the estimates and to adjust for differences between the treatment and control groups' observable characteristics due to random selection, study nonconsent, and interview nonresponse.²⁹

Two analyses are discussed in this section. The first is the overall analysis combining results from all programs. The overall analysis was done to determine if providing schools with a SCD program (as reflected in the average results from seven different programs) improved student outcomes. The seven

²⁹ The use of regression models raised the issue of the distribution of the outcome variables. Calculated *p*-values rely on the assumption of normality, and a violation of this condition may cause biases in *p*-values, thus leading to invalid hypothesis testing. However, if the sample size is sufficiently large, the large sample approximation for the distribution of the estimates can be used and the normality assumption can be relaxed as it was for the SCD evaluation.

programs sought to change a common set of student behaviors by providing school-based instruction (drawing upon a common set of methods and approaches) through the teacher to all students. The focus of the programs differed in terms of specific instructional approaches and student outcomes so they did not represent a unified, single approach to improving student social and character development. Therefore the combined-program analysis was not an evaluation of a general SCD approach (though the results could contribute to such an evaluation) nor does it have any direct application to similar SCD programs not included in this study. Second, individual analysis of each program was done to evaluate them separately. Besides providing an evaluation of each program, these analyses were used to examine the possibility that results for a subset of the programs led to the results from the combined-program analysis.

The Combined-Program Model and the Program-Level Models

For the combined-program analysis, pooled impact estimates from all the programs were obtained from each year of the study to examine the extent to which, taken together, the seven SCD programs, on average, changed student and school outcomes relative to what they would have been otherwise. A hierarchical linear model (HLM) was used to estimate regression-adjusted impacts (Bryk and Raudenbush 1992). The basic model consisted of two levels that were indexed by students or teachers (i) and schools (j), and where fixed site effects were indexed by d :

$$(1) \text{ Level 1: Students / Teachers : } Y_{isd} = \alpha_{0sd} + X_{isd}\beta + e_{isd}$$

$$\text{Level 2: Schools : } \alpha_{0sd} = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 T_{sd} + \theta_d + Z_{sd}\delta + u_{sd}.$$

In this model, Y_{isd} is an outcome measure (from spring of Year 1, Year 2, or Year 3) for a student or teacher; α_{0sd} is a school-level random intercept; X_{isd} are student- or teacher-level initial covariates³⁰; T_{sd} is a binary variable equal to 1 for treatment group schools and 0 for control schools; θ_d are program-specific *fixed* effects; Z_{sd} are school-level initial covariates (and teacher-level initial covariates for student outcomes)³¹; β , γ_0 , γ_1 , and δ are fixed parameter vectors to be estimated; e_{isd} are assumed to be independent and identically distributed $N(0, \sigma^2_e)$ student- or teacher-level random error terms; and u_{sd} are independent and identically distributed $N(0, \sigma^2_u)$ school-specific error terms that capture the correlation between the outcomes of students (teachers) in the same schools and are assumed to be distributed independently of the Level 1 error terms.

Inserting the Level 2 equation into the Level 1 equation creates the following single level model:

$$(2) \quad Y_{isd} = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 T_{sd} + \theta_d + Z_{sd}\delta + X_{isd}\beta + [u_{sd} + e_{isd}].$$

In this formulation, the estimate of the parameter, γ_1 , is the regression-adjusted, combined-program impact estimate. The standard error of this estimate accounts for design effects due to the clustering of students in schools, as well as precision gains from the inclusion of initial covariates that explain some of the variation in

³⁰ The X vector refers to initial covariates for students when student outcomes are used and to initial covariates for teachers when teacher-level outcomes are used. For new entrants, most covariates were considered time-invariant and so could be used as initial values when collected later in the study. Imputation was used to estimate the values for time-varying covariates (such as initial scores on outcomes) using information from similar students who were in the sample in Year 1. In addition, for students in the sample during Year 1, some of the covariates, such as the student outcome scores, could have changed between the start of program implementation and data collection in fall 2004. Sensitivity analyses reported in appendix B show that the point estimates of the impacts are similar when the covariates are included or excluded in the model.

³¹ Conceptually, the Z vector referred to both school-level and teacher-level covariates. However, the final model did not use school-level covariates so Z actually includes only teacher-level initial covariates for the analysis of student outcomes.

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outcomes between and within schools. *T* tests were used to gauge the statistical significance of the impact estimates.

This model produces impact estimates that are internally valid but not necessarily externally valid to a broader population of sites. This stems from treating site effects as fixed rather than random (between-site variance terms are not accounted for in the variance calculations), which was done because sites were selected intentionally for the study. In addition, because *all* classrooms within the study schools were included in the evaluation (there was no sampling of classrooms and the model does not include classroom error terms), the estimated student-level impact findings generalize to the classrooms in the study schools at the time of the evaluation.

For the evaluation of each program, impact estimates were generated by estimating equation (2) separately for each program. Each model included program-specific covariates and random school effects but excluded the program fixed effects (θ_i). Sample weights were used in all analyses. *F* tests were used to test for differences in estimated impacts across programs and *t* tests were used to determine the statistical significance of the program-specific impact estimates.

Covariates

The *X* and *Z* covariates in equation (2) were constructed using the fall 2004 surveys. The covariates were selected based on two main criteria: (1) they should adjust for statistically significant treatment and control differences at initial data collection; and (2) they should have predictive power across a broad range of outcomes. Using stepwise regression procedures, a separate set of covariates were selected for the outcomes from each of the four data sources for the combined-program analysis (see appendix B for details). Table 1.24 lists the covariates used with the outcomes from each report (child, primary caregiver, teacher on student, and teacher on classroom and school). These covariates were used for the analysis of the Year 1, Year 2, and Year 3 data. As a sensitivity check, the same covariate selection process was used with the Year 2 data and the model re-estimated using the alternative covariates. The use of the alternative covariates did not lead to different patterns of results, although the statistical significance of some of the program-level impact estimates changed. For all 3 years, missing covariates were imputed using mean values for nonmissing cases, by school, gender, and race/ethnicity.

For the individual evaluations of each program, covariates were identified using the same procedure as above but were allowed to vary between programs. This led to 28 different sets of covariates (seven programs by four reports providing outcomes). The covariates used in the models for the specific programs are detailed in the program chapters.

Table 1.24. Covariates used with outcomes from each report for combined-program analysis

Potential covariate	CR outcome	PCR outcome	TRS outcome	TRCS outcome
Total number	26	35	28	8
Child-reported				
Female	✓	✓	✓	
Hispanic (non-White)	✓	✓	✓	
Black (non-Hispanic)	✓	✓	✓	
Other ethnicity	✓	✓	✓	
Age in years	✓	✓	✓	
Scales				
Afraid at School				
Altruistic Behavior	✓		✓	
Empathy	✓			
Engagement with Learning	✓	✓	✓	
Negative School Orientation	✓	✓		
Normative Beliefs About Aggression		✓		
Sense of School as a Community	✓	✓		
Problem Behavior			✓	
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions	✓	✓		
Victimization at School	✓			
Primary caregiver-reported				
Age in years				
Completed high school or equivalent	✓	✓	✓	
Some college	✓	✓	✓	
Bachelor's or higher degree	✓	✓	✓	
Highest level of education in household				
Completed high school or equivalent	✓	✓	✓	
Some college	✓	✓	✓	
Bachelor's or higher degree	✓	✓	✓	
Mother present in home life		✓	✓	
Mother and father present	✓	✓	✓	
Respondent someone other than mother or father	✓	✓	✓	
Number of people in household	✓	✓	✓	
Household income: \$20,000 to \$40,000	✓	✓		
Household income: \$40,000 to \$60,000	✓	✓		
Household income: More than \$60,000	✓	✓		
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio: Below 135 percent		✓	✓	
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio: 135 to 185 percent		✓	✓	
Full-time employment		✓		
Part-time employment		✓		

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.24. Covariates used with outcomes from each report for combined-program analysis—Continued

Potential covariate	CR outcome	PCR outcome	TRS outcome	TRCS outcome
Parental scales				
APQ—Poor Monitoring and Supervision Subscale				
APQ—Positive Parenting Subscale		✓	✓	
Child-Centered Social Control				
Confusion, Hubbub, and Order		✓		
Community Resources				
Community Risk		✓		
Parent and teacher Involvement				
Child scales				
Altruistic Behavior			✓	
Positive Social Behavior		✓	✓	
Problem Behavior		✓	✓	
Teacher-reported				
Female				✓
Hispanic (non-White)				✓
Black (non-Hispanic)				✓
Other ethnicity				✓
Total teaching experience				✓
Total experience in current school				
Regular certificate				✓
Other certificate				✓
Child scales				
Academic Competence and Motivation			✓	
ADHD-Related Behavior	✓		✓	
Altruistic Behavior		✓	✓	
Positive Social Behavior	✓	✓		
Problem Behavior		✓		
Parent and Teacher Involvement			✓	

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

APQ: Alabama Parenting Questionnaire

✓: Covariate used

Blank cell: Covariate not used

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Sample Weights

Sample weights were used in all analyses, and they were constructed for three main reasons: (1) to give each *site* equal weight in the calculation of combined-program impact estimates, (2) to give each *school* equal weight in each site, and (3) to adjust for missing outcome data due to study nonconsent and survey nonresponse.³² To adjust for missing student data, the assumption was made that students in a specific classroom with spring follow-up data were representative of *all* students in that classroom. Weights were constructed to be inversely proportional to the combined consent and response rates within each classroom (see appendix B). These weights were constructed separately for original cohort stayers and for new entrants because nonconsent rates were higher for the new entrants. For the teacher-level weights, the assumption was made that responding teachers were representative of all third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers in that school. The standard errors of all estimated impacts were adjusted for design effects due to unequal weighting.

Statistical Significance and Substantively Important Effects

Results are provided in effect sizes that were calculated by dividing the estimated impact (the coefficient estimated by the regression model) by the standard deviation of the outcome measure for the control group. The standard deviation was calculated using the initial data for the weighted control group. The statistical significance and substantive importance of each result were identified. A standard two-tailed test was used to determine the *p*-value for the impact coefficient of each outcome measure. Coefficients with *p*-values of 0.05 or below were considered statistically significant and identified as such. In addition, coefficients with *p*-values between 0.05 and 0.10 were identified in the tables to identify where there may have been additional significant results found if a larger sample had been used. However, these results were not considered in the text or compilations of statistically significant results.

Individual outcomes having non-statistically significant effect sizes of 0.25 or above (and -0.25 or below) were identified as having substantively positive (negative) importance, following the practice used by the What Works Clearinghouse. Substantive importance may identify impacts of practical importance that might have been found statistically significant if the sample size were larger.

In addition to estimating the impacts of the SCD programs on the individual outcome measures, the impacts on the four domains (Social and Emotional Competence, Behavior, Academics, and Perceptions of School Climate) were also examined. Testing the impact on the domains was done to adjust for the multiple comparisons made within each domain in order to address the increased chances of finding a spurious outcome when more than one test was done. As a result, this section reports two sets of results: (1) the impacts on the individual outcomes unadjusted for multiple comparisons; and (2) the impacts on the domains that serve as the multiple comparison adjustment.

The testing of the significance of the impacts on the domains was based on a set of four heuristics that were modeled on the approach used by the U.S. Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse for determining whether domain-level effects are statistically significant when there are multiple outcome measures within a single domain (What Works Clearinghouse n.d.-b). The first three of these heuristics were also applied in the earlier analysis of the SCD programs' impacts on the use of SCD activities to six outcome domains.³³ Each domain was checked using the four heuristics and a statistically significant positive impact was found if any of the four were met.³⁴ The four heuristics were as follows:

³² This weighting approach produced unbiased estimates of the average treatment effect for the study schools and programs that were purposively selected for the evaluation. See appendix B for more information.

³³ The fourth heuristic was appropriate for use with the student-level outcomes but not with the teacher-level use of SCD activities outcomes, so it was not applied to the six domains containing the individual outcomes of SCD activity use.

³⁴ For ease of discussion, this section describes detecting positive significant impacts. These heuristics were also used to detect any negative impact on a domain.

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1. Based on the results from the statistical test of each outcome variable within a domain (unadjusted for multiple comparisons), at least half of the impacts were positive and statistically significant and no impact was negative and statistically significant.
2. The omnibus impact for all the outcomes measured together was positive and statistically significant on the basis of a multivariate statistical test (see footnote 25).
3. After applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (Benjamini and Hochberg 1995) procedure to each outcome under a domain, at least one of the outcomes remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant. The Benjamini-Hochberg procedure adjusts significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts.
4. The statistical model used to estimate impacts on the individual outcomes was re-estimated using a composite of all the outcome variables under a domain. The domain was found significant if the impact on the composite was significant. The composite was formed by standardizing each outcome variable using its standard deviation, combining the values of the outcome variables, and taking the average of the final value.

Statistical Power

To assess the statistical power of the combined-program and individual program impact estimates under the SCD design, minimum detectable impacts in effect size (MDES) units for each outcome measure were calculated. MDES represent the smallest impacts in effect size (standard deviation) units that can be detected with a high probability. The MDES were primarily a function of study sample sizes, the degrees of freedom available for statistical tests, and design effects due to clustering (Schochet 2005). Clustering effects are measured by intraclass correlations (ICCs) that reflect the percentage of the total variance in the outcomes that is between clusters (schools). These MDES were calculated at 80 percent power. Thus, it is possible to find a statistically significant impact estimate on an outcome when the true impact is smaller than the relevant MDES, although the chance that this will occur is less than 80 percent. Similarly, it is possible to find an impact estimate that is not statistically significant when the true impact is as large as the MDES, although the chance that this will occur is 20 percent or less.

Table 1.25 displays the MDES using the ICCs from equation (2) that adjusted them using the covariates (assuming a two-tailed test and a 5 percent significance level). For the outcomes from the Child Report, the MDES fell below 0.1 except for Positive School Orientation in Years 2 and 3, which reached about 0.13. For outcomes from the Primary Caregiver Report, MDES fell below 0.05 for all 3 years. MDES for outcomes from the Teacher Report on Student ranged from 0.05 to 0.24, while those for the Teacher Report on Classroom and School ranged from 0.15 to 0.21.

The MDES for the individual programs were considerably higher, ranging from 0.1 to 0.9 over the 3 years, due to smaller sample sizes. They varied somewhat across sites with no consistent pattern. MDES for the specific programs can be found in the program chapters.

Table 1.25. Adjusted minimum detectable effect sizes for combined-program impact evaluation

Outcome measure–Report	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Social and Emotional Competence Domain			
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interaction–CR	0.048	0.048	0.035
Normative Beliefs About Aggression–CR	0.045	0.081	0.076
Empathy–CR	0.068	0.078	0.063
Behavior Domain			
Altruistic Behavior–CR	0.041	0.057	0.043
Altruistic Behavior–PCR	0.035	0.044	0.047
Altruistic Behavior–TRS	0.155	0.238	0.204
Positive Social Behavior–PCR	0.027	0.042	0.042
Positive Social Behavior–TRS	0.078	0.115	0.112
Problem Behavior–CR	0.056	0.086	0.075
Problem Behavior–PCR	0.047	0.040	0.046
Problem Behavior–TRS	0.084	0.086	0.101
ADHD-Related Behavior–TRS	0.071	0.082	0.101
Academics Domain			
Engagement with Learning–CR	0.029	0.036	0.054
Academic Competence and Motivation–TRS	0.053	0.077	0.097
Perceptions of School Climate Domain			
Positive School Orientation–CR	0.088	0.123	0.128
Negative School Orientation–CR	0.033	0.070	0.087
Student Afraid at School–CR	0.048	0.064	0.059
Victimization at School–CR	0.046	0.063	0.065
Feelings of Safety–TRCS	0.171	0.179	0.207
Student Support for Teachers–TRCS	0.151	0.154	0.188

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The minimum detectable effect (MDE) formula used in the calculations is as follows:

$$MDE = factor(df) * \sqrt{\rho_i \left(\frac{1}{s_T} + \frac{1}{s_C} \right) + (1 - \rho_i) \left(\frac{1}{s_T n_T} + \frac{1}{s_C n_C} \right)}$$

where s_T and s_C are the number of treatment and comparison schools; n_T and n_C are the average number of students per classroom; ρ_i is the intraclass correlation (ICC) at the school level; and $factor(df)$ is a constant that depends on the number of degrees of freedom (df) available for analysis (and is 2.802 for the pooled analysis). Estimates were adjusted for fixed program effects as well as baseline covariates.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Results

Table 1.26 provides the estimates of the overall impact on each of the 20 outcome measures over each of the 3 years.³⁵ For the third-graders in Year 1 (using the spring 2005 data), there was one statistically significant impact of the SCD programs, when combined, on the teacher-reported Student Support for Teachers measure, which had an effect size of 0.12 standard deviations. Effect sizes ranged from 0.00 to 0.12 (absolute value), so there were no substantively important effects. For the fourth-graders in Year 2 (using spring 2006 data), there was one statistically significant impact, again on the Student Support for Teachers measure, which had an effect size of 0.16 standard deviations. The other effect sizes ranged from 0.00 to 0.13 (absolute value), and there were no substantively important effects. For the fifth-graders in Year 3 (using spring 2007 data), there were no statistically significant impacts of the SCD programs on any of the 20 outcome measures. Effect sizes ranged from 0.00 to 0.08 (absolute value), and there were no substantively important effects. With 2 of 60 coefficients found statistically significant (less than the 3 that would be expected by chance), and none found substantively important, the combined-program evaluation provides no support for an average SCD program effect on student outcomes. Regarding statistically significant impacts on the domains, the fourth heuristic indicated a statistically significant detrimental effect of the SCD programs on the domain of Social and Emotional Competence in Years 2 and 3.

³⁵ Sample sizes are not reported in the results tables because they vary by outcome and by year. Table 1.47 provides the range of sample sizes for the outcomes within each report by year.

Table 1.26. Combined-program impacts on outcomes

Scale–Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value
Social and Emotional Competence Domain ^{1,2}												
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions–CR (+)	3.04	3.06	-0.03	0.476	3.18^	3.22	-0.07	0.096	3.22	3.25	-0.04	0.233
Normative Beliefs About Aggression–CR (-)	1.29	1.30	-0.01	0.826	1.35	1.36	-0.02	0.667	1.46	1.46	-0.01	0.913
Empathy–CR (+)	2.32	2.30	0.06	0.197	2.18	2.19	-0.02	0.739	2.08	2.10	-0.05	0.343
Behavior Domain												
Altruistic Behavior–CR (+)	1.24^	1.29	-0.06	0.094	1.05	1.09	-0.06	0.168	1.04	1.06	-0.04	0.368
Altruistic Behavior–PCR (+)	2.27^	2.22	0.07	0.055	2.24	2.24	0.00	0.992	2.25	2.27	-0.02	0.691
Altruistic Behavior–TRS (+)	1.43	1.39	0.08	0.380	1.36	1.35	0.01	0.935	1.35	1.37	-0.04	0.733
Positive Social Behavior–PCR (+)	3.02	3.03	-0.01	0.726	3.08	3.05	0.05	0.183	3.10	3.08	0.03	0.436
Positive Social Behavior–TRS (+)	3.03	3.02	0.02	0.659	3.02	3.04	-0.02	0.747	3.10	3.07	0.03	0.606
Problem Behavior–CR (-)	0.30	0.30	0.01	0.849	0.34	0.35	0.00	0.940	0.48	0.47	0.03	0.518
Problem Behavior–PCR (-)	1.56	1.56	0.00	0.914	1.53	1.54	-0.03	0.359	1.53	1.54	-0.04	0.335
Problem Behavior–TRS (-)	1.46	1.45	0.02	0.620	1.44	1.45	-0.02	0.667	1.45	1.47	-0.04	0.467
ADHD-Related Behavior–TRS (-)	1.75	1.75	0.00	0.925	1.68	1.70	-0.04	0.474	1.65	1.70	-0.08	0.205
Academics Domain												
Engagement with Learning–CR (+)	3.66	3.68	-0.04	0.193	3.67	3.68	-0.03	0.462	3.59	3.61	-0.04	0.411
Academic Competence and Motivation–TRS (+)	2.98	3.00	-0.02	0.353	2.96	2.98	-0.02	0.659	2.98	2.98	0.00	0.960

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.26. Combined-program impacts on outcomes—Continued

Scale–Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value
Perceptions of School Climate Domain												
Positive School Orientation–CR (+)	2.87	2.85	0.03	0.573	2.66	2.64	0.03	0.717	2.51	2.56	-0.07	0.411
Negative School Orientation–CR (-)	1.88	1.91	-0.04	0.168	1.96	1.98	-0.03	0.466	2.09	2.10	-0.01	0.857
Student Afraid at School–CR (-)	2.26	2.31	-0.05	0.165	2.21	2.26	-0.06	0.223	2.20	2.21	-0.01	0.818
Victimization at School–CR (-)	0.76	0.76	-0.01	0.760	0.66	0.69	-0.04	0.382	0.72	0.73	-0.01	0.913
Feelings of Safety–TRCS (+)	3.47	3.42	0.06	0.472	3.47	3.36	0.13	0.127	3.31	3.38	-0.08	0.445
Student Support for Teachers–TRCS (+)	3.50*	3.39	0.12	0.046	3.55*	3.41	0.16	0.036	3.43	3.47	-0.05	0.546

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

^ Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

¹ Impact on domain found statistically significant and detrimental in Year 2 based on the fourth heuristic, in which the statistical model used to estimate impacts on the individual outcomes was re-estimated using a composite of all the outcome variables under a domain. The domain was found significant if the impact on the composite was significant. The composite was formed by standardizing each outcome variable using its standard deviation, combining the values of the outcome variables, and taking the average of the final value.

² Impact on domain found statistically significant and detrimental in Year 3 based on the fourth heuristic.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using regression models where each program and school within a program was weighted equally. The standard errors of all estimates account for design effects due to unequal weighting and the clustering of students within schools. The effect size was calculated by dividing the estimated impact by the standard deviation of the outcome measure for the control group. Significance is based on $p \leq .05$. See table 1.5 for information about the measures used to create the outcome variables. The number of results found significant was no more than expected by chance.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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The lack of statistically significant beneficial impact estimates at the overall level might have been due to beneficial impacts in some programs that were offset by detrimental impacts in others. Estimated impacts could have differed across programs if some SACD programs were more effective than others, or if the types of children or settings in some programs were more conducive to positive program effects than others. To investigate this possibility, differences in estimated impacts across programs were tested, as was the statistical significance of program-specific impact estimates.

Impact estimates, however, did not differ significantly across programs. Using an *F* test to test for differences in estimated impacts across programs led to the finding that none of the differences in pooled impact estimates across programs was statistically significant at the 5 percent level in any of the 3 years. This result provided evidence that it was not the case that one or two programs drove or masked the estimated impacts in the combined data.

Table 1.27 lists the outcomes on which each individual program had statistically significant impacts in each year (a program's impacts on all the outcomes are given in the program-specific chapters). There were 5 significant program impacts (3 beneficial and 2 detrimental) in Year 1, 7 (5 beneficial and 2 detrimental) in Year 2, and 4 (1 beneficial and 3 detrimental) in Year 3, for a total of 16 (9 beneficial and 7 detrimental) program-level impacts. As a comparison, 7 of the 140 comparisons made for each year would be expected to be statistically significant by chance, which would produce a total of 21 expected significant impacts. Table 1.27 also lists the 19 nonsignificant substantive impacts by program; 10 were beneficial and 9 were detrimental.

Table 1.27. Individual program statistically significant impacts and nonsignificant but substantively important impacts

Program	Statistically significant ¹				Nonstatistically significant but substantive ²			
	Beneficial impacts		Detrimental impacts		Beneficial impacts		Detrimental impacts	
	(Report)	(Effect size) (p-value)	(Report)	(Effect size) (p-value)	(Report)	(Effect size) (p-value)	(Report)	(Effect size) (p-value)
Total		9		7		10		9
All programs								
Year 1		3		2		2		0
Year 2		5		2		6		1
Year 3		1		3		2		8
ABC								
Year 1		Altruistic Behavior (TRS) (.39) (.026)						
Year 2		Academic Competence (CR) (.31) (.011) Feelings of Safety (TRCS) (.75) (.003)		Altruistic Behavior (CR) (-.20) (0.029)		Student Support for Teachers (TRCS) (.27) (.276)		
Year 3		Positive Social Behavior (PCR) (.21) (.041)				Feelings of Safety (TRCS) (.31) (.235)		
CSP								
Year 1								
Year 2		Problem Behavior (PCR) (-.21) (.042)				Altruistic Behavior (TRS) (.47) (.132) Student Afraid at School (CR) (-.26) (.090)		
Year 3								Altruistic Behavior (TRS) (-.41) (.132) Feelings of Safety (TRCS) (-.36) (.246)
LBW								
Year 1		Altruistic Behavior (PCR) (.31) (.005) Student Support for Teachers (TRCS) (.52) (.022)						
Year 2						Student Support for Teachers (TRCS) (.28) (.428)		Altruistic Behavior (TRS) (-.34) (.270)

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.27. Individual program statistically significant impacts and nonsignificant but substantively important impacts—Continued

Program	Statistically significant ¹		Nonstatistically significant but substantive ²	
	Beneficial impacts (Report) (Effect size) (<i>p</i> -value)	Detrimental impacts (Report) (Effect size) (<i>p</i> -value)	Beneficial impacts (Report) (Effect size) (<i>p</i> -value)	Detrimental impacts (Report) (Effect size) (<i>p</i> -value)
Year 3		Engagement with Learning (CR) (-.35) (.030) Positive School Orientation (CR) (-.33) (.047) Feelings of Safety (TRCS) (-.70) (.046)		Problem Behavior (CR) (.31) (.223) Student Support for Teachers (TRCS) (-.26) (.543)
PA				
Year 1		Engagement with Learning (CR) (-.25) (.017)	Altruistic Behavior (TRS) (.27) (.480)	
Year 2	Positive Social Behavior (PCR) (.24) (.039) Problem Behavior (TRS) (-.24) (.048)		Student Support for Teachers (TRCS) (.28) (.113)	
Year 3				
PATHS				
Year 1				
Year 2				
Year 3				Altruistic Behavior (TRS) (-.31) (.485) Feelings of Safety (TRS) (-.29) (.582)
4Rs				
Year 1		Academic Competence (CR) (-.17) (.032)		
Year 2				
Year 3				Feelings of Safety (TRS) (-.42) (1.46) Student Support for Teachers (TRCS) (-.35) (.109)

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.27. Individual program statistically significant impacts and nonsignificant but substantively important impacts—Continued

Program	Statistically significant ¹		Nonstatistically significant but substantive ²	
	Beneficial impacts	Detrimental impacts	Beneficial impacts	Detrimental impacts
	(Report) (Effect size) (<i>p</i> -value)	(Report) (Effect size) (<i>p</i> -value)	(Report) (Effect size) (<i>p</i> -value)	(Report) (Effect size) (<i>p</i> -value)
SS				
Year 1			Feelings of Safety (TRCS) (.37) (.216)	
Year 2		Positive Social Behavior (PCR) (-.14) (.050)	Feelings of Safety (TRCS) (.39) (.197)	
Year 3			Feelings of Safety (TRCS) (.52) (.062)	

¹ Of the 140 comparisons made for each year, 7 would be expected to be statistically significant at the .05 level by chance (for a total of 21).

² Defined as impacts that were not statistically significant but were .25 standard deviation units (absolute value) or more in magnitude.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

ABC: *Academic and Behavioral Competencies Program*

CSP: *Competence Support Program*

LBW: *Love In a Big World*

PA: *Positive Action*

PATHS: *Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies*

4Rs: *The 4Rs Program (Reading, Writing, Respecting, and Resolution)*

SS: *Second Step*

CR: *Child Report*

PCR: *Primary Caregiver Report*

TRS: *Teacher Report on Student*

TRCS: *Teacher Report on Classroom and School*

Blank cell: Finding of no impact.

All impact estimates were calculated using regression models in which each school within a program was weighted equally. The standard errors of all estimates account for design effects due to unequal weighting and the clustering of students within schools. Significance is based on $p \leq .05$. The number of results found significant was no more than expected by chance.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Sensitivity Analyses

To estimate the multilevel models, it was necessary to make decisions about key model parameter specifications and estimation methods. These decisions had the potential to affect the results. A set of sensitivity analyses was done to determine if these model assumptions affected the results from the combined-program impact analysis. Ten sensitivity tests were done, and these included the following variations:

1. The models were estimated without the initial covariates.
2. The models were estimated without sample weights and also with weights that were not adjusted for nonconsent and nonresponse.
3. Classroom-level random effects were included in the error structure.
4. The pairwise matching of schools was accounted for in the error structure.
5. The pretests were treated as dependent variables rather than as covariates.
6. The models were estimated using alternative statistical software packages.
7. Missing outcome measures were imputed using multiple imputation procedures.
8. Combined-program impact estimates were obtained by averaging the program-level impact estimates.
9. Restricted sets of covariates were included in the models.
10. New entrants were excluded from the analysis.

The number of sensitivity analyses done each year declined as the pattern of impact results from the original model proved robust to a variety of model specifications. All 10 sensitivity analyses were done with the Year 1 data. The first nine sensitivity tests were done with the Year 2 data. The sample of new entrants grew large enough in Years 2 and 3 to do separate analyses of new entrants versus stayers (in place of the 10th sensitivity test) and these were included in the subgroup analyses discussed in chapter 1. The first, second (except for the estimation without weights), third, and fourth sensitivity tests were done using the Year 3 data.

The results from the sensitivity analyses were similar to those of the original combined-program analysis and did not produce additional evidence of impacts on the outcome measures. Of the 10 sensitivity analyses, 5 found no significant impacts on the 20 outcomes, 4 found one significant impact, and 1 found two significant impacts. The sensitivity analyses and their results are discussed in appendix B.

Year-by-Year Analysis of Impacts on Student Subgroups

The social and character development evaluation research questions included the expectation that the SACD programs, considered together, might be more effective for some groups of children than others. These subgroups were based on (1) student gender; (2) student risk factors; (3) student status as a stayer (member of the original sample from fall 2004) or a new entrant to the study; and (4) fidelity of implementation in the student's school. Descriptive analyses, discussed earlier, of the initial data confirmed that the characteristics used to form the first two subgroups were randomly distributed between the treatment and control groups, and found no statistically significant difference in the composition of the treatment and control groups by stayers and new entrants. These subgroups were hypothesized to respond differently to the SACD programs based on (1) indications in the literature that gender, socioeconomic risk, family risk, and community risk are associated with children's behavioral and academic outcomes; and (2) results from previous evaluations of universal school-based SACD interventions, which have found that impacts can differ for children at high risk for behavior problems and academic failure, and that impacts can be greater for children who have received greater program exposure.

The identification of gender and of stayer versus new entrant status was straightforward because these were

clearly distinctive subgroups of boys versus girls and students who were in the sample from the initial data collection versus those who joined afterward. Identification of the subgroups defined by initial risk and fidelity of implementation required the use of scales.

To identify students with initial risks, four domains of initial risk were examined:

1. *Socioeconomic risk* was measured by the number of the following risk factors the child faced at the beginning of the evaluation: (1) the child was in a single-parent household, (2) the child was in a low-income household (below 135 percent of the federal poverty level), and (3) the child's primary caregiver was a high school dropout. The risk measure used in the analysis was a cumulative score across the three risk variables with the following values: 0 (no risk factors), 1 (one risk factor), and 2 (two or three risk factors).
2. *Family risk* was defined as poor parental supervision and taken from the Alabama: Poor Supervision Scale from the Primary Caregiver Report data.
3. *Perceived community risk* was defined as perceived neighborhood risk measured through items from the Community Risk Scale from the Primary Caregiver Report data.
4. *Child behavior risk* was measured by the BASC Conduct Problems Subscale, responses to which were collected in both the Teacher Report on Student and the Primary Caregiver Report.

Thus, there were five risk measures used to examine the four initial risk domains: (1) one measure for socioeconomic risk, which consisted of a scale based on three variables; (2) one measure for family risk, which was based on one variable; (3) one measure for community risk, which was based on one variable; and (4) two measures for child behavior risk. Other variables were considered for each risk measure (e.g., parents' employment status for socioeconomic risk, positive parenting for family risk, and community resources for community risk) but, in a regression analysis of the initial data, these variables were not found to predict the outcome measures. The five selected risk measures were treated in the analysis as continuous, rather than categorical, variables to preserve all risk information, and because there were no well-established rules for defining risk cutoffs and groups for which the effects of the SCD evaluation were likely to differ.

Fidelity of implementation of the SCD programs was measured differently in each of the three years. In Year 1, treatment schools were divided into two fidelity groups: (1) high implementers (20 schools) and (2) low implementers (22 schools). In Years 2 and 3, schools were again divided into the high (20 schools in Year 2, 19 schools in Year 3) and low implementers (22 schools in Year 2, 23 schools in Year 3) but the fidelity measure combined the rankings from multiple years into three categories: (1) high implementers for all years, (2) low implementers for all years, and (3) mixed implementers (high and low implementers in different years). The discussion of the construction of the fidelity of implementation variables noted that the fidelity analysis was considered exploratory, both because of how the variable was constructed and because of the nonrandom assignment of high and low fidelity. As a result, differences in estimated impacts by fidelity group could reflect differences in the level of implementation and/or underlying differences between the students, the schools, and the SCD programs.

Analysis

The subgroup analyses were conducted at the combined-program level. The 18 student-level outcomes were used. The degree of power available for testing the differences between the subgroups was lower than for the whole-group analysis and depended on the number and sizes of the subgroups. Therefore the results were measured less precisely than for the year-by-year impacts at the combined-program level. Partly as a result of this, and because the What Works Clearinghouse heuristics do not specify how to conduct multiple comparison tests across subgroups, the heuristics were not applied to examine subgroup impact results by domain.³⁶

³⁶ The comparison approach used was to assess whether there were differences in impacts across subgroups (e.g.,

Two of the subgroups were discrete binary variables (boy/girl or stayer/new entrant) as was Year 1 fidelity (high/low), one subgroup included three discrete binary variables (fidelity for Years 2 and 3), and the initial risk variables were continuous (and so were not truly discrete subgroups). For all the subgroup analyses, the model used to test the equality of the subgroup impacts can be represented in a unified equation as

$$Y_{isp} = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 T_{sp} + \theta_p + X_{isp} \beta + G_{isp} \lambda + G_{isp} T_{sp} \rho + [u_{sp} + e_{isp}]$$

where Y_{isp} is an outcome for a student; T_{sp} is a binary variable equal to 1 for treatment group schools and 0 for control schools; θ_p are program-specific fixed effects coefficients to be estimated; X_{isp} are student- or teacher-level baseline covariates that do not include the subgroup of interest; G_{isp} is the variable to represent the subgroup of interest; β , γ_0 , γ_1 , λ , and ρ are fixed parameter vectors to be estimated; e_{isp} are assumed to be independent and identically distributed $N(0, \sigma_e^2)$ student- or teacher-level random error terms; and u_{sp} are independent and identically distributed $N(0, \sigma_u^2)$ school-specific error terms that capture the correlation between the outcomes of students in the same schools and are assumed to be distributed independently of the e_{isp} error terms. When subgroups are discrete, G_{isp} is a binary variable for the nonexcluded subgroup of interest (such as females, when males are the excluded subgroup).³⁷ For the risk variables that were continuously defined, G_{isp} is a continuous variable.

In this model, ρ is the coefficient on the interaction term between the subgroup of interest and the treatment group indicator variable. The value of ρ estimates the additional effect on the impact estimate of switching subgroups (through a one-unit change in the G_{isp} variable). A test of the hypothesis that ρ equals 0 is conducted to determine whether the subgroups have statistically significantly different impacts.

This equation is the same for the subgroup analyses in which there are only two subgroups and for the subgroup analyses that use a continuous variable. In the case of three subgroups (such as with the three-tiered fidelity categorization), G_{isp} includes two subgroups (because the third one is excluded), and there are two subgroup-by-treatment-status interaction terms. The joint test of whether the coefficients on these terms equal 0 is conducted to determine whether the three subgroups have different impacts. For the discrete binary variables, ρ represents the additional effect of changing from boy to girl or from stayer to new entrant. For continuous variables, ρ represents the additional effect of a one-unit change in the G_{isp} variable. For presentation purposes, because one-unit changes in the risk measures might be hard to interpret because the risk measures are scales, the point estimates of the impacts are presented at the mean risk level, one standard deviation above the mean risk level, and one standard deviation below the mean risk level.

The subgroup analyses determined if there was a differential impact of the SCD programs on the subgroups. In cases where such a difference was found, a secondary analysis was done to obtain more information on this difference by testing the statistical significance of the impact estimates for each subgroup separately. These supplemental analyses could help identify why a differential impact occurred. For example, if a significant differential impact was found that favored girls, the supplemental analysis might determine that the difference was due to either a beneficial impact on girls or a detrimental impact on boys.³⁸ Impacts for

impacts for boys versus girls) for each outcome and then to examine impacts on the individual subgroups (e.g., boys). The latter were to be examined only when the former were found significant. The alternative approach of applying multiple comparisons corrections for all the outcomes under each subgroup was not applied because it would have reduced the alpha levels for significance testing to such low values (e.g., from .05 to .005) that there would be little statistical power to detect impacts.

³⁷ For the subgroup analyses, (1) girls were included and boys excluded, (2) new entrants were included and stayers excluded, and (3) low fidelity was excluded.

³⁸ The student gains for some of the outcomes are represented by positive coefficients (an increase in that outcome is desired) while for others a gain is represented by a negative coefficient (a decrease is desired). To reduce confusion, impacts are described as beneficial or detrimental for a subgroup. A beneficial outcome means that a desired outcome

discrete (binary or categorical) subgroups were estimated using the equation (2) regression models (described in Year-by-Year Impacts on Students and Perceptions of School Climate) separately for each subgroup—for example, separately for boys and for girls. For the continuous initial risk variables, equation (2) was estimated three times for each risk variable: once for each level of risk reported (mean risk level, one standard deviation above the mean risk level, and one standard deviation below the mean risk level).

It is possible to have a statistically significant difference in estimated impacts between subgroups and not to have statistically significant estimated impacts for one or all of the subgroups. In a similar way, there can be statistically significant estimated impacts for the subgroups, but no statistically significant difference between these impacts. These patterns can occur because the tests of statistical significance are asking slightly different questions. For each subgroup-specific regression, the hypothesis that is being tested is whether the impact coefficient is statistically significantly different from zero, when the coefficients for the regressor variables are fit specifically for that subgroup. For the test of the significance of the difference in the impact estimates, the hypothesis is testing whether the difference in the impact estimates for each subgroup is statistically significantly different from zero, when the coefficients for the regressor variables are fit for the full sample (all subgroups combined).

Results

For each subgroup, the results of the primary and supplemental subgroup tests are discussed. The test of the significance of the difference in the impact estimates for each subgroup is discussed first. This test directly compares the point estimates of the impacts for each level of the subgroup, while taking into account the variance around each point estimate. Formally, it is a test of the null hypothesis that the difference in impact between subgroup levels equals zero. The test establishes whether differences in impacts between levels of the subgrouping variable exist. Second, the results of the *t* tests from the subgroup-specific regressions are discussed. These tests determine the significance of the impact of the intervention on each of the subgroups. The findings from the subgroup-specific regressions are discussed only if the test of the significance of the difference in the impact estimates results rejects the hypothesis that the difference between the impacts for the subgroups is zero (although for completeness, the tables present all the subgroup-specific regression results).

Tables 1.28 through 1.35 present the year-by-year results for the subgroup analyses. In the tables, the *p*-value for the difference in the impact estimates for each subgroup is labeled “*p*-Value for Difference” for the discrete subgroups (gender, stayer/new entrant, and fidelity of implementation) and “Marginal Effect” for the initial risk subgroups. The “Marginal Effect” column contains both the *p*-value and the effect of moving from one level of risk up to the next level.³⁹ The other columns give the coefficients converted into effect sizes and the *p*-values from the subgroup-specific regressions, and are labeled by their subgroup (e.g., “Boys” and “Girls” in table 1.28).

Gender

There were 8 cases of significant differences between the impacts of the seven SCD programs on boys versus girls (table 1.28, last column under each year). From the 54 comparisons made, 3 significant differences would be expected by chance. When examining the results of the *t* tests from subgroup-specific regressions for these 8 cases, 1 case was based on a significant beneficial program impact for boys (an increase in Positive Social Behavior in Year 2); 3 were based on significant detrimental program impacts for boys (declines in Altruistic Behavior in Years 1 and 2, and Engagement with Learning in Year 2); 1 was based

has increased or an undesired outcome has decreased for that subgroup. A detrimental outcome means that a desired outcome has decreased or an undesired outcome has increased for that subgroup.

³⁹ The marginal effects for the discrete binary subgroups (gender and stayer/new entrant) can be approximated by subtracting the effect sizes from the subgroup-specific regressions because the differences between subgroups in standard deviation estimates are small. For the fidelity subgroups, this approach can be used to identify pairwise differences between the impacts for the low-, mixed-, and high-fidelity subgroups.

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on a significant beneficial impact for girls (a decline in Negative School Orientation in Year 2); and 1 was based on a significant detrimental impact for girls (a decline in Academic Competence in Year 1). Of the remaining 2, the first showed more beneficial impacts for girls (a gain in Normative Beliefs About Aggression in Year 2) while the second showed more beneficial impacts for boys (a decline in ADHD-related behavior in Year 3) but neither was linked to a significant program impact on either gender. Because there were few significant differences and they did not provide consistent results (e.g., half showed a detrimental program impact), these results provide little evidence that the SACD programs, as a group, differentially improved outcomes for one gender.

Table 1.28. Combined-program impacts on child outcomes, by gender

	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)					Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)					Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)				
	Boys		Girls		<i>p</i> -value for difference ¹	Boys		Girls		<i>p</i> -value for difference ¹	Boys		Girls		<i>p</i> -value for difference ¹
	Effect size	<i>p</i> - value	Effect size	<i>p</i> - value		Effect size	<i>p</i> - value	Effect size	<i>p</i> - value		Effect size	<i>p</i> - value	Effect size	<i>p</i> - value	
Scale–Report															
Social and Emotional Competence Domain															
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions–CR (+)	0.01	0.907	-0.05	0.345	0.558	-0.10^	0.076	-0.04	0.479	0.281	-0.09^	0.083	0.01	0.833	0.092^
Normative Beliefs About Aggression– CR (-)	-0.01	0.842	-0.01	0.899	0.788	0.04	0.574	-0.10^	0.095	0.023*	-0.04	0.545	0.02	0.768	0.245
Empathy–CR (+)	0.04	0.500	0.08	0.133	0.705	-0.05	0.401	0.02	0.685	0.165	-0.06	0.248	-0.03	0.661	0.841
Behavior Domain															
Altruistic Behavior– CR (+)	-0.13*	0.014	0.01	0.921	0.023*	-0.13*	0.020	0.00	0.967	0.022*	-0.04	0.453	-0.03	0.580	0.784
Altruistic Behavior– PCR (+)	0.07	0.199	0.09^	0.081	0.754	-0.07	0.173	0.07	0.177	0.063^	-0.10	0.102	0.05	0.343	0.101
Altruistic Behavior– TRS (+)	0.04	0.667	0.09	0.398	0.330	0.01	0.924	0.02	0.918	0.972	-0.01	0.940	-0.03	0.785	0.981
Positive Social Behavior–PCR (+)	0.00	0.934	-0.01	0.790	0.904	0.10*	0.032	-0.02	0.653	0.033*	0.04	0.512	0.00	0.985	0.826
Positive Social Behavior–TRS (+)	0.01	0.755	0.01	0.750	0.993	-0.02	0.830	-0.02	0.769	0.978	0.10	0.200	-0.01	0.864	0.058^
Problem Behavior– CR (-)	0.01	0.897	0.00	0.993	0.927	-0.01	0.852	-0.01	0.900	0.810	0.03	0.675	0.02	0.735	0.990
Problem Behavior– PCR (-)	0.02	0.630	-0.01	0.875	0.851	-0.08	0.138	0.03	0.599	0.089^	-0.03	0.697	-0.04	0.493	0.895
Problem Behavior– TRS (-)	0.02	0.715	0.03	0.577	0.865	-0.02	0.720	-0.03	0.601	0.788	-0.08	0.346	-0.03	0.569	0.621
ADHD-Related Behavior–TRS (-)	-0.03	0.518	0.02	0.619	0.254	-0.06	0.346	-0.02	0.745	0.529	-0.15^	0.064	-0.02	0.736	0.043*

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.28. Combined-program impacts on child outcomes, by gender—Continued

	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)					Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)					Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)				
	Boys		Girls		<i>p</i> -value for differ- ¹	Boys		Girls		<i>p</i> -value for differ- ¹	Boys		Girls		<i>p</i> -value for differ- ¹
	Effect size	<i>p</i> - value	Effect size	<i>p</i> - value		Effect size	<i>p</i> - value	Effect size	<i>p</i> - value		Effect size	<i>p</i> - value	Effect size	<i>p</i> - value	
Scale–Report															
Academics Domain															
Engagement with Learning–CR (+)	-0.01	0.872	-0.08	0.133	0.178	-0.10*	0.050	0.05	0.297	0.011*	0.00	0.998	-0.09	0.100	0.317
Academic Competence and Motivation–TRS (+)	0.04	0.331	-0.07*	0.017	0.003*	0.02	0.684	-0.04	0.424	0.242	0.05	0.386	-0.05	0.443	0.093^
Perceptions of School Climate Domain															
Positive School Orientation–CR (+)	0.04	0.529	0.02	0.728	0.593	-0.01	0.872	0.06	0.393	0.081^	-0.09	0.291	-0.04	0.617	0.345
Negative School Orientation–CR (-)	0.01	0.815	-0.10*	0.040	0.065^	0.09	0.126	-0.14*	0.011	0.000*	-0.01	0.914	0.00	0.943	0.842
Student Afraid at School–CR (-)	-0.02	0.654	-0.08	0.102	0.299	-0.10	0.102	-0.02	0.716	0.214	0.01	0.818	-0.02	0.666	0.445
Victimization at School–CR (-)	-0.02	0.748	-0.01	0.817	0.983	-0.07	0.223	-0.01	0.876	0.262	-0.01	0.850	0.01	0.809	0.683

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

^ Significantly different from zero at the .10 to > .05 level.

¹ From the test of a significant difference between Boys' effect size and Girls' effect size.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using regression models in which each program and school within a program was weighted equally. The standard errors of all estimates account for design effects due to unequal weighting and the clustering of students within schools. The effect size was calculated by dividing the estimated impact by the standard deviation of the outcome measure for the control group.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Stayer Versus New Entrant

For Years 2 and 3, no significant differences between the impacts on stayers versus new entrants were found (table 1.29). From the 36 comparisons made, 2 outcomes would have been expected to be statistically significant by chance. These results provide little evidence that the SCD programs, as a group, differentially improved outcomes for stayers or for new entrants.

The results comparing new entrants and stayers subgroups might have been sensitive to the methods used to fill in missing values in the initial data for new entrants. This could be a concern, especially because time-varying characteristics were measured at the start of the evaluation for stayers, but no data were available for new entrants. Information collected during the follow-up periods was used to fill in missing values for initial data items that were not expected to vary much over time. For characteristics that were likely to vary considerably over time, including initial values of the outcome measures, values were imputed based on cell means, where cells were defined by students' schools, gender, and race/ethnicity. To check the sensitivity of these results to the imputation of covariates that might vary over time, results were estimated for the stayer and new entrant subgroups using only covariates that were unlikely to vary over time. The subgroup results were similar (these data are not shown in a table).

Table 1.29. Combined-program impacts on child outcomes, by stayer versus new entrant

Scale-Report	Year 2					Year 3				
	(Spring 4th grade)					(Spring 5th grade)				
	Stayers		New entrants		<i>p</i> -value for difference ¹	Stayers		New entrants		<i>p</i> -value for difference ¹
	Effect size	<i>p</i> -value	Effect size	<i>p</i> -value		Effect size	<i>p</i> -value	Effect size	<i>p</i> -value	
Social and Emotional Competence Domain										
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions-CR (+)	-0.06	0.176	-0.14	0.117	0.319	-0.04	0.326	-0.10	0.184	0.723
Normative Beliefs About Aggression-CR (-)	0.00	0.988	-0.11	0.136	0.140	0.00	0.957	-0.05	0.491	0.542
Empathy-CR (+)	-0.01	0.798	-0.04	0.566	0.785	-0.05	0.353	0.01	0.847	0.794
Behavior Domain										
Altruistic Behavior-CR (+)	-0.03	0.516	-0.14^	0.066	0.132	-0.03	0.496	0.02	0.832	0.966
Altruistic Behavior-PCR (+)	-0.01	0.866	0.02	0.820	0.618	-0.04	0.443	0.01	0.950	0.246
Altruistic Behavior-TRS (+)	0.02	0.903	-0.01	0.971	0.793	-0.02	0.868	-0.05	0.676	0.420
Positive Social Behavior-PCR (+)	0.01	0.813	0.13^	0.093	0.067^	0.02	0.691	0.02	0.825	0.444
Positive Social Behavior-TRS (+)	-0.02	0.818	-0.06	0.462	0.680	0.05	0.460	-0.03	0.679	0.361
Problem Behavior-CR (-)	-0.01	0.871	0.02	0.827	0.473	0.01	0.852	0.02	0.747	0.380
Problem Behavior-PCR (-)	-0.05	0.244	-0.11	0.160	0.195	-0.05	0.426	-0.04	0.610	0.634
Problem Behavior-TRS (-)	-0.04	0.486	0.04	0.648	0.370	-0.07	0.293	0.02	0.826	0.353
ADHD-Related Behavior-TRS (-)	-0.03	0.590	-0.01	0.880	0.913	-0.09	0.121	0.01	0.873	0.333
Academics Domain										
Engagement with Learning-CR (+)	-0.03	0.533	-0.06	0.396	0.773	-0.05	0.331	0.01	0.876	0.443
Academic Competence and Motivation-TRS (+)	-0.07	0.170	-0.05	0.494	0.645	-0.02	0.739	-0.07	0.363	0.275

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.29. Combined-program impacts on child outcomes, by stayer versus new entrant—Continued

	Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)					Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)				
	Stayers		New entrants		<i>p</i> -value for difference ¹	Stayers		New entrants		<i>p</i> -value for difference ¹
	Effect size	<i>p</i> -value	Effect size	<i>p</i> -value		Effect size	<i>p</i> -value	Effect size	<i>p</i> -value	
Scale—Report										
Perceptions of School Climate Domain										
Positive School Orientation—CR (+)	0.05	0.561	0.05	0.595	0.225	-0.05	0.526	-0.07	0.430	0.559
Negative School Orientation—CR (-)	-0.05	0.432	0.08	0.280	0.053 [^]	-0.04	0.493	0.05	0.524	0.230
Student Afraid at School—CR (-)	-0.05	0.418	-0.01	0.889	0.676	0.02	0.717	-0.02	0.824	0.329
Victimization at School—CR (-)	-0.05	0.353	-0.04	0.626	0.622	0.01	0.845	0.02	0.830	0.663

[^] Significantly different from zero at the .10 to > .05 level.

¹ From the test of a significant difference between Stayers' effect size and New Entrants' effect size.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. No findings were found statistically significant at or below the .05 level. All impact estimates were calculated using regression models in which each program and school within a program was weighted equally. The standard errors of all estimates account for design effects due to unequal weighting and the clustering of students within schools. The effect size was calculated by dividing the estimated impact by the standard deviation of the outcome measure for the

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Initial Risk

The impacts of the seven SCD programs, considered together, on initial student risk were examined using five risk measures (one measure each for socioeconomic risk, family risk, and perceptions of community risk, and two measures for child behavior risk). The significance of the change in the impact estimate over a one-unit change (moving one level between the three risk levels) in the risk measure (termed the *marginal effect*) was tested (see tables 1.30 to 1.34). A total of 270 marginal effects were tested over the 3 years (90 per year), and 13 to 14 would be expected to be significant by chance. A total of 41 were found significant—13 from Year 1, 17 from Year 2, and 11 from Year 3. Of these 41 significant findings, 26 showed a more beneficial marginal impact for high-risk students and 15 showed a more detrimental impact for high-risk students compared to lower risk students. Six of these findings were repeated in at least 2 different years, with 1 of these repeated all 3 years (4 showing a more beneficial marginal effect for high-risk students and 2 showing a detrimental impact).

For 24 of the 41 significant marginal effects, there were no significant findings from the subgroup-specific regressions. In 12 of the 41 significant marginal effects, the subgroup-specific regressions supported the interpretation of the marginal effect (6 results supported a more beneficial impact for high-risk students and 6 results supported a more detrimental impact for high-risk students). In the remaining 5 significant marginal effects, the subgroup-specific regressions supported a different interpretation: (1) a detrimental effect on lower risk students rather than a beneficial impact on higher risk students in two cases, and (2) a beneficial effect on lower risk students rather than a detrimental impact on higher risk students in three cases.

The low number, mixed direction (beneficial and detrimental), and lack of repeated findings of the significant results provide little evidence of a relationship between risk levels and the impact of the seven SCD programs considered together. Discussions of the results for each type of risk follow.

Socioeconomic Risk

For initial socioeconomic risk, there were 5 significant marginal effects, all showing detrimental impacts on high-risk students. From the 54 comparisons made, 3 significant differences would be expected by chance. Table 1.30 presents the impacts of the seven programs together on the outcome measures by level of student socioeconomic risk. An example may help in the interpretation of the table. For the outcome Engagement with Learning under the Academics domain, in Year 1 the estimated marginal effect of -0.131 indicates that, as the risk level increased one unit, the estimated impact of the seven SCD programs together decreased by 0.131. This estimate of the marginal effect was statistically significantly different from zero, providing evidence that the estimated impact of the seven SCD programs, as a group, on this outcome varied across socioeconomic risk levels (in this case it was detrimental as Engagement with Learning declined as risk increased). The results from the subgroup-specific regressions are provided at three levels of initial risk: (1) low, which is one standard deviation below the mean socioeconomic risk level; (2) average, which is the mean risk level; and (3) high, which is one standard deviation above the mean risk level. In Year 1, at the low level of socioeconomic risk, the estimated impact was 0.041 and nonsignificant. As the level of socioeconomic risk increased to the mean level, with all else held equal, the point estimate for the impact estimate changed to a nonsignificant -0.049. As the level of socioeconomic risk continued to increase to one standard deviation above the mean level, all else held equal, the estimated impact changed to -0.154. The point estimate for the impact at the high level of risk was statistically significantly different from zero, providing additional evidence that the seven SCD programs, together, had a detrimental impact on Engagement with Learning for students at high socioeconomic risk. However, as these results were not repeated for Years 2 and 3, no clear pattern of impact on this outcome emerged.

In addition to a reduction in Engagement with Learning, the high-risk students experienced a detrimental program impact on four other outcomes: declines in Altruistic Behavior (Teacher Report in Year 1) and Positive School Orientation (Year 1) and gains in Negative School Orientation (Year 1) and Student Afraid at School (Year 3). None of the significant marginal effects occurred for more than 1 year.

Table 1.30. Combined-program impacts on child outcomes, by initial socioeconomic risk

Scale—Report	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	(Spring 3rd grade)			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (p-value)	(Spring 4th grade)			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (p-value)	(Spring 5th grade)			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (p-value)
	Effect size at risk level (p-value)				Effect size at risk level (p-value)				Effect size at risk level (p-value)			
	Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³		Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³		Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³	
Social and Emotional Competence Domain												
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions—CR (+)	-0.005 (0.922)	-0.027 (0.490)	-0.052 (0.298)	-0.032 (0.433)	-0.075 (0.165)	-0.077^ (0.089)	-0.079 (0.161)	-0.003 (0.955)	-0.065 (0.190)	-0.042 (0.284)	-0.015 (0.779)	0.038 (0.439)
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR (-)	-0.024 (0.655)	0.001 (0.982)	0.026 (0.642)	0.033 (0.449)	-0.002 (0.976)	-0.009 (0.881)	-0.018 (0.801)	-0.012 (0.810)	0.047 (0.479)	0.032 (0.576)	0.015 (0.822)	-0.024 (0.637)
Empathy—CR (+)	0.124* (0.038)	0.077 (0.129)	-0.022 (0.713)	-0.069 (0.110)	-0.009 (0.891)	-0.027 (0.632)	-0.048 (0.457)	-0.031 (0.533)	-0.019 (0.777)	-0.068 (0.255)	-0.126^ (0.073)	-0.081 (0.122)
Behavior Domain												
Altruistic Behavior— CR (+)	-0.012 (0.800)	-0.054 (0.169)	-0.102* (0.044)	-0.060 (0.138)	-0.081 (0.139)	-0.067 (0.143)	-0.051 (0.375)	0.024 (0.628)	-0.073 (0.171)	-0.031 (0.470)	0.018 (0.744)	0.069 (0.168)
Altruistic Behavior— PCR (+)	0.047 (0.322)	0.032 (0.396)	0.014 (0.781)	-0.023 (0.590)	-0.008 (0.884)	0.006 (0.900)	0.022 (0.697)	0.023 (0.643)	0.010 (0.882)	-0.013 (0.811)	-0.040 (0.549)	-0.038 (0.495)
Altruistic Behavior— TRS (+)	0.164 (0.102)	0.085 (0.365)	-0.006 (0.950)	-0.115* (0.011)	0.035 (0.827)	0.014 (0.931)	-0.012 (0.940)	-0.037 (0.492)	-0.030 (0.808)	-0.052 (0.661)	-0.078 (0.526)	-0.037 (0.457)
Positive Social Behavior—PCR (+)	-0.012 (0.751)	-0.026 (0.394)	-0.041 (0.298)	-0.020 (0.555)	0.025 (0.603)	0.042 (0.285)	0.062 (0.207)	0.029 (0.509)	0.027 (0.619)	0.036 (0.429)	0.045 (0.425)	0.014 (0.786)
Positive Social Behavior—TRS (+)	0.020 (0.693)	-0.002 (0.968)	-0.027 (0.594)	-0.031 (0.315)	0.002 (0.979)	-0.032 (0.670)	-0.072 (0.370)	-0.058 (0.212)	0.058 (0.459)	0.009 (0.906)	-0.050 (0.530)	-0.082^ (0.089)
Problem Behavior— CR (-)	-0.029 (0.620)	-0.001 (0.983)	0.031 (0.597)	0.040 (0.318)	0.000 (0.997)	-0.002 (0.971)	-0.006 (0.940)	-0.005 (0.925)	0.028 (0.708)	0.073 (0.293)	0.124 (0.108)	0.073 (0.151)
Problem Behavior— PCR (-)	-0.015 (0.752)	0.010 (0.801)	0.039 (0.423)	0.037 (0.327)	0.005 (0.910)	-0.013 (0.743)	-0.034 (0.493)	-0.030 (0.509)	-0.070 (0.230)	-0.034 (0.478)	0.009 (0.877)	0.061 (0.267)
Problem Behavior— TRS (-)	-0.009 (0.871)	0.052 (0.293)	0.101^ (0.066)	0.062^ (0.056)	-0.004 (0.950)	-0.006 (0.914)	-0.009 (0.891)	-0.004 (0.931)	-0.043 (0.572)	-0.034 (0.621)	-0.024 (0.752)	0.014 (0.768)
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS (-)	0.022 (0.645)	0.020 (0.635)	0.018 (0.716)	-0.003 (0.923)	-0.004 (0.953)	-0.019 (0.724)	-0.038 (0.546)	-0.026 (0.565)	-0.053 (0.459)	-0.067 (0.297)	-0.084 (0.243)	-0.024 (0.615)

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.30. Combined-program impacts on child outcomes, by initial socioeconomic risk—Continued

	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	(Spring 3rd grade)			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)	(Spring 4th grade)			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)	(Spring 5th grade)			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)
	Effect size at risk level				Effect size at risk level				Effect size at risk level			
	(<i>p</i> -value)				(<i>p</i> -value)				(<i>p</i> -value)			
Scale–Report	Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³	(<i>p</i> -value)	Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³	(<i>p</i> -value)	Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³	(<i>p</i> -value)
Academics Domain												
Engagement with Learning–CR (+)	0.041 (0.394)	-0.049 (0.202)	-0.154** (0.003)	-0.131** (0.003)	-0.037 (0.421)	-0.030 (0.412)	-0.021 (0.668)	0.012 (0.796)	-0.041 (0.460)	-0.046 (0.318)	-0.051 (0.377)	-0.008 (0.882)
Academic Competence and Motivation–TRS (+)	-0.013 (0.688)	-0.002 (0.941)	-0.011 (0.743)	0.017 (0.532)	-0.014 (0.760)	-0.016 (0.687)	-0.018 (0.703)	-0.003 (0.936)	0.029 (0.622)	0.019 (0.713)	0.008 (0.899)	-0.016 (0.707)
Perceptions of School Climate Domain												
Positive School Orientation–CR (+)	0.092 (0.237)	0.011 (0.876)	-0.083 (0.286)	-0.118** (0.009)	0.058 (0.509)	0.028 (0.732)	-0.008 (0.930)	-0.051 (0.315)	-0.049 (0.609)	-0.090 (0.311)	-0.140 (0.146)	-0.070 (0.178)
Negative School Orientation–CR (-)	-0.103^ (0.057)	-0.045 (0.319)	0.023 (0.672)	0.085* (0.043)	-0.019 (0.783)	-0.013 (0.827)	-0.007 (0.922)	0.009 (0.852)	-0.024 (0.745)	0.000 (0.996)	0.029 (0.699)	0.040 (0.427)
Student Afraid at School–CR (-)	-0.088 (0.139)	-0.058 (0.242)	-0.024 (0.688)	0.043 (0.331)	-0.043 (0.522)	-0.049 (0.410)	-0.056 (0.417)	-0.010 (0.849)	-0.081 (0.224)	-0.019 (0.743)	0.054 (0.427)	0.103' (0.047)
Victimization at School–CR (-)	-0.027 (0.600)	-0.009 (0.835)	0.012 (0.814)	0.026 (0.528)	-0.029 (0.603)	-0.048 (0.303)	-0.071 (0.216)	-0.033 (0.503)	0.012 (0.838)	0.014 (0.771)	0.017 (0.777)	0.004 (0.938)

* Significantly different from zero at the .05 level.

** Significantly different from zero at the .01 level.

^ Significantly different from zero at the .10 to > .05 level.

¹ One standard deviation below the mean risk level.² At the mean risk level.³ One standard deviation above the mean risk level.⁴ Change in impact as risk level increases by one unit.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using regression models in which each program and school within a program was weighted equally. The standard errors of all estimates account for design effects due to unequal weighting and the clustering of students within schools. The effect size was calculated by dividing the estimated impact by the standard deviation of the outcome measure for the control group.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Family Risk

Over the 3 years, there were 6 statistically significant marginal effects regarding level of family risk (table 1.31). From the 54 comparisons made, 3 significant differences would be expected by chance. Five of the significant results showed beneficial impacts for high-risk students: increases in Empathy (Year 1), Engagement with Learning (Year 3), and Academic Competence (Year 3), and declines in Problem Behavior (Child Report in Year 3) and Negative School Orientation (Year 3). The results from the subgroup-specific regressions provided support for the Empathy finding but offered an alternative explanation for the Engagement with Learning finding, as they suggested that the significant marginal effect was due to a detrimental effect on low-risk students rather than a beneficial impact on high-risk students.

The sixth significant marginal effect showed a detrimental impact on high-risk students of an increase in Student Afraid at School (Year 2). The subgroup-specific regression results suggested that this significant marginal effect was due to a beneficial effect on low-risk students rather than a detrimental impact on high-risk students.

Table 1.31. Combined-program impacts on child outcomes, by initial family risk

Scale—Report	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	(Spring 3rd grade)			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (p-value)	(Spring 4th grade)			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (p-value)	(Spring 5th grade)			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (p-value)
	Effect size at risk level				Effect size at risk level				Effect size at risk level			
	(p-value)				(p-value)				(p-value)			
	Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³		Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³		Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³	
Social and Emotional Competence Domain												
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions—CR (+)	0.007 (0.890)	-0.031 (0.434)	-0.068 (0.170)	-0.169 (0.215)	-0.063 (0.278)	-0.052 (0.261)	-0.041 (0.470)	0.049 (0.751)	-0.059 (0.309)	-0.020 (0.641)	0.019 (0.749)	0.175 (0.313)
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR (-)	0.036 (0.532)	-0.008 (0.859)	-0.052 (0.359)	-0.198 (0.178)	0.034 (0.690)	-0.003 (0.969)	-0.040 (0.635)	-0.165 (0.301)	0.072 (0.396)	-0.002 (0.974)	-0.076 (0.362)	-0.333 [^] (0.056)
Empathy—CR (+)	0.000 (0.996)	0.073 (0.171)	0.146* (0.019)	0.329* (0.018)	-0.056 (0.400)	-0.014 (0.807)	0.028 (0.667)	0.191 (0.213)	-0.084 (0.277)	-0.066 (0.318)	-0.049 (0.523)	0.079 (0.650)
Behavior Domain												
Altruistic Behavior—CR (+)	-0.124* (0.016)	-0.067 (0.104)	-0.010 (0.847)	0.258 [^] (0.057)	-0.100 (0.109)	-0.039 (0.446)	0.022 (0.714)	0.275 [^] (0.081)	-0.068 (0.299)	-0.032 (0.532)	0.003 (0.960)	0.160 (0.367)
Altruistic Behavior—PCR (+)	0.036 (0.476)	0.033 (0.416)	0.029 (0.565)	-0.017 (0.905)	0.021 (0.720)	0.000 (0.996)	-0.022 (0.707)	-0.097 (0.532)	-0.029 (0.694)	-0.041 (0.505)	-0.053 (0.469)	-0.053 (0.767)
Altruistic Behavior—TRS (+)	0.095 (0.353)	0.080 (0.414)	0.064 (0.527)	-0.069 (0.609)	0.016 (0.925)	0.026 (0.878)	0.036 (0.836)	0.045 (0.783)	-0.093 (0.480)	-0.022 (0.863)	0.049 (0.706)	0.321 [^] (0.053)
Positive Social Behavior—PCR (+)	-0.053 (0.199)	-0.025 (0.439)	0.003 (0.940)	0.125 (0.267)	-0.054 (0.279)	-0.005 (0.891)	0.043 (0.373)	0.218 [^] (0.094)	-0.041 (0.542)	0.010 (0.865)	0.060 (0.364)	0.226 (0.146)
Positive Social Behavior—TRS (+)	-0.043 (0.407)	-0.005 (0.920)	0.033 (0.515)	0.171 [^] (0.077)	-0.064 (0.460)	-0.037 (0.653)	-0.009 (0.917)	0.125 (0.354)	-0.012 (0.887)	0.030 (0.712)	0.072 (0.409)	0.190 (0.209)
Problem Behavior—CR (-)	0.051 (0.392)	0.004 (0.933)	-0.060 (0.314)	-0.251 [^] (0.053)	0.018 (0.827)	-0.025 (0.737)	-0.069 (0.402)	-0.196 (0.182)	0.141 (0.106)	0.034 (0.666)	-0.073 (0.398)	-0.483 ^{**} (0.004)
Problem Behavior—PCR (-)	-0.007 (0.871)	0.012 (0.740)	0.032 (0.481)	0.089 (0.459)	0.002 (0.974)	0.033 (0.397)	0.065 (0.187)	0.142 (0.299)	0.013 (0.842)	-0.019 (0.720)	-0.052 (0.426)	-0.147 (0.377)
Problem Behavior—TRS (-)	0.090 (0.108)	0.053 (0.301)	-0.016 (0.780)	-0.168 [^] (0.097)	0.031 (0.677)	-0.013 (0.854)	-0.057 (0.448)	-0.198 (0.142)	0.026 (0.770)	-0.033 (0.685)	-0.093 (0.297)	-0.267 [^] (0.082)
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS (-)	0.026 (0.593)	0.016 (0.714)	-0.060 (0.907)	-0.045 (0.648)	-0.007 (0.919)	-0.029 (0.636)	-0.051 (0.452)	-0.100 (0.460)	-0.079 (0.301)	-0.091 (0.184)	-0.103 (0.177)	-0.053 (0.730)

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.31. Combined-program impacts on child outcomes, by initial family risk—Continued

Scale–Report	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	(Spring 3rd grade)			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (p-value)	(Spring 4th grade)			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (p-value)	(Spring 5th grade)			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (p-value)
	Effect size at risk level				Effect size at risk level				Effect size at risk level			
	(p-value)				(p-value)				(p-value)			
	Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³		Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³		Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³	
Academics Domain												
Engagement with Learning–CR (+)	-0.090^ (0.086)	-0.056 (0.170)	-0.022 (0.676)	0.155 (0.294)	-0.081 (0.159)	-0.013 (0.765)	0.054 (0.338)	0.304^ (0.060)	-0.152* (0.025)	-0.067 (0.206)	0.018 (0.790)	0.382* (0.040)
Academic Competence and Motivation–TRS (+)	-0.013 (0.694)	-0.004 (0.893)	0.020 (0.540)	0.075 (0.386)	-0.043 (0.387)	-0.011 (0.784)	0.020 (0.686)	0.140 (0.218)	-0.069 (0.291)	0.003 (0.953)	0.075 (0.243)	0.324* (0.015)
Perceptions of School Climate Domain												
Positive School Orientation–CR (+)	0.007 (0.931)	0.006 (0.931)	0.006 (0.941)	-0.003 (0.985)	0.002 (0.983)	0.040 (0.647)	0.079 (0.402)	0.173 (0.256)	-0.115 (0.245)	-0.085 (0.353)	-0.054 (0.579)	0.136 (0.414)
Negative School Orientation–CR (-)	-0.065 (0.272)	-0.044 (0.389)	-0.023 (0.699)	0.096 (0.478)	0.000 (0.997)	-0.051 (0.489)	-0.101 (0.211)	-0.226 (0.140)	0.052 (0.505)	-0.051 (0.461)	-0.153^ (0.051)	-0.461** (0.006)
Student Afraid at School–CR (-)	-0.096 (0.113)	-0.058 (0.257)	-0.020 (0.735)	0.170 (0.228)	-0.175* (0.020)	-0.084 (0.192)	0.006 (0.932)	0.408* (0.012)	-0.001 (0.989)	0.003 (0.968)	0.007 (0.933)	0.018 (0.918)
Victimization at School–CR (-)	-0.055 (0.298)	-0.004 (0.935)	0.048 (0.361)	0.232^ (0.090)	-0.030 (0.622)	-0.042 (0.396)	-0.054 (0.367)	-0.054 (0.727)	0.036 (0.604)	0.008 (0.894)	-0.021 (0.766)	-0.128 (0.451)

* Significantly different from zero at the .05 level.

** Significantly different from zero at the .01 level.

[^] Significantly different from zero at the .10 to > .05 level.¹ One standard deviation below the mean risk level.² At the mean risk level.³ One standard deviation above the mean risk level.⁴ Change in impact as risk level increases by one unit.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using regression models in which each program and school within a program was weighted equally. The standard errors of all estimates account for design effects due to unequal weighting and the clustering of students within schools. The effect size was calculated by dividing the estimated impact by the standard deviation of the outcome measure for the control group.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Perceptions of Community Risk.

Over the 3 years, there were 10 significant marginal effects regarding level of perception of community risk (table 1.32). From the 54 comparisons made, 3 significant differences would be expected by chance. Six of the significant results showed beneficial marginal impacts for high-risk students: increases in Positive School Orientation (Year 2) and declines in Problem Behavior (Teacher Report in Year 2), ADHD-related behavior (Year 2), and Victimization at School (all 3 years). Only 1 of these 6 was supported by the subgroup-specific regressions with the finding of a beneficial impact of the decline in Victimization at School (Year 2) for high-risk students.

The 4 detrimental marginal impacts for high-risk students included declines in Empathy (Year 3) and Altruistic Behavior (Primary Caregiver Report in Year 3), and increases in Problem Behavior (Primary Caregiver Report in Years 1 and 2). In all four cases, the subgroup-specific regressions supported the finding of detrimental impact on all 4 outcomes for high-risk students.

Table 1.32. Combined-program impacts on child outcomes, by initial perceptions of community risk

Scale—Report	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	(Spring 3rd grade)			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (p-value)	(Spring 4th grade)			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (p-value)	(Spring 5th grade)			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (p-value)
	Effect size at risk level		(p-value)		Effect size at risk level		(p-value)		Effect size at risk level		(p-value)	
	Low ¹	Aver- age ²			High ³	Low ¹			Aver- age ²	High ³		
Social and Emotional Competence Domain												
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions—CR (+)	-0.025 (0.642)	-0.029 (0.491)	-0.032 (0.550)	-0.005 (0.923)	-0.121 [^] (0.067)	-0.064 (0.204)	-0.008 (0.905)	0.085 (0.159)	-0.061 (0.323)	-0.024 (0.596)	0.014 (0.832)	0.056 (0.395)
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR (-)	0.033 (0.582)	-0.003 (0.948)	-0.040 (0.504)	-0.055 (0.328)	0.005 (0.959)	-0.008 (0.914)	-0.021 (0.807)	0.019 (0.768)	-0.035 (0.699)	-0.012 (0.873)	0.011 (0.901)	0.035 (0.632)
Empathy—CR (+)	0.087 (0.171)	0.073 (0.153)	0.059 (0.337)	-0.021 (0.698)	0.013 (0.860)	-0.005 (0.934)	-0.022 (0.747)	-0.026 (0.671)	0.080 (0.341)	-0.054 (0.423)	-0.187* (0.023)	-0.200** (0.006)
Behavior Domain												
Altruistic Behavior— CR (+)	-0.035 (0.523)	-0.062 (0.136)	-0.089 [^] (0.095)	-0.041 (0.422)	-0.060 (0.356)	-0.031 (0.539)	-0.001 (0.990)	0.045 (0.460)	-0.017 (0.808)	-0.023 (0.647)	-0.030 (0.661)	-0.010 (0.881)
Altruistic Behavior— PCR (+)	0.030 (0.538)	0.036 (0.315)	0.042 (0.386)	0.008 (0.864)	0.079 (0.205)	0.004 (0.927)	-0.070 (0.238)	-0.112 [^] (0.060)	0.129 [^] (0.082)	-0.024 (0.670)	-0.176* (0.015)	-0.228** (0.001)
Altruistic Behavior— TRS (+)	0.159 (0.141)	0.096 (0.333)	0.033 (0.753)	-0.094 (0.104)	-0.009 (0.961)	0.027 (0.875)	0.063 (0.723)	0.054 (0.451)	-0.004 (0.978)	-0.013 (0.919)	-0.023 (0.871)	-0.014 (0.853)
Positive Social Behavior—PCR (+)	0.001 (0.977)	-0.014 (0.657)	-0.030 (0.476)	-0.023 (0.576)	0.044 (0.407)	0.016 (0.693)	-0.012 (0.805)	-0.042 (0.392)	0.088 (0.220)	0.013 (0.822)	-0.063 (0.359)	-0.112 [^] (0.076)
Positive Social Behavior—TRS (+)	0.002 (0.966)	-0.004 (0.926)	-0.011 (0.834)	-0.010 (0.800)	-0.074 (0.405)	-0.045 (0.569)	-0.015 (0.859)	0.044 (0.441)	0.096 (0.295)	0.038 (0.631)	-0.020 (0.819)	-0.087 (0.187)
Problem Behavior— CR (-)	0.022 (0.732)	-0.008 (0.880)	-0.037 (0.543)	-0.044 (0.391)	-0.022 (0.798)	-0.027 (0.715)	-0.032 (0.698)	-0.008 (0.900)	-0.002 (0.982)	0.032 (0.680)	0.067 (0.457)	0.052 (0.457)
Problem Behavior— PCR (-)	-0.100 [^] (0.053)	0.005 (0.909)	0.109* (0.028)	0.157*** (0.001)	-0.045 (0.381)	0.028 (0.446)	0.101* (0.041)	0.109* (0.032)	-0.005 (0.940)	0.000 (0.994)	0.006 (0.929)	0.009 (0.896)
Problem Behavior— TRS (-)	0.044 (0.464)	0.054 (0.304)	0.063 (0.278)	0.014 (0.732)	0.087 (0.268)	-0.001 (0.994)	-0.089 (0.243)	-0.132* (0.022)	-0.087 (0.370)	-0.047 (0.577)	-0.007 (0.939)	0.059 (0.374)
ADHD-Related Behavior— TRS (-)	-0.016 (0.748)	0.022 (0.605)	0.028 (0.576)	0.008 (0.835)	0.062 (0.389)	-0.021 (0.722)	-0.104 (0.132)	-0.124* (0.029)	-0.073 (0.375)	-0.102 (0.134)	-0.132 (0.100)	-0.045 (0.494)

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.32. Combined-program impacts on child outcomes, by initial perceptions of community risk—Continued

Scale–Report	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	(Spring 3rd grade)			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)	(Spring 4th grade)			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)	(Spring 5th grade)			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)
	Effect size at risk level				Effect size at risk level				Effect size at risk level			
	(<i>p</i> -value)				(<i>p</i> -value)				(<i>p</i> -value)			
	Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³		Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³		Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³	
Academics Domain												
Engagement with Learning–CR (+)	-0.016 (0.766)	-0.054 (0.187)	-0.091 [^] (0.095)	-0.056 (0.302)	-0.020 (0.728)	-0.003 (0.943)	0.014 (0.804)	0.026 (0.657)	-0.052 (0.463)	-0.053 (0.313)	-0.055 (0.439)	-0.002 (0.972)
Academic Competence and Motivation–TRS (+)	0.017 (0.640)	-0.002 (0.956)	-0.014 (0.695)	-0.023 (0.489)	0.036 (0.483)	-0.015 (0.719)	-0.066 (0.188)	-0.077 [^] (0.092)	0.058 (0.396)	0.017 (0.762)	-0.024 (0.720)	-0.061 (0.275)
Perceptions of School Climate Domain												
Positive School Orientation–CR (+)	0.011 (0.895)	0.013 (0.855)	0.015 (0.850)	-0.003 (0.957)	-0.086 (0.361)	0.030 (0.719)	0.146 (0.111)	0.174 ^{**} (0.007)	-0.091 (0.378)	-0.094 (0.293)	-0.098 (0.331)	-0.005 (0.945)
Negative School Orientation–CR (-)	-0.047 (0.435)	-0.040 (0.395)	-0.034 (0.561)	0.010 (0.855)	-0.079 (0.342)	-0.055 (0.432)	-0.031 (0.700)	0.036 (0.561)	-0.063 (0.435)	-0.052 (0.429)	-0.041 (0.607)	0.017 (0.805)
Student Afraid at School–CR (-)	-0.062 (0.331)	-0.061 (0.233)	-0.060 (0.334)	-0.002 (0.976)	-0.017 (0.836)	-0.078 (0.240)	-0.139 [^] (0.073)	-0.091 (0.157)	0.003 (0.973)	-0.010 (0.881)	-0.023 (0.777)	-0.020 (0.783)
Victimization at School–CR (-)	0.094 [^] (0.093)	-0.001 (0.988)	-0.093 [^] (0.091)	-0.139 ^{**} (0.008)	0.068 (0.298)	-0.035 (0.485)	-0.138 [*] (0.030)	-0.154 [*] (0.011)	0.132 [^] (0.066)	0.021 (0.702)	-0.090 (0.205)	-0.166 [*] (0.016)

* Significantly different from zero at the .05 level.

** Significantly different from zero at the .01 level.

*** Significantly different from zero at the .001 level.

[^] Significantly different from zero at the .10 to > .05 level.¹ One standard deviation below the mean risk level.² At the mean risk level.³ One standard deviation above the mean risk level.⁴ Change in impact as risk level increases by one unit.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using regression models in which each program and school within a program was weighted equally. The standard errors of all estimates account for design effects due to unequal weighting and the clustering of students within schools. The effect size was calculated by dividing the estimated impact by the standard deviation of the outcome measure for the control group.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Child Behavior Risk (Teacher and Primary Caregiver Reports)

Over the 3 years, the Teacher Report showed 10 significant marginal effects regarding level of child behavior risk (table 1.33). From the 54 comparisons made, 3 significant differences would be expected by chance. Seven of the significant results showed beneficial marginal impacts for high-risk students: increases in Altruistic Behavior (Primary Caregiver Report in Year 1) and Academic Competence (Years 2 and 3), and declines in Normative Beliefs About Aggression (Year 2), Problem Behavior (Child Report and Teacher Report in Year 2), and Negative School Orientation (Year 2). Results from the subgroup-specific regressions supported the beneficial impacts for higher risk students for Altruistic Behavior and Negative School Orientation, and also provided evidence that the marginal effect on Academic Competence (Year 2) was due to a detrimental impact on low-risk students.

The 3 detrimental marginal impacts for high-risk students included declines in Engagement with Learning (Year 1) and increases in Problem Behavior (Primary Caregiver Report in Year 3) and Student Afraid at School (Year 1). Results from the subgroup-specific regressions supported the interpretation that there were detrimental impacts on Engagement with Learning for high-risk students but that the marginal impacts on Problem Behavior and Student Afraid at School were due to beneficial impacts on low-risk students.

When child behavior risk was measured using the Primary Caregiver Report, there were 10 significant marginal effects in contrast to the 3 expected by chance from the 54 comparisons (table 1.34). Eight of these showed beneficial marginal impacts for high-risk students: increases in Empathy (Years 1 and 2), Altruistic Behavior (Teacher Report in Year 2), Positive Social Behavior (Primary Caregiver Report in Year 2), and Engagement with Learning (Year 2), and declines in Normative Beliefs About Aggression (Year 2) and Negative School Orientation (Years 1 and 2). Results from the subgroup-specific regressions supported the interpretation that there were beneficial impacts on Empathy (Year 1) and Negative School Orientation (Year 2) for high-risk students. The 2 detrimental marginal impacts for high-risk students were found for Problem Behavior (Primary Caregiver Report in Years 1 and 3).

Table 1.33. Combined-program impacts on child outcomes, by initial child behavior risk as reported by teacher

Scale–Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Effect size at risk level			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)	Effect size at risk level			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)	Effect size at risk level			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)
	(p-value)				(p-value)				(p-value)			
	Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³		Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³		Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³	
Social and Emotional Competence Domain												
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions–CR (+)	0.006 (0.904)	-0.037 (0.336)	-0.080 (0.109)	-0.004 (0.169)	-0.040 (0.510)	-0.059 (0.230)	-0.077 (0.228)	-0.002 (0.640)	-0.028 (0.653)	-0.041 (0.397)	-0.053 (0.424)	-0.001 (0.771)
Normative Beliefs About Aggression–CR (-)	-0.010 (0.851)	-0.015 (0.742)	-0.019 (0.734)	0.000 (0.897)	0.127 (0.134)	0.007 (0.923)	-0.113 (0.191)	-0.012** (0.005)	0.014 (0.867)	0.021 (0.770)	0.028 (0.741)	0.001 (0.870)
Empathy–CR (+)	0.035 (0.575)	0.044 (0.418)	0.052 (0.404)	0.001 (0.786)	-0.093 (0.171)	-0.018 (0.748)	0.057 (0.416)	0.007^ (0.055)	-0.027 (0.728)	-0.061 (0.351)	-0.095 (0.234)	-0.003 (0.430)
Behavior Domain												
Altruistic Behavior–CR (+)	-0.071 (0.136)	-0.077* (0.036)	-0.083^ (0.085)	-0.001 (0.844)	-0.074 (0.227)	-0.048 (0.321)	-0.022 (0.734)	0.003 (0.510)	-0.036 (0.578)	-0.029 (0.561)	-0.023 (0.740)	0.001 (0.878)
Altruistic Behavior–PCR (+)	-0.065 (0.217)	0.046 (0.265)	0.156** (0.003)	0.011** (0.001)	-0.011 (0.855)	-0.025 (0.565)	-0.040 (0.505)	-0.001 (0.706)	0.001 (0.987)	-0.063 (0.308)	-0.128 (0.119)	-0.006 (0.187)
Altruistic Behavior–TRS (+)	0.083 (0.531)	0.119 (0.353)	0.156 (0.237)	0.004 (0.222)	0.013 (0.941)	0.030 (0.858)	0.048 (0.783)	0.002 (0.673)	-0.024 (0.853)	-0.014 (0.910)	-0.004 (0.975)	0.001 (0.809)
Positive Social Behavior–PCR (+)	-0.014 (0.716)	-0.016 (0.600)	-0.017 (0.667)	0.000 (0.961)	-0.028 (0.588)	0.021 (0.601)	0.069 (0.192)	0.005 (0.148)	-0.008 (0.898)	0.021 (0.700)	0.050 (0.477)	0.003 (0.481)
Positive Social Behavior–TRS (+)	-0.049 (0.355)	-0.017 (0.717)	0.014 (0.789)	0.003 (0.145)	-0.067 (0.433)	-0.056 (0.477)	-0.045 (0.599)	0.001 (0.745)	0.037 (0.663)	0.038 (0.630)	0.038 (0.663)	0.000 (0.993)
Problem Behavior–CR (-)	-0.012 (0.840)	0.036 (0.480)	0.061 (0.312)	0.002 (0.424)	0.075 (0.348)	-0.007 (0.922)	-0.089 (0.275)	-0.008* (0.032)	0.042 (0.621)	0.023 (0.765)	0.003 (0.969)	-0.002 (0.630)
Problem Behavior–PCR (-)	-0.019 (0.698)	-0.005 (0.898)	0.009 (0.857)	0.001 (0.619)	0.017 (0.735)	-0.007 (0.849)	-0.031 (0.549)	-0.002 (0.484)	-0.202** (0.009)	-0.051 (0.423)	0.101 (0.211)	0.015*** (0.001)
Problem Behavior–TRS (-)	-0.007 (0.890)	0.048 (0.322)	0.088^ (0.099)	0.004^ (0.078)	0.064 (0.389)	-0.011 (0.872)	-0.085 (0.255)	-0.007* (0.029)	-0.014 (0.873)	-0.030 (0.697)	-0.046 (0.593)	-0.002 (0.670)
ADHD-Related Behavior–TRS (-)	-0.031 (0.512)	0.039 (0.335)	0.048 (0.299)	0.001 (0.689)	0.036 (0.589)	-0.007 (0.902)	-0.051 (0.456)	-0.004 (0.199)	-0.080 (0.298)	-0.071 (0.296)	-0.062 (0.431)	0.001 (0.808)

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.33. Combined-program impacts on child outcomes, by initial child behavior risk as reported by teacher—Continued

Scale–Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Effect size at risk level			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)	Effect size at risk level			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)	Effect size at risk level			Marg- inal effect ⁹ (<i>p</i> -value)
	(<i>p</i> -value)				(<i>p</i> -value)				(<i>p</i> -value)			
	Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³		Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³		Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³	
Academics Domain												
Engagement with Learning–CR (+)	0.041 (0.413)	-0.051 (0.185)	-0.143** (0.006)	-0.009** (0.007)	-0.069 (0.228)	-0.016 (0.711)	0.038 (0.532)	0.005 (0.187)	0.006 (0.925)	-0.043 (0.420)	-0.092 (0.199)	-0.005 (0.272)
Academic Competence and Motivation–TRS (+)	-0.052 (0.123)	-0.022 (0.429)	0.008 (0.808)	0.003 (0.111)	-0.108* (0.035)	-0.032 (0.455)	0.044 (0.391)	0.007** (0.008)	-0.088 (0.149)	-0.006 (0.909)	0.076 (0.225)	0.008* (0.013)
Perceptions of School Climate Domain												
Positive School Orientation–CR (+)	0.013 (0.866)	-0.012 (0.867)	-0.037 (0.635)	-0.002 (0.430)	0.040 (0.668)	0.043 (0.612)	0.046 (0.622)	0.000 (0.933)	-0.069 (0.472)	-0.065 (0.452)	-0.062 (0.525)	0.000 (0.935)
Negative School Orientation–CR (-)	-0.019 (0.749)	-0.012 (0.801)	-0.006 (0.915)	-0.001 (0.843)	0.057 (0.467)	-0.072 (0.300)	-0.202* (0.013)	-0.013** (0.001)	0.027 (0.728)	-0.048 (0.478)	-0.122 (0.128)	-0.007^ (0.072)
Student Afraid at School–CR (-)	-0.140* (0.018)	-0.068 (0.162)	0.004 (0.942)	0.007* (0.029)	-0.041 (0.572)	-0.054 (0.384)	-0.066 (0.375)	-0.001 (0.755)	0.030 (0.705)	0.033 (0.631)	0.035 (0.664)	0.000 (0.949)
Victimization at School–CR (-)	-0.008 (0.873)	-0.005 (0.896)	-0.019 (0.716)	-0.001 (0.670)	-0.010 (0.867)	-0.043 (0.337)	-0.076 (0.208)	-0.003 (0.390)	0.045 (0.511)	0.011 (0.841)	-0.023 (0.751)	-0.003 (0.425)

* Significantly different from zero at the .05 level.

** Significantly different from zero at the .01 level.

*** Significantly different from zero at the .001 level.

^ Significantly different from zero at the .10 to > .05 level.

¹ One standard deviation below the mean risk level.² At the mean risk level.³ One standard deviation above the mean risk level.⁴ Change in impact as risk level increases by one unit.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

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TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using regression models in which each program and school within a program was weighted equally. The standard errors of all estimates account for design effects due to unequal weighting and the clustering of students within schools. The effect size was calculated by dividing the estimated impact by the standard deviation of the outcome measure for the control group.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 1.34. Combined-program impacts on child outcomes, by child behavior risk as reported by primary caregiver

Scale–Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Effect size at risk level (<i>p</i> -value)			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)	Effect size at risk level (<i>p</i> -value)			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)	Effect size at risk level (<i>p</i> -value)			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)
	Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³		Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³		Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³	
Social and Emotional Competence Domain												
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions–CR (+)	0.027 (0.582)	-0.031 (0.421)	-0.090 [^] (0.072)	-0.006 [^] (0.061)	-0.015 (0.798)	-0.054 (0.247)	-0.093 (0.125)	-0.004 (0.295)	-0.001 (0.986)	-0.022 (0.609)	-0.043 (0.474)	-0.002 (0.599)
Normative Beliefs About Aggression–CR (-)	0.020 (0.725)	-0.012 (0.802)	-0.044 (0.446)	-0.003 (0.338)	0.071 (0.403)	-0.010 (0.893)	-0.092 (0.287)	-0.008* (0.036)	-0.017 (0.847)	-0.010 (0.893)	-0.004 (0.965)	0.001 (0.876)
Empathy–CR (+)	-0.013 (0.838)	0.077 (0.148)	0.166** (0.008)	0.009** (0.005)	-0.083 (0.217)	-0.007 (0.897)	0.068 (0.318)	0.008* (0.042)	-0.021 (0.786)	-0.063 (0.352)	-0.105 (0.189)	-0.004 (0.306)
Behavior Domain												
Altruistic Behavior– CR (+)	-0.110* (0.029)	-0.064 (0.108)	-0.017 (0.734)	0.005 (0.128)	-0.090 (0.148)	-0.031 (0.539)	0.029 (0.651)	0.006 (0.118)	-0.074 (0.248)	-0.030 (0.547)	0.014 (0.838)	0.004 (0.287)
Altruistic Behavior– PCR (+)	0.081 (0.199)	0.037 (0.350)	-0.007 (0.890)	-0.004 (0.178)	-0.040 (0.500)	0.001 (0.986)	0.042 (0.485)	0.004 (0.281)	-0.030 (0.695)	-0.038 (0.540)	-0.046 (0.548)	-0.001 (0.856)
Altruistic Behavior– TRS (+)	0.077 (0.431)	0.072 (0.439)	0.066 (0.496)	-0.001 (0.860)	-0.049 (0.780)	0.029 (0.864)	0.107 (0.542)	0.008* (0.050)	-0.010 (0.938)	-0.015 (0.907)	-0.019 (0.885)	0.000 (0.910)
Positive Social Behavior–PCR (+)	0.013 (0.745)	-0.027 (0.384)	-0.066 [^] (0.097)	-0.004 (0.127)	-0.086 [^] (0.083)	-0.007 (0.852)	0.072 (0.147)	0.008* (0.015)	-0.013 (0.845)	-0.003 (0.961)	0.008 (0.909)	0.001 (0.786)
Positive Social Behavior–TRS (+)	-0.010 (0.849)	-0.009 (0.835)	-0.009 (0.854)	0.000 (0.992)	-0.016 (0.854)	0.038 (0.630)	-0.061 (0.480)	-0.002 (0.483)	0.010 (0.904)	0.033 (0.674)	0.056 (0.522)	0.002 (0.528)
Problem Behavior– CR (-)	0.025 (0.677)	-0.003 (0.953)	-0.031 (0.603)	-0.003 (0.346)	0.014 (0.865)	-0.037 (0.612)	-0.089 (0.281)	-0.005 (0.143)	0.040 (0.638)	0.032 (0.677)	0.024 (0.781)	-0.001 (0.830)
Problem Behavior– PCR (-)	-0.076 (0.109)	0.003 (0.943)	0.081 [^] (0.083)	0.008** (0.006)	-0.021 (0.691)	0.036 (0.363)	0.092 [^] (0.080)	0.006 (0.101)	-0.101 (0.135)	-0.017 (0.749)	0.066 (0.328)	0.008* (0.043)
Problem Behavior– TRS (-)	0.043 (0.428)	0.053 (0.288)	0.062 (0.256)	0.001 (0.686)	-0.010 (0.894)	-0.008 (0.908)	-0.006 (0.940)	0.000 (0.949)	-0.017 (0.846)	-0.044 (0.587)	-0.071 (0.427)	-0.003 (0.457)
ADHD-Related Behavior–TRS (-)	0.000 (0.996)	0.020 (0.619)	0.041 (0.379)	0.002 (0.357)	-0.002 (0.982)	-0.021 (0.732)	-0.040 (0.563)	-0.002 (0.556)	-0.107 (0.168)	-0.096 (0.163)	-0.085 (0.278)	0.001 (0.763)

See notes to at end of table.

Table 1.34. Combined-program impacts on child outcomes, by child behavior risk as reported by primary caregiver—Continued

Scale–Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Effect size at risk level			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)	Effect size at risk level			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)	Effect size at risk level			Marg- inal effect ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)
	(p-value)				(p-value)				(p-value)			
	Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³		Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³		Low ¹	Aver- age ²	High ³	
Academics Domain												
Engagement with Learning–CR (+)	-0.074 (0.151)	-0.057 (0.149)	-0.039 (0.443)	0.002 (0.599)	-0.089 (0.127)	-0.004 (0.925)	0.081 (0.178)	0.009* (0.028)	-0.004 (0.954)	-0.057 (0.278)	-0.110 (0.109)	-0.005 (0.210)
Academic Competence and Motivation–TRS (+)	-0.001 (0.979)	-0.001 (0.970)	-0.003 (0.930)	0.000 (0.923)	-0.044 (0.365)	-0.013 (0.754)	0.019 (0.705)	0.003 (0.247)	-0.025 (0.702)	0.005 (0.932)	0.034 (0.600)	0.003 (0.350)
Perceptions of School Climate Domain												
Positive School Orientation–CR (+)	-0.050 (0.534)	0.008 (0.912)	0.066 (0.408)	0.006^ (0.067)	-0.009 (0.918)	0.053 (0.532)	0.115 (0.215)	0.006^ (0.092)	-0.022 (0.819)	-0.080 (0.367)	-0.138 (0.158)	-0.006 (0.143)
Negative School Orientation–CR (-)	0.049 (0.418)	-0.034 (0.513)	-0.116^ (0.055)	-0.008** (0.009)	0.055 (0.492)	0.055 (0.492)	-0.178* (0.030)	-0.012** (0.002)	-0.017 (0.829)	-0.054 (0.433)	-0.090 (0.254)	-0.004 (0.341)
Student Afraid at School–CR (-)	-0.070 (0.247)	-0.055 (0.274)	-0.041 (0.494)	0.001 (0.653)	-0.073 (0.317)	-0.068 (0.285)	-0.062 (0.406)	0.001 (0.879)	0.068 (0.385)	0.006 (0.932)	-0.056 (0.478)	-0.006 (0.123)
Victimization at School–CR (-)	0.026 (0.621)	-0.005 (0.903)	-0.016 (0.763)	-0.002 (0.508)	-0.032 (0.598)	-0.040 (0.407)	-0.048 (0.432)	-0.001 (0.822)	-0.010 (0.888)	0.010 (0.865)	0.030 (0.678)	0.002 (0.621)

* Significantly different from zero at the .05 level.

** Significantly different from zero at the .01 level.

^ Significantly different from zero at the .10 to > .05 level.

¹ One standard deviation below the mean risk level.² At the mean risk level.³ One standard deviation above the mean risk level.⁴ Change in impact as risk level increases by one unit.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using regression models in which each program and school within a program was weighted equally. The standard errors of all estimates account for design effects due to unequal weighting and the clustering of students within schools. The effect size was calculated by dividing the estimated impact by the standard deviation of the outcome measure for the control group.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Fidelity of Implementation

There were 5 cases of significant differences between the associations of the SACD programs with the outcomes for schools with different levels of fidelity of implementation (table 1.35). From the 54 comparisons made, 3 significant differences would be expected by chance. When examining the results of the *t* tests from subgroup-specific regressions for these 5 cases, 4 cases were based on significant detrimental program associations for low-fidelity schools: declines in Altruistic Behavior (Child Report in Year 1) and Positive School Orientation (in Year 3) and increases in Problem Behavior (Child Report in Year 3) and Negative School Orientation (in Year 3). One was linked to a beneficial (though not significant) association for high-fidelity schools (a decline in Student Afraid at School in Year 3).

As a sensitivity test for the Year 2 and Year 3 data, the schools were divided into only two categories (high or low implementers) and the Year 1-type analysis was done (using two fidelity subgroups based on the most recent year of fidelity data; these data are not shown in a table). No significant differences in associations were found between high and low implementers in this analysis. Because the few significant findings from the first analysis were primarily due to detrimental associations between low fidelity and outcomes (rather than beneficial associations between high fidelity and outcomes), and because there were no significant findings in the sensitivity analysis, the fidelity analyses provide little support for the hypothesis of a relationship between high fidelity and more beneficial outcomes.

Table 1.35. Combined-program results for child outcomes, by fidelity of implementation

Scale-Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Effect size		<i>p</i> -value for differ- ence ¹	Effect size			<i>p</i> -value for differ- ence ¹	Effect size			<i>p</i> -value for differ- ence ¹
	<i>(p</i> -value)			<i>(p</i> -value)				<i>(p</i> -value)			
	Low	High		Low	Mixed	High		Low	Mixed	High	
Social and Emotional Competence Domain											
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions-CR (+)	-0.02 (0.758)	-0.04 (0.397)	0.882	-0.12^ (0.087)	0.02 (0.827)	-0.13^ (0.063)	0.730	-0.09 (0.364)	-0.01 (0.909)	-0.07 (0.291)	0.841
Normative Beliefs About Aggression-CR (-)	0.04 (0.438)	-0.06 (0.300)	0.160	0.06 (0.419)	0.04 (0.584)	-0.14 (0.148)	0.068^	0.17^ (0.091)	-0.04 (0.640)	-0.10 (0.235)	0.069^
Empathy-CR (+)	-0.01 (0.851)	0.15* (0.024)	0.074^	-0.08 (0.242)	-0.03 (0.736)	0.02 (0.797)	0.531	-0.15 (0.112)	-0.08 (0.359)	0.05 (0.449)	0.298
Behavior Domain											
Altruistic Behavior-CR (+)	-0.13** (0.010)	0.01 (0.810)	0.033*	-0.05 (0.474)	-0.08 (0.332)	-0.08 (0.336)	0.907	-0.05 (0.508)	-0.03 (0.663)	-0.03 (0.589)	0.904
Altruistic Behavior-PCR (+)	0.10^ (0.061)	0.04 (0.407)	0.283	-0.03 (0.693)	0.13 (0.135)	-0.02 (0.660)	0.248	-0.05 (0.565)	0.00 (0.995)	-0.05 (0.482)	0.896
Altruistic Behavior-TRS (+)	0.10 (0.435)	0.13 (0.322)	0.888	-0.10 (0.589)	0.07 (0.845)	0.12 (0.648)	0.832	0.25 (0.359)	-0.12 (0.358)	-0.21 (0.366)	0.324
Positive Social Behavior-PCR (+)	0.00 (0.958)	-0.02 (0.541)	0.692	0.05 (0.499)	0.11 (0.125)	-0.01 (0.843)	0.692	0.01 (0.910)	0.08 (0.232)	-0.02 (0.787)	0.719
Positive Social Behavior-TRS (+)	0.05 (0.357)	-0.01 (0.831)	0.463	0.07 (0.439)	-0.22^ (0.083)	0.01 (0.954)	0.190	0.12 (0.183)	0.02 (0.853)	-0.09 (0.582)	0.444
Problem Behavior-CR (-)	0.04 (0.477)	-0.02 (0.748)	0.374	0.04 (0.751)	0.09 (0.323)	-0.09 (0.287)	0.229	0.20** (0.008)	0.04 (0.658)	-0.10 (0.236)	0.028*
Problem Behavior-PCR (-)	-0.03 (0.587)	0.02 (0.759)	0.483	-0.04 (0.571)	-0.12^ (0.094)	-0.04 (0.425)	0.983	0.00 (0.974)	-0.14^ (0.074)	-0.07 (0.275)	0.898
Problem Behavior-TRS (-)	0.00 (0.962)	0.02 (0.784)	0.752	-0.05 (0.589)	0.12 (0.173)	-0.08 (0.512)	0.184	-0.03 (0.732)	0.02 (0.805)	-0.14 (0.290)	0.349
ADHD-Related Behavior-TRS (-)	-0.02 (0.618)	-0.01 (0.874)	0.787	-0.05 (0.599)	0.06 (0.538)	-0.07 (0.446)	0.474	-0.09 (0.295)	-0.01 (0.903)	-0.08 (0.226)	0.838

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.35. Combined-program results for child outcomes, by fidelity of implementation—Continued

Scale–Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Effect size (<i>p</i> -value)		<i>p</i> -value for differ- ence ¹	Effect size (<i>p</i> -value)			<i>p</i> -value for differ- ence ¹	Effect size (<i>p</i> -value)			<i>p</i> -value for differ- ence ¹
	Low	High		Low	Mixed	High		Low	Mixed	High	
Academics Domain											
Engagement with Learning–CR (+)	-0.02 (0.670)	-0.07 (0.127)	0.442	-0.03 (0.640)	-0.06 (0.410)	-0.05 (0.345)	0.772	-0.18* (0.050)	0.06 (0.406)	-0.02 (0.699)	0.075^
Academic Competence and Motivation–TRS (+)	0.02 (0.630)	-0.06 (0.226)	0.225	-0.04 (0.628)	0.01 (0.926)	-0.13* (0.033)	0.559	-0.05 (0.606)	-0.04 (0.643)	-0.09 (0.261)	0.965
Perceptions of School Climate Domain											
Positive School Orientation–CR (+)	0.02 (0.795)	0.06 (0.488)	0.670	-0.07 (0.427)	0.04 (0.804)	0.09 (0.478)	0.409	-0.32** (0.001)	-0.04 (0.732)	0.18 (0.242)	0.026*
Negative School Orientation–CR (-)	-0.03 (0.411)	-0.06 (0.231)	0.578	0.03 (0.672)	-0.01 (0.928)	-0.06 (0.485)	0.457	0.21* (0.035)	-0.02 (0.841)	-0.19 (0.102)	0.021*
Student Afraid at School–CR (-)	-0.04 (0.484)	-0.05 (0.255)	0.759	-0.02 (0.780)	0.00 (0.994)	-0.09 (0.234)	0.675	0.02 (0.823)	0.11 (0.199)	-0.20^ (0.062)	0.016*
Victimization at School–CR (-)	-0.02 (0.632)	0.01 (0.879)	0.700	-0.04 (0.658)	-0.12^ (0.083)	0.00 (0.982)	0.611	0.07 (0.557)	-0.08 (0.209)	0.01 (0.948)	0.349

* Significantly different from zero at the .05 level.

** Significantly different from zero at the .01 level.

^ Significantly different from zero at the .10 to > .05 level, two-tailed test.

¹ Test of significant difference between Fidelity subgroups' effect sizes.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using regression models in which each program and school within a program was weighted equally. The standard errors of all estimates account for design effects due to unequal weighting and the clustering of students within schools. The effect size was calculated by dividing the estimated impact by the standard deviation of the outcome measure for the control group.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Summary of Results Regarding Year-by-Year Impacts

The combined-program analysis of the year-by-year impacts did not yield evidence that the seven SCD programs improved student outcomes. A small number of findings were statistically significant (but no more than expected by chance except for several of the subgroup analyses) or substantively important. These results were split into similar numbers of beneficial and detrimental impacts. In the majority of cases, the results (both beneficial and detrimental) occurred only in 1 year and were not replicated across the 3 years of the study.

Specifically, 2 of 60 estimated impacts for the seven SCD programs combined for the 3 years were found statistically significant (with beneficial impacts) and none were found to be substantively important. The lack of findings at the combined-program level was not found to be due to differences among the individual programs or such subgroups as males versus females, stayers versus new entrants, and students with different levels of initial risk. However, it should be noted that the smaller sample sizes available for these analyses reduced the ability to detect smaller statistically significant impacts compared to the analysis of all seven programs together.

For the individual SCD programs, 16 statistically significant impacts were found over the 3 years (9 beneficial and 7 detrimental) versus 21 that would be expected by chance. None occurred more than once per program. In addition, 19 nonsignificant substantively important impacts were found (10 beneficial and 9 detrimental). One program had a substantively important beneficial impact on an outcome for more than 1 year.

The subgroup analyses produced a low number of significant results, mixed impacts (both beneficial and detrimental), and a lack of repeated significant results, providing little evidence of a relationship between subgroups and the impact of the seven SCD programs considered together. The analysis by gender found eight significant differences in impacts but no pattern favoring one gender. No significant results were found for the analysis of stayers versus new entrants. For the analysis of five types of different initial risk, 41 significant marginal effects were found (versus 13 to 14 expected by chance), of which 26 showed more beneficial impacts for higher risk students and 15 found more detrimental impacts for higher risk students as compared to lower risk students. Six of these findings were repeated in at least 2 different years.

Impacts on Growth of Student Outcomes

A growth curve analysis was done with the 3 years of data to complement the three cross-sectional impact analyses comparing the outcomes of students in control and treatment schools at the end of their third-grade year (spring 2005), fourth-grade year (spring 2006), and fifth-grade year (spring 2007). The growth curve analysis examined the average change over time in the child outcomes between fall 2004 and spring 2007. Unlike the cross-sectional analysis, this was not a cumulative analysis but an analysis of the differences in growth rates between students. Specifically, it examined the estimated impacts on the trajectories of student outcomes over time. The growth curve analysis used the same covariates and compared results across the same subgroups as the cross-sectional analyses. In comparison to the cross-sectional analysis, the growth curve approach used all available data and multiple measures of the outcomes because students at any survey point contributed to the impact estimates.

The growth curve analysis addressed a subset of the research questions regarding the SCD evaluation (combined-program and individual program). These included the following:

1. What were the average impacts of the seven SCD programs together on the average growth over time in student outcomes during the study period, from implementation of the programs in fall 2004 through spring 2007?

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2. What were the impacts on the average growth over time in student outcomes during the study period by individual SACD program?
3. Did the impacts on the average growth over time in student outcomes during the study period differ by gender, stayer versus new entrant status, and initial risk factors?

As in the case of the cross-sectional year-by-year analysis, the combined analysis used for the first question, with its larger sample size and associated greater power, would be able to detect smaller statistically significant impacts than the analyses for the second and third questions.

Sample

The sample of students for the growth curve analysis included all students who were enrolled in one of the study schools during the study period, who were eligible to complete a survey at the initial data collection or at any of the follow-up survey points, and who had data from one or more data collection points.⁴⁰ Student outcomes were measured at five time points. Initial measures were collected in fall 2004, and follow-up measures were collected in spring 2005, fall 2005, spring 2006, and spring 2007. The outcomes included the 18 child-level outcome measures across the four outcome domains (Social and Emotional Competence, Behavior, Academics, and Perceptions of School Climate). Two additional outcomes, Feelings of Safety and Student Support for Teacher, were used in the cross-sectional analysis but were not used in the growth curve model because they were measured at the teacher level.

Table 1.36 displays the sample sizes and percentages of sample with a response across the three reports (Child, Primary caregiver, and Teacher). The sample sizes and percentages varied across survey instruments because of differences in survey consent and completion rates. At each survey period, the teachers were most likely to provide data on children (the percentage of the sample universe with responses ranged from 63% to 66%). The primary caregivers were least likely to provide data on children (the percentage of the sample universe with responses ranged from 46% to 58%). The percentage of the sample with responses was similar for treatment and control schools in most survey waves. However, it was statistically significantly higher for the treatment group for the Child Report and Primary Caregiver Report in fall 2004 and for the Child Report in spring 2005. Table 1.36 also shows the percentages of the follow-up sample members who were in the initial sample. There was considerable turnover, as evidenced by the decreasing percentage over time of students who were in the initial fall 2004 sample. By spring 2007, across the three survey instruments, about two-thirds of the sample had been part of the original fall 2004 survey (66% for the Child Report and the Primary Caregiver Report, and 68% for the Teacher Report on Student). There were no statistically significant differences in the level of turnover by treatment status.

⁴⁰ Sensitivity analyses discussed later in this section examined the robustness of the findings when using smaller samples of students who had more rounds of data.

Table 1.36. Growth curve analysis sample size, percentage of sample universe, and percentage of initial sample

Program	Analysis sample size (Percentage of sample universe)								
	Child Report			Primary Caregiver Report			Teacher Report on Student		
	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total
Fall 2004 Overall	2,092 (62.1)**	1,905 (59.5)	3,997 (60.9)	1,980 (58.8)**	1,794 (56.1)	3,774 (57.5)	2,157 (64.1)	1,946 (60.8)	4,103 (62.5)
Spring 2005									
Overall	2,200 (64.9)***	1,967 (61.3)	4,167 (63.2)	1,768 (52.2)	1,613 (50.3)	3,381 (51.3)	2,264 (66.8)	2,029 (63.2)	4,293 (65.1)
Percentage of sample in fall 2004	86.4	88.0	87.1	88.0	88.5	88.2	89.7	89.9	89.8
Fall 2005									
Overall	2,145 (65.4)	1,952 (64.8)	4,097 (65.1)	1,761 (53.7)	1,623 (53.8)	3,384 (53.8)	2,189 (66.7)	1,963 (65.1)	4,152 (66.0)
Percentage of sample in fall 2004	74.9	76.3	75.6	74.4	75.9	75.1	77.7	77.7	77.7
Spring 2006									
Overall	2,146 (64.5)	1,926 (62.4)	4,072 (63.5)	1,682 (50.6)	1,517 (49.1)	3,199 (49.9)	2,239 (67.3)	2,014 (65.2)	4,253 (66.3)
Percentage of sample in fall 2004	71.6	73.8	72.6	73.3	74.2	73.7	74.4	75.4	74.9
Spring 2007									
Overall	2,059 (64.9)	1,935 (62.9)	3,994 (63.9)	1,454 (46.1)	1,414 (46.0)	2,875 (46.0)	2,095 (66.0)	1,994 (64.8)	4,089 (65.4)
Percentage of sample in fall 2004	66.0	65.6	65.8	66.6	64.7	65.6	68.7	67.4	68.0

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

*** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .001 level.

NOTE: This table is based on categorizing students according to their current treatment status at a point in time. During the course of the study about 2 percent of students changed status when they moved from a treatment to a control school (or vice versa). These students were assigned to their baseline treatment status to preserve the random assignment design.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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Table 1.37 shows the average scores for each of the 18 outcome measures by treatment status and data collection point. All students with a response for an outcome measure are included in the data, regardless of when they entered the study schools. Because all students are included, the treatment-control differences reflect both behavioral changes within students who have data from more than one survey and compositional changes in the children for whom data were collected. These compositional changes were due to the mobility of the sample, and table 1.36 shows little evidence of differential mobility by treatment status. Table 1.37 shows that the outcome measures followed very similar trajectories for the students in the treatment and control schools (as described in detail later in this section). This holds true across domains and across the three data reports.

Table 1.37. Child-level outcomes, by survey period and treatment group status

	Child-level outcome				
	Fall 2004	Spring 2005	Fall 2005	Spring 2006	Spring 2007
Average outcome of children with data in any wave ¹					
Social and Emotional Competence Domain					
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interaction–(CR) (+)					
Control group	2.95	3.07	3.16	3.22	3.24
Treatment group	2.93	3.04	3.14	3.18*	3.22
Normative Beliefs About Aggression–(CR) (-)					
Control group	1.23	1.30	1.30	1.36	1.45
Treatment group	1.22	1.29	1.32	1.36	1.46
Empathy–(CR) (+)					
Control group	2.41	2.30	2.27	2.19	2.10
Treatment group	2.42	2.32	2.25	2.17	2.08
Behavior Domain					
Altruistic Behavior–(CR) (+)					
Control group	1.45	1.28	1.17	1.09	1.05
Treatment group	1.45	1.24	1.14	1.05	1.05
Altruistic Behavior–(PCR) (+)					
Control group	2.29	2.23	2.23	2.23	2.26
Treatment group	2.28	2.27	2.23	2.25	2.26
Altruistic Behavior–(TRS) (+)					
Control group	1.36	1.38	1.29	1.34	1.36
Treatment group	1.40	1.44	1.34*	1.37	1.34
Positive Social Behavior–(PCR) (+)					
Control group	3.00	3.03	3.07	3.06	3.08
Treatment group	3.00	3.02	3.06	3.07	3.09
Positive Social Behavior–(TRS) (+)					
Control group	3.05	3.02	3.01	3.06	3.10
Treatment group	3.04	3.03	3.02	3.01	3.07
Problem Behavior–(CR) (-)					
Control group	0.23	0.29	0.28	0.34	0.46
Treatment group	0.24	0.30	0.31	0.36	0.50
Problem Behavior–(PCR) (-)					
Control group	1.57	1.57	1.55	1.55	1.55
Treatment group	1.56	1.55	1.53	1.53	1.53
Problem Behavior–(TRS) (-)					
Control group	1.35	1.45	1.38	1.44	1.46
Treatment group	1.35	1.46	1.38	1.45	1.46
ADHD-Related Behavior–(TRS) (-)					
Control group	1.72	1.74	1.72	1.69	1.68
Treatment group	1.73	1.75	1.69	1.69	1.67

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.37. Child-level outcomes, by survey period and treatment group status—Continued

	Child-level outcome				
	Fall 2004	Spring 2005	Fall 2005	Spring 2006	Spring 2007
Average outcome of children with data in any wave ¹					
Academics Domain					
Engagement with Learning—(CR) (+)					
Control group	3.70	3.68	3.72	3.69	3.61
Treatment group	3.66	3.66	3.70	3.66	3.58
Academic Competence and Motivation—(TRS) (+)					
Control group	2.95	3.02	2.93	3.01	3.02
Treatment group	2.89	2.96	2.89	2.93	2.94
Perceptions of School Climate Domain					
Positive School Orientation—(CR) (+)					
Control group	3.23	2.86	2.81	2.64	2.56
Treatment group	3.21	2.86	2.82	2.65	2.51
Negative School Orientation—(CR) (-)					
Control group	1.82	1.90	1.87	1.97	2.09
Treatment group	1.87	1.89	1.87	1.98	2.10
Student Afraid at School—(CR) (-)					
Control group	2.38	2.30	2.22	2.25	2.21
Treatment group	2.43	2.27	2.21	2.22	2.20
Victimization at School—(CR) (-)					
Control group	0.76	0.77	0.65	0.69	0.73
Treatment group	0.77	0.75	0.64	0.66	0.73

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

¹ Average outcome is the average unadjusted score on the outcome measure across all students in that wave of data.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using regression models in which each program and school within a program was weighted equally. The standard errors of all estimates account for design effects due to unequal weighting and the clustering of students within schools. The effect size was calculated by dividing the estimated impact by the standard deviation of the outcome measure for the control group. This table is based on categorizing students according to their current treatment status at a point in time. During the course of the study about 2 percent of students changed status when they moved from a treatment to a control school (or vice versa). These students were assigned to their baseline treatment status to preserve the random assignment design. The majority of the outcomes (13) were on a scale of 1-4. The scales for the others were as follows: Empathy 1-3, Altruistic Behavior (CR) 0-3, Problem Behavior (CR) 0-3, Academic Competence and Motivation 1-5, and Victimization at School 0-3.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Analysis

The Growth Curve Model

The SACD programs' impacts over time were estimated using growth curve models by examining treatment and control group differences in the trajectories of student outcomes during the follow-up period while accounting for clustering at the school level. The growth curve models were estimated using a three-level hierarchical linear model, where Level 1 corresponds to time, Level 2 to students, and Level 3 to schools:

Level 1 Model—Time

$$(1) y_{tis} = \alpha_{0is} + \alpha_{1is}(TSI_{tis}) + u_{tis}$$

where y_{tis} is the outcome variable of student i in school s at time t , TSI_{tis} is the time measured in years between implementation of the SACD program and each survey date,⁴¹ u_{tis} is a mean zero disturbance term, α_{0is} and α_{1is} are random student-level intercepts and slopes, respectively, and the program-level subscript p is omitted for simplicity. The growth curve models estimate the effect of the SACD programs (together and separately) on outcomes measured near the start of the implementation, and then at the time of the four follow-up data points (spring 2005, fall 2005, spring 2006, and spring 2007).

Level 2 Model—Students

$$(2) \alpha_{0is} = \beta_s + X_{is}\theta + \varepsilon_{0is}$$

$$(3) \alpha_{1is} = \delta_s + \varepsilon_{1is}$$

where X_{is} is a vector of student-level characteristics measured initially (the covariates used in the cross-sectional analyses), ε_{0is} and ε_{1is} are mean zero disturbance terms, β_s and δ_s are random school-level coefficients, and θ is a vector of parameters to be estimated. The age of the child at the initial data collection was included as a control in the model.

Level 3 Model—Schools

$$(4) \beta_s = \lambda_0 + \lambda_1 T_s + \phi_s Z + \tau_{0s}$$

$$(5) \delta_s = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 T_s + \tau_{1s}$$

where T_s is an indicator of whether the school is in the treatment group, ϕ_s are program-specific fixed effects (Z indicates each of the seven SACD programs), τ_{0s} and τ_{1s} are mean zero disturbance terms (that are assumed to be correlated with each other and with the error term in equations (4) and (5) for the same school, but not across schools), and γ_0 , γ_1 , λ_0 , and λ_1 are parameters to be estimated.

When the student- and school-level equations are substituted into equation (1), this results in the following unified model:

$$(6) y_{tis} = \lambda_0 + \lambda_1 T_s + X_{is}\theta + \phi_s Z + \gamma_0(TSI_{tis}) + \gamma_1 T_s(TSI_{tis}) + \text{error}$$

where $\text{error} = u_{tis} + \varepsilon_{0is} + \tau_{0s} + \varepsilon_{1is}(TSI_{tis}) + \tau_{1s}(TSI_{tis})$. In this formulation, the estimate of the slope, γ_1 , represents the treatment and control group difference in the mean growth of the outcome measure between

⁴¹ Time of implementation was set at the program level. These dates were used both in treatment and control schools within that program. If the survey collection date for a student was missing in a round of data, it was imputed using the average date within the school for that round of data collection.

the first and last measurement points. The estimate of λ_1 represents the impact at the start of the evaluation and was expected not to differ significantly from zero. A linear specification of the time metric is used because the data indicate that the change in the outcomes followed a linear trajectory over time.⁴²

The growth curve analysis included the same set of covariates— X in equation (6)—that were used for the cross-sectional analysis (table 1.24) to ensure the comparability of the results. The only exception was the exclusion of the initial outcome measure because it was used as the outcome measure for the growth curve analysis at time 1 (fall 2004). As in the cross-sectional analysis, missing covariates were imputed using mean values for nonmissing cases, by school, gender, race, and ethnicity. Similarly, sample weights were used in all analyses to (1) give each program equal weight in the calculation of overall impact estimates, and (2) give each school equal weight in each program. However, the weights were not adjusted for consent and response differences across classrooms or schools because the population of students within the schools changed over time as students entered and left the schools. The weights were also constructed to give equal weight to each time period.

Equation (6) was estimated for all programs together and for each program separately. In the program-level models, the program-specific fixed effects were removed from the model by dropping Z . The key impact parameter in the growth curve model in equation (6) is γ_1 , which represents the extent to which the growth in the outcome during the follow-up period differed between the treatment and control groups. The estimated intercept parameter (γ_0) is of interest because it signifies a model-generated mean initial value of the outcome, and thus provides a base for interpreting the slope parameter. The model generated the following impact information for each child outcome: (1) the average intercept value for the treatment and control groups ($\lambda_0 + p\lambda_1 + \bar{x}\theta$, where p is the percentage of the sample assigned to the treatment group); (2) the estimated growth for the treatment group ($\gamma_1 + \gamma_0$); (3) the estimated growth for the control group (γ_0); and (4) the estimated impact of the SCD programs (and each program individually) on growth (γ_1).

Growth curve effect sizes were calculated by dividing the estimated impact of the treatment on the outcome growth trajectory by the standard deviation of that outcome (which was calculated using the initial data for the weighted control group). One year was the unit of time used in the growth curve analysis, so the estimated impact of the treatment on the growth trajectory equals the difference between the treatment group's outcome and the control group's outcome, on average, after one year.⁴³ After dividing by the standard deviation of the control group outcome, the effect size measures the number of standard deviations the treatment group differs from the control group after one average year of the SCD program. This approach was analogous to the effect size calculations for the cross-sectional analysis. The primary difference between the effect size for the cross-sectional analysis and the effect size for the growth curve trajectory is the time unit used in calculating the numerator. In the cross-sectional analysis, the numerator of the effect size is the estimated impact of the treatment on the outcome over the time period between the initial and the follow-up survey period. In the growth curve effect size, the numerator is the difference between the treatment and the control group after one year of the study, on average.

The growth curve analysis was extended to examine differences by subgroups. For the subgroup analyses, the interaction terms between treatment status, time since implementation, and indicators of membership in subgroups were included in equation (6). This produced an estimate of the slope for subgroup members in the treatment group, relative to subgroup members in the control group. The same subgroups were used in

⁴² Three sensitivity tests were done. First the assumption of linearity was tested through the inclusion of a TSI-squared term. Second, the potential for learning loss as a result of summer school breaks was modeled by including a time indicator that allowed the growth coefficient to decline (or increase) during the summer. Third, child's age was used in place of time since implementation to model growth. Child's age captures both the age of the child at the initial data collection and the time since implementation of the program in one variable.

⁴³ This impact estimate takes into account differences between the initial levels of the outcome for the treatment and control groups, differences in their covariates, and the effects of clustering at the school level.

the growth curve analysis as were used in the cross-sectional analyses, and these included (1) student gender; (2) new entrants versus members of the original sample (stayers); and (3) levels of initial risk for socioeconomic risk, family risk, perceptions of community risk, and child behavior risk.

Results

None of the 18 estimated impacts on the trajectories of child outcomes from the seven SCD programs when combined were statistically significant (table 1.38). The estimated effect sizes were at or below .07 (absolute value).⁴⁴

Estimated impacts could differ across programs if some SCD programs were more effective than others, or if the types of children or settings in some programs were more conducive to positive program effects than those found in others. Therefore, it is possible that there were no statistically significant impact estimates at the overall level because beneficial impacts in some programs were offset by negative or null impacts in others. To investigate this possibility, the impacts at the program level were tested.

Table 1.39 lists the outcomes on which each individual program had statistically significant impacts (a program's impacts on all the outcomes are given in the program-specific chapters). The results indicate that the lack of significant impacts in the overall evaluation reflected the lack of significant impacts at the program level. Six impacts would be expected to appear significant by chance at the 5 percent significance level, given that 126 impact estimates were made. Table 1.39 shows that there were 6 significant outcomes found: 2 with beneficial impacts on growth and 4 with detrimental impacts on growth. These outcomes, and the programs with which they were associated, follow. CSP showed a significant beneficial impact on growth for Victimization at School (Child Report) with an effect size of -.09. PATHS showed a significant beneficial impact on growth for Academic Competence (Teacher Report) with an effect size of 0.09. LBW showed a significant detrimental impact on growth for Positive School Orientation (Child Report) with an effect size of -0.13. SS showed three significant detrimental impacts on growth: for Engagement with Learning (Child Report) with an effect size of -0.09, Positive Social Behavior (Teacher Report) with an effect size of -0.19, and Empathy (Child Report) with an effect size of -0.13.

⁴⁴ When a squared value of the time since implementation was added to the sensitivity analysis, three of the outcomes (child-reported Altruistic Behavior, child-reported Victimization, and child-reported Student Afraid at School), showed a significant treatment effect on the growth trajectory. These results indicated that for child-reported Altruistic Behavior, the treatment had a short-term detrimental impact that converged with the control group over time. For child-reported Victimization at School and Student Afraid at School, the treatment had a short-term beneficial impact that converged with the control group over time. Because there were 3 significant results out of 18 and the direction of the effects was mixed, the linear specification of the growth curve model was retained.

Table 1.38. Impacts on growth of child outcomes from combined program analysis

Scale–Report	Mean score at implementation ²	Average growth in the score per year ¹				Standard error of impact	p-value of impact
		Treatment group	Control group	Impact on growth ³	Effect size ⁴		
Social and Emotional Competence Domain							
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions–CR (+)	2.95	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.942
Normative Beliefs About Aggression–CR (-)	1.23	0.10	0.07	0.02	0.04	0.01	0.115
Empathy–CR (+)	2.41	-0.14^	-0.12	-0.02	-0.05	0.01	0.070
Behavior Domain							
Altruistic Behavior–CR (+)	1.41	-0.17	-0.16	-0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.681
Altruistic Behavior–PCR (+)	2.32	-0.03	-0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.616
Altruistic Behavior–TRS (+)	1.40	-0.04	0.00	-0.04	-0.07	0.03	0.224
Positive Social Behavior–PCR (+)	2.99	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.217
Positive Social Behavior–TRS (+)	3.00	0.00	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.03	0.671
Problem Behavior–CR (-)	0.24	0.10	0.08	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.351
Problem Behavior–PCR (-)	1.58	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.843
Problem Behavior–TRS (-)	1.38	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.909
ADHD-Related Behavior–TRS (-)	1.75	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.707
Academics Domain							
Engagement with Learning–CR (+)	3.69	-0.03	-0.03	0.00	-0.01	0.01	0.707
Academic Competence and Motivation–TRS (+)	2.87	0.02	0.03	-0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.590

See note at end of table.

Table 1.38. Impacts on growth of child outcomes from combined-program analysis—Continued

Scale—Report	Mean score at implementation ²	Average growth in the score per year ¹					<i>p</i> -value of impact
		Treatment group	Control group	Impact on growth ³	Effect size ⁴	Standard error of impact	
Perceptions of School Climate Domain							
Positive School Orientation—CR (+)	3.09	-0.24	-0.21	-0.03	-0.03	0.02	0.163
Negative School Orientation—CR (-)	1.84	0.10	0.09	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.696
Student Afraid at School—CR (-)	2.38	-0.08	-0.08	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.956
Victimization at School—CR (-)	0.76	-0.03	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.368

¹ Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

² Significantly different from zero at the .05 level.

³ The average score at implementation is calculated across treatment and control groups, using regression models for adjustment on covariates.

⁴ Estimated difference between the slope of the treatment and control groups.

⁵ The slope of the treatment group minus the slope of the control group divided by the standard deviation of the outcome for the multiprogram control group (the standard deviation is calculated without accounting for school-level clustering or regression adjustments).

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. No findings were found statistically significant at or below the .05 level. All impact estimates were calculated using HLM 6.06. Sample weights were used in all analyses to (1) give each *program* equal weight within each time period, (2) give each *school* equal weight in each program (within each time period), and (3) give each *time period* equal weight in the analysis.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 1.39. Significant impacts from the growth curve analyses of the individual programs

Program	Significant ¹ beneficial impacts (Report) (Effect size) (<i>p</i> -value)	Significant ¹ detrimental impacts (Report) (Effect size) (<i>p</i> -value)
Total	2	4
ABC		
CSP	Victimization at School (CR) (-.09) (.050)	
LBW		Positive School Orientation (CR) (-.13) (.016)
PA		
PATHS	Academic Competence (TRS) (.08) (.048)	
4Rs		
SS		Engagement with Learning (CR) (-.09) (.021) Positive Social Behavior (TRS) (-.19) (.019) Empathy (CR) (-0.13) (.028)

¹Significantly different from zero at the .05 level.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

ABC: *Academic and Behavioral Competencies Program*

CSP: *Competence Support Program*

LBW: *Love In a Big World*

PA: *Positive Action*

PATHS: *Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies*

4Rs: *The 4Rs Program (Reading, Writing, Respect, and Resolution)*

SS: *Second Step*

CR: *Child Report*

TRS: *Teacher Report on Student*

Blank cell: Finding of no impact

Out of the 126 comparisons made (7 programs times 18 outcomes), 6 would be expected to be statistically significant at the .05 level by chance. The number of results found significant was no more than expected by chance. All impact estimates were calculated using HLM 6.06. Sample weights were used in all analyses to (1) give each program equal weight within each time period, (2) give each school equal weight in each program (within each time period), and (3) give each time period equal weight in the analysis.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

The subgroup analyses found little evidence regarding differential impacts of the seven SACD programs, combined, on the subgroups' growth in outcomes. For the gender subgroup analysis, none of the 36 estimated impacts was statistically significant (table 1.40). For the new entrants analysis, 1 impact (on Negative School Orientation) was found to differ significantly and detrimentally for new entrants versus the impact on members of the original sample (table 1.41). From the 18 tests done, 1 significant impact would be expected by chance for the new entrants analysis.

Table 1.40. Impacts on growth of child outcomes, by gender, from combined-program analysis

Scale—Report	Boys			Girls			<i>p</i> -value for test of impact differences
	Impact on annual growth	Effect size ¹	<i>p</i> -value	Impact on annual growth	Effect size ¹	<i>p</i> -value	
Social and Emotional Competence Domain							
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions—CR (+)	0.00	0.01	0.785	0.00	0.00	0.885	0.347
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR (-)	0.01	0.02	0.557	0.02	0.03	0.443	0.630
Empathy—CR (+)	-0.01	-0.02	0.583	-0.02	-0.04	0.282	0.349
Behavior Domain							
Altruistic Behavior—CR (+)	0.01	0.01	0.673	0.00	0.00	0.888	0.153
Altruistic Behavior—PCR (+)	0.01	0.01	0.612	0.00	0.00	0.864	0.925
Altruistic Behavior—TRS (+)	-0.04	-0.06	0.211	-0.05	-0.10	0.104	0.379
Positive Social Behavior—PCR (+)	0.01	0.02	0.446	0.00	0.01	0.687	0.933
Positive Social Behavior—TRS (+)	-0.01	-0.01	0.674	0.00	0.00	0.995	0.519
Problem Behavior—CR (-)	0.02	0.03	0.332	0.00	0.01	0.794	0.851
Problem Behavior—PCR (-)	0.00	-0.01	0.590	0.00	-0.01	0.498	0.708
Problem Behavior—TRS (-)	-0.01	-0.02	0.685	-0.01	-0.02	0.426	0.932
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS (-)	-0.03	-0.04	0.219	-0.01	-0.01	0.498	0.293
Academics Domain							
Engagement with Learning—CR (+)	0.01	0.02	0.489	-0.01	-0.01	0.581	0.933
Academic Competence and Motivation—TRS (+)	-0.01	-0.01	0.756	-0.02	-0.02	0.291	0.495

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.40. Impacts on growth of child outcomes, by gender, from combined-program analysis—Continued

Scale–Report	Boys			Girls			<i>p</i> -value for test of impact differences
	Impact on annual growth	Effect size ¹	<i>p</i> -value	Impact on annual growth	Effect size ¹	<i>p</i> -value	
Perceptions of School Climate Domain							
Positive School Orientation–CR (+)	-0.01	-0.01	0.680	-0.01	-0.01	0.742	0.571
Negative School Orientation–CR (-)	0.00	0.00	0.970	-0.01	-0.02	0.386	0.408
Student Afraid at School–CR (-)	0.00	0.00	0.880	-0.04	-0.03	0.149	0.213
Victimization at School–CR (-)	-0.02	-0.02	0.205	0.00	0.00	0.930	0.349

¹ The slope of the treatment group minus the slope of the control group divided by the standard deviation of the outcome for the combined-program control group (the standard deviation is calculated without accounting for school-level clustering or regression adjustments).

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. No findings were found statistically significant at or below the .05 level. All impact estimates were calculated using HLM 6.06. Sample weights were used in all analyses to (1) give each *program* equal weight within each time period, (2) give each *school* equal weight in each program (within each time period), and (3) give each time *period* equal weight in the analysis.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 1.41. Impacts on growth of child outcomes for new entrants versus original members, from combined-program analysis

Scale–Report	Original members			New entrants			<i>p</i> -value for test of impact differences
	Impact on annual growth	Effect size ¹	<i>p</i> -value	Impact on annual growth	Effect size ¹	<i>p</i> -value	
Social and Emotional Competence Domain							
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions–CR (+)	0.00	0.00	0.947	0.00	0.00	0.918	0.931
Normative Beliefs About Aggression–CR (-)	0.02	0.05	0.256	0.01	0.02	0.725	0.867
Empathy–CR (+)	-0.02	-0.05	0.107	-0.02	-0.05	0.441	0.475
Behavior Domain							
Altruistic Behavior–CR (+)	-0.01	-0.01	0.783	0.01	0.01	0.869	0.251
Altruistic Behavior–PCR (+)	0.01	0.01	0.693	0.01	0.01	0.742	0.752
Altruistic Behavior–TRS (+)	-0.05	-0.11	0.107	0.02	0.05	0.629	0.764
Positive Social Behavior–PCR (+)	0.01	0.01	0.442	-0.02	-0.04	0.350	0.563
Positive Social Behavior–TRS (+)	0.00	0.00	0.881	-0.02	-0.02	0.729	0.254
Problem Behavior–CR (-)	0.01	0.01	0.732	0.00	0.01	0.922	0.320
Problem Behavior–PCR (-)	0.00	0.01	0.707	-0.01	-0.02	0.629	0.851
Problem Behavior–TRS (-)	-0.01	-0.01	0.710	-0.01	-0.01	0.838	0.427
ADHD-Related Behavior–TRS (-)	-0.02	-0.02	0.318	0.02	0.02	0.694	0.107
Academics Domain							
Engagement with Learning–CR (+)	-0.01	-0.01	0.577	-0.03	-0.04	0.228	0.709
Academic Competence and Motivation–TRS (+)	-0.02	-0.02	0.281	-0.02	-0.02	0.739	0.910

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.41. Impacts on growth of child outcomes for new entrants versus original members, from combined-program analysis—Continued

	Original members			New entrants			<i>p</i> -value for test of impact differences
	Impact on annual growth	Effect size ¹	<i>p</i> -value	Impact on annual growth	Effect size ¹	<i>p</i> -value	
Scale—Report							
Perceptions of School Climate Domain							
Positive School Orientation—CR (+)	-0.01	-0.01	0.592	-0.05	-0.06	0.161	0.113
Negative School Orientation—CR (-)	-0.01	-0.01	0.627	0.05	0.06 [^]	0.067	0.012*
Student Afraid at School—CR (-)	-0.02	-0.02	0.427	-0.05	-0.06	0.304	0.701
Victimization at School—CR (-)	-0.01	-0.01	0.435	0.02	0.02	0.568	0.643

* Significantly different from zero at the .05 level.

[^] Significantly different from zero at the .10 to > .05 level.

¹ The slope of the treatment group minus the slope of the control group divided by the standard deviation of the outcome for the multisite control group (the standard deviation is calculated without accounting for school-level clustering or regression adjustments).

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using HLM 6.06. Sample weights were used in all analyses to (1) give each *program* equal weight within each time period, (2) give each *school* equal weight in each program (within each time period), and (3) give each *time period* equal weight in the analysis.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Chapter 1. The Social and Character Development Multiprogram Evaluation

Few of the growth trajectories differed across levels of initial risk (tables 1.42 through 1.46). An example illustrates how to interpret the tables. Table 1.42 shows the impacts on the growth trajectory of the outcome scales by the child's initial level of socioeconomic risk. The first row in the table displays the estimated impacts on the growth trajectory of child-reported Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions at three levels of initial risk: (1) at one standard deviation below the mean risk level, (2) at the mean risk level, and (3) at one standard deviation above the mean risk level. When a child had a low level of risk (one standard deviation below the mean), the difference between the growth trajectories of the treatment group and the control group for Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions was -0.01. When a child had an average level of risk (at the mean), the difference between the treatment group and the control group was -0.01. When a child had a high level of risk (one standard deviation above the mean), the difference between the treatment group and the control group was 0.00. The interaction term showed that with each one-unit increase in socioeconomic risk, the impact on the Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions trajectory increased by 0.01. In other words, the higher the child's initial level of socioeconomic risk, the more beneficial was the SCD program for the child's growth in Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions. However, this difference in the SCD programs' impact across risk levels was not statistically significantly different from zero (interaction term = 0.01; not significant at the .05 level).

There were 6 outcomes out of 90 estimated impacts for which growth differed significantly across initial risk levels (versus 4 to 5 expected by chance). For 4 outcomes, the seven SCD programs combined had more beneficial impacts on growth for children with higher initial risk levels. The SCD programs resulted in greater growth of parent-reported Altruistic Behavior for children with higher levels of socioeconomic risk (interaction term = 0.03 on table 1.42); greater growth on Academic Competence and less growth of child-reported Victimization at School among children with higher levels of family risk (interaction term = 0.13 and -0.13, respectively, on table 1.43); and less growth of child-reported Victimization at School among children with higher levels of perceived community risk (interaction term = -0.06 on table 1.44).

For two outcomes, the seven SCD programs combined had more detrimental impacts on growth for children with higher initial risk levels. The SCD programs resulted in less growth for child-reported Empathy among children with greater levels of family risk (interaction term = -0.08 on table 1.43), and greater growth on Normative Beliefs About Aggression among children with higher initial levels of teacher-reported behavior risks (interaction term = 0.01 on table 1.45).

Table 1.42. Impacts on growth of child outcomes, by initial socioeconomic risk

Scale–Report	Socioeconomic risk (Mean = .60; Standard deviation = .71)			
	Impact on growth at the specified risk level (<i>p</i> -value)			
	One standard deviation below mean ¹	Mean ²	One standard deviation above mean ³	Interaction term ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)
Social and Emotional Competence Domain				
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions–CR (+)	-0.01 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.594)	0.00 (0.500)	0.01 (0.511)
Normative Beliefs About Aggression–CR (-)	0.03* (0.049)	0.03* (0.027)	0.03^ (0.079)	0.00 (0.842)
Empathy–CR (+)	-0.01 (0.500)	-0.02 (0.122)	-0.03^ (0.059)	-0.01 (0.518)
Behavior Domain				
Altruistic Behavior–CR (+)	-0.02 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.628)	0.01 (0.500)	0.02 (0.341)
Altruistic Behavior–PCR (+)	-0.01 (0.500)	0.01 (0.344)	0.04* (0.045)	0.03* (0.044)
Altruistic Behavior–TRS (+)	-0.03 (0.500)	-0.03 (0.269)	-0.03 (0.214)	0.00 (0.870)
Positive Social Behavior–PCR (+)	0.01 (0.500)	0.01 (0.100)	0.02^ (0.090)	0.01 (0.314)
Positive Social Behavior–TRS (+)	-0.01 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.599)	-0.01 (0.500)	0.00 (0.939)
Problem Behavior–CR (-)	0.01 (0.500)	0.02 (0.277)	0.02 (0.272)	0.01 (0.677)
Problem Behavior–PCR (-)	-0.01 (0.261)	0.00 (0.720)	0.00 (0.500)	0.01 (0.324)
Problem Behavior–TRS (-)	0.00 (0.500)	0.00 (0.915)	0.00 (0.500)	0.00 (0.879)
ADHD-Related Behavior–TRS (-)	0.00 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.716)	-0.02 (0.500)	-0.02 (0.329)

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.42. Impacts on growth of child outcomes, by initial socioeconomic risk—Continued

Scale—Report	Socioeconomic risk (Mean = .60; Standard deviation = .71)			
	Impact on growth at the specified risk level (<i>p</i> -value)			Interaction term ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)
	One standard deviation below mean ¹	Mean ²	One standard deviation above mean ³	
Academics Domain				
Engagement with Learning—CR (+)	-0.02 (0.213)	-0.01 (0.644)	0.01 (0.500)	0.02 (0.249)
Academic Competence and Motivation—TRS (+)	-0.01 (0.500)	0.00 (0.861)	0.01 (0.500)	0.01 (0.559)
Perceptions of School Climate Domain				
Positive School Orientation—CR (+)	-0.02 (0.500)	-0.03 (0.150)	-0.04 [^] (0.087)	-0.01 (0.518)
Negative School Orientation—CR (-)	0.01 (0.500)	0.00 (0.876)	-0.01 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.414)
Student Afraid at School—CR (-)	-0.02 (0.500)	0.00 (0.833)	0.01 (0.500)	0.02 (0.315)
Victimization at School—CR (-)	-0.01 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.506)	-0.01 (0.500)	0.00 (0.965)

* Significantly different from zero at the .05 level.

[^] Significantly different from zero at the .10 to > .05 level.

¹ The difference between the estimates of the treatment and control groups' rate of growth, for the average student who is one standard deviation below the mean for the risk measure.

² The difference between the estimates of the treatment and control groups' rate of growth, for the average student who is at the mean for the risk measure.

³ The difference between the estimates of the treatment and control groups' rate of growth, for the average student who is one standard deviation above the mean for the risk measure.

⁴ Estimated difference between the treatment and control groups in the incremental change in the rate of growth, with each unit increase in the risk measure.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using HLM 6.06. Sample weights were used in all analyses to (1) give each *program* equal weight within each time period, (2) give each *school* equal weight in each program (within each time period), and (3) give each *time period* equal weight in the analysis.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 1.43. Impacts on growth of child outcomes, by initial family risk

Scale–Report	Family risk (Mean = 1.15; Standard deviation = .18)			
	Impact on growth at the specified risk level (<i>p</i> -value)			Interaction term ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)
	One standard deviation below mean ¹	Mean ²	One standard deviation above mean ³	
Social and Emotional Competence Domain				
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions–CR (+)	-0.01 (0.500)	0.00 (0.739)	0.01 (0.500)	0.06 (0.273)
Normative Beliefs About Aggression–CR (-)	0.02 (0.142)	0.03* (0.047)	0.04^ (0.052)	0.04 (0.510)
Empathy–CR (+)	0.00 (0.500)	-0.02 (0.115)	-0.03* (0.014)	-0.08* (0.040)
Behavior Domain				
Altruistic Behavior–CR (+)	0.01 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.715)	-0.02 (0.300)	-0.07 (0.227)
Altruistic Behavior–PCR (+)	0.00 (0.500)	0.01 (0.672)	0.01 (0.500)	0.02 (0.799)
Altruistic Behavior–TRS (+)	-0.05^ (0.070)	-0.04 (0.225)	-0.02 (0.500)	0.07 (0.129)
Positive Social Behavior–PCR (+)	0.01 (0.500)	0.02^ (0.090)	0.02* (0.018)	0.05^ (0.090)
Positive Social Behavior–TRS (+)	-0.02 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.607)	-0.01 (0.500)	0.04 (0.443)
Problem Behavior–CR (-)	0.03^ (0.078)	0.02 (0.241)	0.01 (0.500)	-0.05 (0.983)
Problem Behavior–PCR (-)	0.00 (0.500)	0.00 (0.440)	0.00 (0.500)	0.00 (0.983)
Problem Behavior–TRS (-)	0.00 (0.500)	0.00 (0.858)	0.00 (0.500)	0.01 (0.891)
ADHD-Related Behavior–TRS (-)	0.00 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.659)	-0.01 (0.500)	-0.02 (0.685)

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.43. Impacts on growth of child outcomes, by initial family risk—Continued

Scale—Report	Family risk (Mean = 1.15; Standard deviation = .18)			
	Impact on growth at the specified risk level (<i>p</i> -value)			Interaction term ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)
	One standard deviation below mean ¹	Mean ²	One standard deviation above mean ³	
Academics Domain				
Engagement with Learning—CR (+)	0.00 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.699)	-0.01 (0.500)	-0.02 (0.669)
Academic Competence and Motivation—TRS (+)	-0.03 (0.222)	0.00 (0.844)	0.02 (0.500)	0.13* (0.031)
Perceptions of School Climate Domain				
Positive School Orientation—CR (+)	-0.01 (0.500)	-0.03 (0.170)	-0.04* (0.028)	-0.09^ (0.097)
Negative School Orientation—CR (-)	0.00 (0.500)	0.00 (0.898)	0.00 (0.500)	0.00 (0.926)
Student Afraid at School—CR (-)	-0.03 (0.257)	-0.01 (0.698)	0.01 (0.500)	0.11 (0.206)
Victimization at School—CR (-)	0.01 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.466)	-0.04^ (0.059)	-0.13* (0.032)

* Significantly different from zero at the .05 level.

^ Significantly different from zero at the .10 to > .05 level.

¹ The difference between the estimates of the treatment and control groups' rate of growth, for the average student who is one standard deviation below the mean for the risk measure.

² The difference between the estimates of the treatment and control groups' rate of growth, for the average student who is at the mean for the risk measure.

³ The difference between the estimates of the treatment and control groups' rate of growth, for the average student who is one standard deviation above the mean for the risk measure.

⁴ Estimated difference between the treatment and control groups in the incremental change in the rate of growth, with each unit increase in the risk measure.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using HLM 6.06. Sample weights were used in all analyses to (1) give each *program* equal weight within each time period, (2) give each *school* equal weight in each program (within each time period), and (3) give each *time period* equal weight in the analysis.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 1.44. Impacts on growth of child outcomes, by initial perceptions of community risk

Scale—Report	Community risk (Mean = 1.52; Standard deviation = .61)			
	Impact on growth at the specified risk level (<i>p</i> -value)			Interaction term ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)
	One standard deviation below mean ¹	Mean ²	One standard deviation above mean ³	
Social and Emotional Competence Domain				
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions—CR (+)	-0.01 (0.500)	0.00 (0.829)	0.01 (0.500)	0.01 (0.494)
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR (-)	0.04* (0.024)	0.03* (0.028)	0.02 (0.226)	-0.02 (0.384)
Empathy—CR (+)	-0.02 (0.200)	-0.02^ (0.096)	-0.02 (0.145)	0.00 (0.925)
Behavior Domain				
Altruistic Behavior—CR (+)	-0.01 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.743)	0.00 (0.500)	0.01 (0.669)
Altruistic Behavior—PCR (+)	0.01 (0.500)	0.01 (0.666)	0.00 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.665)
Altruistic Behavior—TRS (+)	-0.05 (0.129)	-0.03 (0.258)	-0.02 (0.500)	0.03 (0.218)
Positive Social Behavior—PCR (+)	0.02 (0.146)	0.02^ (0.075)	0.02 (0.208)	0.00 (0.939)
Positive Social Behavior—TRS (+)	-0.03 (0.286)	-0.01 (0.615)	0.00 (0.500)	0.02 (0.230)
Problem Behavior—CR (-)	0.01 (0.500)	0.02 (0.255)	0.02 (0.307)	0.00 (0.871)
Problem Behavior—PCR (-)	-0.01* (0.035)	0.00 (0.908)	0.01 (0.250)	0.02^ (0.051)
Problem Behavior—TRS (-)	0.01 (0.500)	0.00 (0.899)	-0.01 (0.500)	-0.02 (0.222)
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS (-)	0.02 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.728)	-0.03 (0.195)	-0.04^ (0.060)

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.44. Impacts on growth of child outcomes, by initial perceptions of community risk—Continued

Scale–Report	Community risk (Mean = 1.52; Standard deviation = .61)			
	Impact on growth at the specified risk level (<i>p</i> -value)			Interaction term ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)
	One standard deviation below mean ¹	Mean ²	One standard deviation above mean ³	
Academics Domain				
Engagement with Learning–CR (+)	-0.01 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.661)	0.00 (0.500)	0.00 (0.866)
Academic Competence and Motivation–TRS (+)	0.00 (0.500)	0.00 (0.968)	-0.01 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.732)
Perceptions of School Climate Domain				
Positive School Orientation–CR (+)	-0.06* (0.017)	-0.03^ (0.095)	-0.01 (0.500)	0.04^ (0.073)
Negative School Orientation–CR (-)	0.01 (0.500)	0.00 (0.792)	0.00 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.528)
Student Afraid at School–CR (-)	-0.02 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.764)	0.01 (0.500)	0.02 (0.510)
Victimization at School–CR (-)	0.02 (0.224)	-0.01 (0.386)	-0.05* (0.035)	-0.06* (0.014)

* Significantly different from zero at the .05 level.

^ Significantly different from zero at the .10 to > .05 level.

¹ The difference between the estimates of the treatment and control groups' rate of growth, for the average student who is one standard deviation below the mean for the risk measure.

² The difference between the estimates of the treatment and control groups' rate of growth, for the average student who is at the mean for the risk measure.

³ The difference between the estimates of the treatment and control groups' rate of growth, for the average student who is one standard deviation above the mean for the risk measure.

⁴ Estimated difference between the treatment and control groups in the incremental change in the rate of growth, with each unit increase in the risk measure.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

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ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using HLM 6.06. Sample weights were used in all analyses to (1) give each *program* equal weight within each time period, (2) give each *school* equal weight in each program (within each time period), and (3) give each *time period* equal weight in the analysis.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 1.45. Impacts on growth of child outcomes, by child behavior risk as reported by teacher

	Teacher-reported child behavior risk (Mean = 1.79; Standard deviation = 2.04)			
	Impact on growth at the specified risk level (<i>p</i> -value)			
Scale—Report	One standard deviation below mean ¹	Mean ²	One standard deviation above mean ³	Interaction term ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)
Social and Emotional Competence Domain				
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions—CR (+)	0.00 (0.500)	0.00 (0.699)	-0.01 (0.500)	0.00 (0.929)
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR (-)	0.01 (0.500)	0.03* (0.038)	0.05* (0.005)	0.01* (0.047)
Empathy—CR (+)	-0.01 (0.500)	-0.02^ (0.098)	-0.02^ (0.064)	0.00 (0.585)
Behavior Domain				
Altruistic Behavior—CR (+)	-0.01 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.786)	0.00 (0.500)	0.00 (0.908)
Altruistic Behavior—PCR (+)	0.02 (0.188)	0.01 (0.644)	-0.01 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.228)
Altruistic Behavior—TRS (+)	-0.05^ (0.091)	-0.03 (0.241)	-0.02 (0.500)	0.01 (0.142)
Positive Social Behavior—PCR (+)	0.00 (0.500)	0.02^ (0.057)	0.03* (0.017)	0.01^ (0.070)
Positive Social Behavior—TRS (+)	-0.01 (0.500)	-0.02 (0.539)	-0.02 (0.500)	0.00 (0.755)
Problem Behavior—CR (-)	0.01 (0.500)	0.02 (0.248)	0.02 (0.237)	0.00 (0.584)
Problem Behavior—PCR (-)	-0.01 (0.307)	0.00 (0.541)	0.00 (0.500)	0.00 (0.431)
Problem Behavior—TRS (-)	0.01 (0.500)	0.01 (0.745)	0.00 (0.500)	0.00 (0.563)
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS (-)	0.01 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.760)	-0.02 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.173)

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.45. Impacts on growth of child outcomes, by child behavior risk as reported by teacher—Continued

Scale—Report	Teacher-reported child behavior risk (Mean = 1.79; Standard deviation = 2.04)			
	Impact on growth at the specified risk level (<i>p</i> -value)			Interaction term ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)
	One standard deviation below mean ¹	Mean ²	One standard deviation above mean ³	
Academics Domain				
Engagement with Learning—CR (+)	0.01 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.544)	-0.03 (0.159)	-0.01 (0.114)
Academic Competence and Motivation—TRS (+)	-0.03 (0.215)	-0.01 (0.799)	0.02 (0.500)	0.01 [^] (0.092)
Perceptions of School Climate Domain				
Positive School Orientation—CR (+)	-0.02 (0.500)	-0.03 (0.108)	-0.05* (0.033)	-0.01 (0.257)
Negative School Orientation—CR (-)	-0.01 (0.500)	0.00 (0.762)	0.02 (0.500)	0.01 (0.208)
Student Afraid at School—CR (-)	0.00 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.739)	-0.01 (0.500)	0.00 (0.896)
Victimization at School—CR (-)	-0.01 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.518)	-0.01 (0.500)	0.00 (0.795)

* Significantly different from zero at the .05 level.

[^] Significantly different from zero at the .10 to > .05 level.

¹ The difference between the estimates of the treatment and control groups' rate of growth, for the average student who is one standard deviation below the mean for the risk measure.

² The difference between the estimates of the treatment and control groups' rate of growth, for the average student who is at the mean for the risk measure.

³ The difference between the estimates of the treatment and control groups' rate of growth, for the average student who is one standard deviation above the mean for the risk measure.

⁴ Estimated difference between the treatment and control groups in the incremental change in the rate of growth, with each unit increase in the risk measure.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

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The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using HLM 6.06. Sample weights were used in all analyses to (1) give each program equal weight within each time period, (2) give each school equal weight in each program (within each time period), and (3) give each time period equal weight in the analysis.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 1.46. Impacts on growth of child outcomes, by child behavior risk as reported by primary caregiver

Scale—Report	Primary caregiver-reported child behavior risk (Mean = 3.43; Standard deviation = 2.01)			
	Impact on growth at the specified risk level (<i>p</i> -value)			Interaction term ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)
	One standard deviation below mean ¹	Mean ²	One standard deviation above mean ³	
Social and Emotional Competence Domain				
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions—CR (+)	-0.01 (0.500)	0.00 (0.716)	0.01 (0.500)	0.00 (0.929)
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR (-)	0.02 (0.200)	0.03* (0.036)	0.04* (0.028)	0.00 (0.416)
Empathy—CR (+)	-0.01 (0.299)	-0.02 (0.114)	-0.02^ (0.088)	0.00 (0.490)
Behavior Domain				
Altruistic Behavior—CR (+)	-0.01 (0.500)	0.00 (0.803)	0.00 (0.500)	0.00 (0.854)
Altruistic Behavior—PCR (+)	0.02 (0.500)	0.01 (0.531)	0.00 (0.500)	0.00 (0.472)
Altruistic Behavior—TRS (+)	-0.04 (0.169)	-0.03 (0.246)	-0.03 (0.315)	0.00 (0.319)
Positive Social Behavior—PCR (+)	0.01 (0.500)	0.02^ (0.088)	0.02* (0.042)	0.00 (0.178)
Positive Social Behavior—TRS (+)	-0.01 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.577)	-0.02 (0.500)	0.00 (0.900)
Problem Behavior—CR (-)	0.01 (0.500)	0.02 (0.246)	0.02 (0.164)	0.00 (0.429)
Problem Behavior—PCR (-)	-0.01* (0.044)	-0.01 (0.419)	0.00 (0.500)	0.00 (0.157)
Problem Behavior—TRS (-)	0.00 (0.500)	0.00 (0.886)	0.00 (0.500)	0.00 (0.724)
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS (-)	0.00 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.620)	-0.02 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.113)

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.46. Impacts on growth of child outcomes, by child behavior risk as reported by primary caregiver—Continued

Scale–Report	Primary caregiver-reported child behavior risk (Mean = 3.43; Standard deviation = 2.01)			
	Impact on growth at the specified risk level (<i>p</i> -value)			Interaction term ⁴ (<i>p</i> -value)
	One standard deviation below mean ¹	Mean ²	One standard deviation above mean ³	
Academics Domain				
Engagement with Learning–CR (+)	-0.01 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.646)	0.00 (0.500)	0.00 (0.711)
Academic Competence and Motivation–TRS (+)	-0.01 (0.500)	0.00 (0.837)	0.01 (0.500)	0.01 (0.332)
Perceptions of School Climate Domain				
Positive School Orientation–CR (+)	-0.01 (0.500)	-0.03 (0.126)	-0.05* (0.039)	-0.01 (0.173)
Negative School Orientation–CR (-)	0.00 (0.500)	0.00 (0.902)	0.00 (0.500)	0.00 (0.898)
Student Afraid at School–CR (-)	0.02 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.791)	-0.03 (0.287)	-0.01 (0.144)
Victimization at School–CR (-)	-0.01 (0.500)	-0.01 (0.469)	-0.02 (0.500)	0.00 (0.751)

* Significantly different from zero at the .05 level.

^ Significantly different from zero at the .10 to > .05 level.

¹ The difference between the estimates of the treatment and control groups' rate of growth, for the average student who is one standard deviation below the mean for the risk measure.

² The difference between the estimates of the treatment and control groups' rate of growth, for the average student who is at the mean for the risk measure.

³ The difference between the estimates of the treatment and control groups' rate of growth, for the average student who is one standard deviation above the mean for the risk measure.

⁴ Estimated difference between the treatment and control groups in the incremental change in the rate of growth, with each unit increase in the risk measure.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

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ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. Sample weights were used in all analyses to (1) give each program equal weight in the calculation of pooled impact estimates and (2) give each school equal weight in each program.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 1.47. Sample size ranges for outcome analyses

			Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
			Mini- mum of range	Maxi- mum of range	Mini- mum of range	Maxi- mum of range	Mini- mum of range	Maxi- mum of range
Outcome analysis	Group	Report						
Combined program	Treatment	CR	2,181	2,190	2,143	2,162	2,065	2,081
		PCR	1,728	1,760	1,668	1,691	1,452	1,473
		TRS	2,205	2,252	2,198	2,247	2,073	2,110
		TRCS	436	437	422	423	422	423
	Control	CR	1,939	1,961	1,869	1,892	1,894	1,903
		PCR	1,587	1,611	1,475	1,493	1,363	1,383
		TRS	1,950	2,025	1,976	1,989	1,921	1,965
		TRCS	408	409	403	404	392	393
Individual programs								
ABC	Treatment	CR	245	257	234	235	242	245
		PCR	194	197	168	171	167	167
		TRS	248	250	233	245	261	262
		TRCS	54	54	49	49	51	51
	Control	CR	292	297	308	311	302	307
		PCR	217	224	229	229	214	219
		TRS	287	305	322	322	322	323
		TRCS	66	66	67	67	64	64
CSP	Treatment	CR	313	319	312	377	280	288
		PCR	239	245	243	246	211	211
		TRS	324	325	302	404	265	266
		TRCS	50	52	57	91	62	62
	Control	CR	323	335	306	299	324	329
		PCR	279	280	257	209	231	231
		TRS	329	344	320	333	324	326
		TRCS	50	50	60	82	60	61
LBW	Treatment	CR	345	347	338	339	331	332
		PCR	298	302	293	296	253	257
		TRS	380	382	358	366	355	358
		TRCS	79	79	68	69	75	75
	Control	CR	264	265	238	240	220	221
		PCR	229	230	191	191	184	187
		TRS	273	284	250	252	240	242
		TRCS	62	62	47	47	50	50
PA	Treatment	CR	296	298	280	284	258	259
		PCR	239	244	212	214	168	170
		TRS	275	304	289	302	242	262
		TRCS	49	50	43	43	39	39
	Control	CR	277	280	220	225	241	242
		PCR	227	231	181	183	158	158
		TRS	280	302	249	251	215	250
		TRCS	45	45	39	39	38	38

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.47. Sample size ranges for outcome analyses—Continued

Outcome analysis	Group	Report	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
			Mini- mum of range	Maxi- mum of range	Mini- mum of range	Maxi- mum of range	Mini- mum of range	Maxi- mum of range
PATHS	Treatment	CR	216	219	220	222	225	227
		PCR	191	198	181	186	169	174
		TRS	232	232	228	229	228	230
		TRCS	57	58	55	55	50	50
	Control	CR	219	220	212	212	202	204
		PCR	179	180	166	168	161	164
		TRS	224	225	219	219	197	208
		TRCS	51	51	57	57	60	60
4Rs	Treatment	CR	401	403	372	377	350	355
		PCR	265	270	241	246	177	183
		TRS	387	403	399	404	360	361
		TRCS	87	88	90	91	87	88
	Control	CR	301	303	292	299	306	309
		PCR	221	227	206	209	169	174
		TRS	303	306	307	320	321	322
		TRCS	85	85	82	82	75	75
SS	Treatment	CR	358	361	383	387	375	376
		PCR	302	305	330	335	307	311
		TRS	357	361	381	383	357	376
		TRCS	58	58	59	60	58	58
	Control	CR	259	261	288	291	293	297
		PCR	235	239	245	255	246	250
		TRS	254	263	292	293	296	298
		TRCS	49	50	51	52	45	45
Subgroups Gender	Boys	CR	1,983	1,998	1,913	1,933	1,899	1,915
		PCR	1,594	1,662	1,503	1,526	1,325	1,349
		TRS	2,010	2,067	2,027	2,048	1,927	1,965
	Girls	CR	2,135	2,153	2,099	2,121	2,060	2,069
		PCR	1,688	1,716	1,626	1,645	1,473	1,490
		TRS	2,108	2,174	2,132	2,174	2,046	2,090
New entrants	Stayers	CR	†	†	3,090	3,124	2,764	2,781
		PCR	†	†	2,444	2,470	1,953	1,976
		TRS	†	†	3,230	3,275	2,809	2,862
	New entrants	CR	†	†	921	931	1,196	1,203
		PCR	†	†	699	714	862	879
		TRS	†	†	944	962	1,185	1,217
Initial socioeconomic risk		CR	3,292	3,311	3,649	3,693	3,565	3,584
		PCR	2,871	2,916	3,076	3,113	2,737	2,775
		TRS	3,312	3,411	3,799	3,843	3,588	3,662

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.47. Sample size ranges for outcome analyses—Continued

Outcome analysis	Group	Report	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
			Mini- mum of range	Maxi- mum of range	Mini- mum of range	Maxi- mum of range	Mini- mum of range	Maxi- mum of range
Initial family risk		CR	3,373	3,392	2,749	2,780	2,459	2,473
		PCR	2,893	2,939	2,297	2,322	1,834	1,854
		TRS	3,382	3,483	2,873	2,901	2,497	2,547
Initial community risk		CR	3,289	3,309	2,702	2,734	2,413	2,427
		PCR	2,839	2,884	2,266	2,290	1,813	1,830
		TRS	3,298	3,396	2,820	2,857	2,450	2,499
Initial child behavior risk (Teacher Report)		CR	3,608	3,630	2,936	2,970	2,631	2,647
		PCR	2,940	2,988	2,341	2,364	1,870	1,893
		TRS	3,567	3,763	3,072	3,111	2,679	2,729
Initial child behavior risk (Primary Caregiver Report)		CR	3,353	3,372	2,732	2,764	2,451	2,464
		PCR	2,876	2,923	2,289	2,313	1,828	1,847
		TRS	3,365	3,466	2,858	2,886	2,487	2,537
Fidelity of implementation	High	CR	2,020	2,038	1,617	1,635	1,224	1,235
		PCR	1,675	1,697	1,323	1,340	908	926
		TRS	2,018	2,096	1,654	1,679	1,207	1,251
	Mixed	CR	†	†	848	851	1,444	1,450
		PCR	†	†	677	684	1,036	1,052
		TRS	†	†	893	904	1,469	1,485
	Low	CR	2,100	2,113	1,544	1,565	1,289	1,298
		PCR	1,640	1,675	1,140	1,158	870	877
		TRS	2,137	2,182	1,624	1,652	1,317	1,338

† Not applicable.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

ABC: *Academic and Behavioral Competencies Program*CSP: *Competence Support Program*LBW: *Love in a Big World*PA: *Positive Action*PATHS: *Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies*4Rs: *The 4Rs Program (Reading, Writing, Respect, and Resolution)*SS: *Second Step*CR: *Child Report*PCR: *Primary Caregiver Report*TRS: *Teacher Report on Student*TRCS: *Teacher Report on Classroom and School*

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Sensitivity Analyses

To implement the growth curve analyses, it was necessary to make decisions about key model parameter specifications and estimation methods. A set of sensitivity tests using variations in key model assumptions examined the original growth curve findings and found them robust.

Time Metric

Age of student provides a different time metric by which to measure the growth trajectory. The growth curve analysis was redone using age in years at the start of implementation of the program. The 18 impact estimates remained insignificant when using age as the time metric.

Weights

Weights were used to represent each program equally within each survey period, each school equally within each program, and each survey period equally within the analysis. To determine whether the weights affected the outcomes, an unweighted analysis was conducted. The 18 impact estimates remained insignificant in the unweighted model.

Fitted Impacts

“Fitted” impact estimates and significance levels were examined at follow-up points corresponding to the point-in-time analyses at 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, and 30 months after implementation, which correspond roughly to the times of the data collection efforts. Based on the fitted growth curve model, statistically significant impact estimates were found for three outcomes (these data are not shown in a table).⁴⁵ One was in a detrimental direction and two were in a beneficial direction. At 12, 18, and 30 months after implementation, the seven SCD programs, together, lowered growth of child-reported Altruistic Behavior by .05 (significant at the .01 level), 0.05 (significant at the .01 level), and 0.06 (significant at the 0.05 level), respectively. At 12 months, 18 months, and 30 months after implementation, the SCD programs increased growth of parent-reported Positive Social Behavior by 0.03, 0.04, and 0.05, respectively (all significant at the .05 level). At 12 months, 18 months, and 30 months after implementation, the programs lowered growth of child-reported Victimization by 0.04, 0.05, and 0.06, respectively (all significant at the .05 level).

Fall 2005 Data

The second follow-up point in fall 2005 occurred shortly after the summer, which could affect the outcome measures at fall 2005 through “learning loss” during the summer. The growth curve model was estimated using a time indicator that allows the growth coefficient to decline (or increase) following the summer. The 18 impact estimates remained insignificant after accounting for summer “learning loss.”

Missing Outcomes

An advantage of the growth curve methodology is that it can accommodate all students who have at least one round of data. The information that was available for each student was used in estimating the intercept and slope, across all students. To assess the robustness of study findings to the assumptions underlying this approach, the model was estimated using only those students with (1) all rounds of follow-up data, and (2) the last round of follow-up data in spring 2007 and at least one earlier round. The impact estimates remained insignificant when using these restricted samples.

⁴⁵ Point-in-time impacts were calculated by adding (1) the estimated impact of the treatment at initial data collection to (2) the estimated average annual impact of the treatment on the growth curve trajectory multiplied by the number of years since implementation. For the three significant outcomes, the estimated difference between the treatment and control groups at initial data collection, though insignificant, was in the same direction as the estimated slope. Thus, the cumulative impact of the estimated difference in the slope between the treatment group and control group, in addition to the estimated difference at initial data collection between the treatment group and control group, resulted in significant differences at later time points. However, the cumulative impact of the difference in the average annual slope between the treatment group and control group (that is, the estimated difference in the change in the outcomes of the treatment group and control group) resulted in no significant differences for any of the point-in-time estimates.

Discussion

IES and DVP established the SACD Research Program to rigorously evaluate the effects of seven universal, schoolwide programs to improve students' social and character development. The programs evaluated were chosen through a peer-review process of submitted applications. A separate experiment using random assignment of schools was done for each program. Within each program, participating schools were stratified into similar pairs then randomly assigned to receive the treatment of the intervention or continue with whatever SACD activities they were using. All students in the elementary grades within the treatment schools received the intervention program over the 3 years of the study. For the evaluation, one cohort of students was followed from the beginning of third grade through the end of fifth grade. A third party (Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.) provided technical assistance in the sampling design, helped design data collection, conducted and coordinated the data collection, and designed and conducted the analyses. Twenty outcomes were used to measure impacts on students and perceptions of school climate and these were grouped under four domains: Social and Emotional Competence, Behavior, Academics, and Perceptions of School Climate. The data were analyzed from all seven programs together and by individual program to determine the collective and individual program impacts.

Under such a design, inferences can be made regarding the programs, combined and individually, as the cause of any impacts on these domains and the outcomes that define them. Rigorous inferences can be drawn only about the specific programs tested in the context (including the schools) in which they were tested. Other programs tested in similar or different settings and these programs tested in different settings might have yielded different findings. Therefore, inferences cannot be made beyond this set of programs and contexts.

An analysis of the initial data found few significant differences between the family, teacher, and school characteristics of the treatment and control students, a sign that the randomization of the schools had created similar treatment and control groups (similar at least on the observed characteristics). Treatment teachers reported significantly greater use of and training in SACD activities than control teachers more often than would be expected by chance. Because the training of all treatment teachers and the implementation of six of the programs occurred before the initial data were collected, it could not be determined whether these differences resulted from actual baseline differences between treatment and control schools and teachers (i.e., that randomization did not create similar treatment and control groups) or from implementation occurring before the initial data collection. The control group for the SACD evaluation was a "standard practice" control, not a "no treatment" control, in that control teachers reported the use of SACD activities as well as related professional development.

The SACD programs were found to have a statistically significant impact on the reported use of SACD activities in the classroom and school. Treatment teachers reported significantly greater implementation of activities than control teachers for 127 of the 249 activity outcomes measured over the 3 years. In addition, in each year four of the six SACD activity domains were found to be significantly positively affected by the SACD programs. These four domains included the use of any SACD activities, the use of SACD activities linked to named programs, the use of classroom materials and instructional strategies when teaching SACD activities, and professional development in using SACD activities. The actual differences in reported use of SACD activities between the treatment and control groups varied from 5 to 34 percentage points. The results provided evidence that implementing the SACD programs increased the reported use of SACD activities in the schools.

To examine the average effects of the seven programs (combined and individually) on student outcomes, two sets of analyses were done. The first analyzed the outcomes on a year-by-year basis (from the fall of third grade to the spring of third grade, spring of fourth grade, and spring of fifth grade) for the entire sample, the individual programs, and a set of subgroups. The second analyzed the impacts on the average annual growth in student outcomes for the overall sample, the individual programs, and the subgroups. For both analyses,

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the ability to detect smaller significant effects was greater when examining the programs all together versus examining the individual programs or the subgroups because of the differences in sample sizes.

Neither the year-by-year analysis nor the growth curve analysis found that the seven SCD programs improved student outcomes when considered together, individually by program, or for specific subgroups. For the combined-program analysis, the year-by-year analysis found fewer significant impacts than expected by chance (2 out of 60 estimated impacts) and the growth analysis found no significant impacts. For the individual program analysis, the year-by-year analysis found fewer significant impacts than expected by chance (16 out of 420 estimated impacts) with 9 having beneficial impacts and 7 having detrimental impacts. The growth analysis found the same number of impacts as expected by chance (6 out of 126 estimated impacts) with 2 having beneficial impacts and 4 having detrimental impacts. For the subgroup analyses, the year-by-year analysis found more significant impacts than expected by chance for gender (8 out of 54 estimated impacts) and initial risk levels (41 out of 270 estimated impacts) but not for stayers versus new entrants. For gender, half of the significant impacts showed a beneficial impact of the intervention and half showed a detrimental impact. For initial risk level, 26 showed a beneficial impact of the intervention on high-risk students and 15 showed a detrimental impact on high-risk students. The growth analysis found fewer significant impacts than expected by chance for all the subgroups except those based on initial risk levels, for which 6 out of 90 estimated impacts were significant. Four of these 6 significant impacts were beneficial and 2 were detrimental. In sum, the SCD multiprogram evaluation provides no evidence that the seven universal, schoolwide programs improved students' social and character development.

Several explanations for this finding can be considered: (1) failure of the conceptualization and design of the intervention, (2) weak implementation of the intervention, (3) nonsubstantial differences in the level of SCD activities in the treatment and control schools, and (4) methodological limitations of the evaluation.

Failure of the conceptualization and design of the intervention refers to the possibility that the seven programs tested might not have altered students' social and character development in the expected ways because the theories underlying them or the combinations of activities chosen to bring about the desired changes in students' attitudes and behaviors were inadequate for the purpose. For example, one alternative view to that adopted in the SCD evaluation is that only a subset of elementary-age children has deficits in social behavior and character, and these deficits require a more targeted, more intensive intervention than schoolwide programs can provide. Therefore, if a school-based program is to be effective, a combination of schoolwide and targeted activities might be required for the intervention to make a significant difference in students' outcomes (e.g., see Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group 1999). These kinds of explanations, if confirmed by other studies, would lead to focusing more effort on understanding how social and character development occurs among elementary-age children, how this development can be affected, and what types of practices in classrooms and schools can be used to bring about desired effects.

Weak implementation of the intervention refers to the possibility that, although the intervention might have been well conceived and well designed, the treatment schools did not implement these practices effectively on average. Weakly implemented programs may not have positive impacts on students. The SCD evaluation examined seven different SCD programs, each with unique features, and the fidelity rating used measured fidelity of implementation relative to the targets established for each specific intervention. In this way, the ratings were standardized relative to each site's program-specific benchmarks and could be compared across programs and years. The analysis of the fidelity data found little evidence of a relationship between high fidelity and more beneficial outcomes. The number of significant associations found between fidelity and beneficial outcomes was higher than expected by chance (5 versus 3 out of 54 estimated impacts) but 4 of the 5 significant results were due to detrimental associations between low fidelity and outcomes rather than beneficial associations between high fidelity and outcomes. The approach used to obtain comparable fidelity ratings required two compromises. First, it could not account for differences among the programs' implementation standards—for example, whether programs differed in how difficult they were to implement. Second, it provided no information on why implementation was of a certain quality. As a result, the SCD

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evaluation fidelity measure may not provide adequate information regarding the issue of whether low fidelity might have been the reason behind the lack of significant findings. The fidelity measures used by each research team using team-chosen criteria may provide additional information on how well each program was implemented in each treatment school.

Nonsubstantial differences in the level of SACD activities refers to the possibility that the implementation differences between the treatment and control schools were not great enough to generate statistically significant differences in student outcomes. Like the treatment schools, the control schools joined the study with a willingness to implement a SACD program, showing a willingness to promote social and character development. In addition, some of the sites were located in states where legislation required or promoted such activities. The control group represented “standard practice,” which included the reported use of SACD activities in the classroom. For example, 86 percent to 90 percent of control teachers reported using activities to promote any one of the six SACD goals. While a statistically significant larger percentage of teachers in the treatment schools reported conducting such activities (95% to 96%) the 5- to 10-percentage-point differences may not have been large enough to lead to improved student outcomes. At the same time, the significant differences between treatment and control teacher reports were larger for other responses regarding the use of SACD activities. For example, the differences between treatment and control teachers regarding the use of activities from named programs were 29 to 34 percentage points across the 3 years. These results, plus the finding that treatment teachers reported greater use of some instructional materials and methods to promote SACD goals, provide evidence that the treatment teachers were making a more intensive effort to promote social and character development.

There are three methodological limitations of the evaluation that may have contributed to the finding of no impacts on student outcomes. First, the evaluation relied on self-reported data by teachers and principals regarding the use of SACD activities. No observational studies were done to validate these reports. If treatment teachers over-reported their use of SACD activities (possibly because they felt an expectation to report high use given that a SACD program was being implemented in their school), the impacts of the treatment could be misestimated; that is, if there really were no differences in the level of SACD activities between the treatment and control groups then a lack of effects might be expected. The percentages of treatment teachers (95% to 96%) who reported using any activities to promote one of the six SACD goals differed from the percentages who reported using activities from named programs (68% to 72%) for the same purpose. This difference does not rule out the possibility of systematic over-reporting; however, it does suggest that some teachers were candid in their reporting on their use of the treatment programs. The research teams used observations or product measures to check implementation of their specific programs, and the results from this work may provide additional evidence about the potential importance of over-reporting of implementation by treatment teachers.

A second methodological limitation was that student-provided data (used for 12 of the 20 outcomes) were not available for 36 percent to 39 percent of students, depending on the year, because parents did not provide written consent or students did not assent to take part in the study. Primary caregiver data, used for three outcomes, were not available for 49 percent to 54 percent of students. It is possible that students included in the study differed from those not included due to an absence of data. As the study did not collect descriptive data on the nonobserved students, the existence of such differences could not be determined, and how the inclusion of these students in the study would have affected the findings is unknown. Given the few statistically significant and substantively important impacts found with the existing sample, there would need to be a large and consistent impact on the nonobserved students (had they been included) to change the findings. For example, because two-thirds of the population who were observed received an average impact of zero, the nonobserved one-third would need to have received an average impact of nearly one-third of a standard deviation to bring the overall mean to one-tenth of a standard deviation unit. In addition, because the subgroup analyses did not find systematically significant impacts, there is no evidence that should these

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missing students come from one of the subgroups (e.g., higher initial risk) their inclusion would change the findings.

A third methodological limitation was the sample size for the individual program evaluations. The combined analysis of all seven programs provided a sample size sufficient to detect student-level impacts at MDES ranging from 0.03 to 0.23 standard deviations (with more than 75% of them below 0.10 standard deviations). The power to detect impacts at the level of the individual programs was more limited (the MDES ranged from 0.1 to 0.9 over the 3 years) and individual program-level effects might have been missed. To address this limitation at the program level, nonsignificant impacts of at least 0.25 standard deviations were identified as substantively important results and only a small number were identified, with an almost equal division into beneficial and detrimental effects.

The seven programs tested in the SCD evaluation were similar in being coherent, universal, school-based programs to promote social and character development of third- to fifth-grade students. They were diverse both in their specific goals and in their approaches to promoting social and character development for all students. In addition, they were evaluated in diverse types of locales in which schools served communities with very different ethnic and socioeconomic compositions. On average, the seven programs did not improve students' social and emotional competence, behavior, academic achievement, and student and teacher perceptions of school climate. In addition, although the numbers of schools and students in each program were not always sufficient to draw firm conclusions at the program level, the patterns of estimated impacts for each program were largely similar: students' outcomes were not affected.

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Chapter 2. Academic and Behavioral Competencies Program

University at Buffalo, The State University of New York (Buffalo Site)

Intervention

Researchers at the University at Buffalo, The State University of New York (SUNY) (Buffalo site) implemented and evaluated the *Academic and Behavioral Competencies Program* (ABC) (Pelham, Fabiano, and Massetti 2005; Smith et al. 2007; Waschbusch, Pelham, and Massetti 2005). ABC was developed at the Center for Children and Families at the University at Buffalo, SUNY. This program is designed to develop and maintain a positive learning environment that reduces misbehavior and promotes positive skills and competencies. It focuses on classroom behavior management and teaching and promoting social skills and includes multiple components. Table 2.1 describes ABC's general characteristics (panel 1), the types of instruction and strategies used (panel 2), the professional development provided for those implementing the program (panel 3), and the social and character development activities (panel 4) and outcomes (panel 5) addressed by the program.

- ABC components include schoolwide rules, a response/cost system for tracking and responding to disruptive student behavior (e.g., behavior color charts), a daily home note or communication tool for students who follow the school rules, a weekly reinforcement activity (Fun Friday), and a teacher-led social skills program.
- ABC program staff conduct a program development workshop with a school committee of representative teachers, staff, and administrators during the summer prior to initial implementation. The workshop is intended to discuss components of the program and to modify the program within the designed framework to meet the needs of the school. The committee develops a set of schoolwide rules and consequences that form the backbone of the program's implementation in the school.
- Teachers and school staff are trained in behavior management skills and strategies and on delivery of the ABC components and structure. Teacher training covers general classroom behavior management skills for reducing disruptive behavior and promoting behavioral competencies and strategies specific to ABC. Teachers are taught skills such as building positive relationships with students, using labeled praise as social reinforcement, setting appropriate limits, and implementing effective discipline strategies.
- Consistent schoolwide rules are posted and monitored. Students who follow the rules earn daily notes, which are used to earn weekly Fun Friday activities and other events and privileges.
- Behavioral consultants are a standard feature of the ABC program. They spend 20 hours per week at the school and provide ongoing observations and consultations with teachers on the use of behavior management strategies and ABC components. Consultation with teachers ranges from discussing general program implementation to training on how to make program modifications to address the needs of children who could benefit from more intensive implementation of the program.
- Each day for 10 minutes, teachers implement scripted social skills training in the classroom. In these lessons, they illustrate the targeted social skill that is intended to enhance problem solving, communication, and cooperation, and then encourage practice among students. Teachers have

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opportunities to reinforce and promote these social skills throughout the day using “caught being good” tickets and prizes.

- The behavioral consultants at the schools also deliver parenting workshops. Seven workshops are offered that address general parenting topics such as building positive relationships with children and using effective discipline strategies.
- A targeted recreational/peer skills program is delivered to schools for students who exhibit high rates of disruptive behavior in the school and classrooms. The recreational program takes place either during the school day or after school, and it focuses on building social competencies, enhancing rule-following behavior, and building positive relationships with peers.
- Individualized programs, typically in the form of modifications of the classwide program (e.g., more frequent feedback, changes in goal criteria or rewards) and daily report cards, are developed and implemented through consulting with teachers about students who have high rates of disruptive behaviors.

Table 2.1. Academic and Behavioral Competencies Program

Panel 1: General characteristics

Target population

Universal and targeted

Program components

Peer: In and out of class

Parent: Daily positive notes and monthly parenting workshops

Classroom: Teacher training and coaching, behavior management, and lessons

Schoolwide: Planned events, reward programs, schoolwide rules, and discipline policies

Community: None or not major focus

Training: Pretraining and ongoing behavior consultation through school-based consultant

Level of integration

Add-on curriculum and classroom and schoolwide activities

Flexibility

Manualized: Manual includes modules for all program components (training, universal, and targeted levels); manual adapted for each school with input from school committees

Adaptability: Program may be individualized within the framework at the school, classroom, and individual child level

See notes at end of table.

Panel 2: Description of instruction and strategies

Classroom

Lessons

Who delivers: Teacher

Activities and tools: Social skill of the day description and classroom or schoolwide role-play

Content: Social skills, problem solving, classroom management, and peer relationships

Frequency: Social skills training: daily 5- to 10-minute lessons; reinforcement and application: daily throughout the day; recreational peer program: 45 minutes two times per week

Strategies

Who delivers: Teacher (universal); consultants and/or counselors (targeted)

Activities and tools: Schoolwide rules; social reinforcement for positive behavior; classroom management procedures; teacher training in classroom management, effective discipline, and building teacher-child relationships; rewards for rule-following and consequences for negative behavior (e.g., time out)

Frequency: Daily

Supplement to classroom

Behavioral consultant services to teachers/classrooms; peer mediation; discipline/office referral policies and procedures; parenting workshops; targeted peer program for disruptive children

Schoolwide activities

Schoolwide rules; classroom management procedures; behavior honor roll; schoolwide recognition and incentives; schoolwide discipline policies

See notes at end of table.

Table 2.1. Academic and Behavioral Competencies Program—Continued**Panel 3: Professional development****Pre-implementation****Teachers**

Content: Teacher training in classroom behavioral management concepts and strategies; development of schoolwide rules, discipline policies and procedures, and classroom management policies with school committee

Duration: 3 half-days (9 hours total)

Other

Content: Staff, same as teacher training

Duration: 3 half-days (9 hours total)

Ongoing consultation**Teachers**

Content: Teacher consultation; coaching on use of classroom management; school consultation on policies and procedures

Duration: Monthly (at minimum) or more frequently per teacher or school request

Other

Content: Consultation on school discipline policies and procedures, such as lunchroom discipline, bus discipline, hallway policies, etc.

Duration: As needed, with regular follow-up

See notes at end of table.

Panel 4: Activities for SACD goals

Violence prevention and peace promotion	✓	Risk prevention and health promotion
Social and emotional development	✓	Civic responsibility and community service
Character education		Behavior management
Tolerance and diversity		

See notes at end of table.

Panel 5: SACD outcomes addressed

Engagement with Learning		Empathy
Academic Competence and Motivation		Positive School Orientation
Altruistic Behavior		Negative School Orientation
Positive Social Behavior	✓	Student Afraid at School
Problem Behavior	✓	Victimization at School
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions		Feelings of Safety
Normative Beliefs About Aggression		Student Support for Teachers

NOTE: Abbreviations are

✓: Activity or outcome addressed

Blank cell: Activity or outcome not addressed

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Sample and Random Assignment

The Buffalo research team recruited a total of 10 public and 2 charter elementary schools. The 12 schools were in 3 school districts in upstate New York. The schools were randomly assigned to treatment and control conditions prior to the fall 2004 initial data collection.⁴⁶ A two-step process was used. First, a computer-generated pairwise matching algorithm developed by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (MPR) identified the best pairwise matches across the 12 schools based on variables identified by the Buffalo research team. The variables included (a) school district, (b) percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch during the 2003-04 school year, (c) total number of students enrolled during the 2003-04 school year, (d) percentage of minority children enrolled during the 2003-04 school year, and (e) percentage of students achieving mastery level or better scores on New York's fourth-grade English language arts standardized achievement test administered during the 2002-03 school year. Second, using a random numbers table, 1 school in each matched pair was assigned to either the intervention or the control condition, resulting in 6 schools receiving the ABC program and 6 schools acting as control schools. Control schools in this study were a "business as usual" comparison, meaning these schools implemented the social and character development activities that constituted their standard practice. The level of social and character development practices, including activities, materials, teacher strategies, and professional development activities, in both the treatment and control schools was documented in order to understand the nature of the comparison being made between the intervention schools and the standard practice control schools. Assignment to treatment or control condition at the school level limited the risk of contamination between treatment and control classrooms. All 12 schools remained in the study for the full 3 years. One school converted to a K-8 school but this did not affect the students in the study.

The original student sample (the cohort of students in the third grade in the 12 schools in fall 2004) numbered 879 students (380 treatment and 499 control). Table 2.2 documents the change in the sample over the three spring follow-up data collection periods. Over time, new entrants to the cohort became a larger percentage of the sample, eventually making up 32 percent of the sample by the spring of Year 3. Only in Year 1 was there a statistically significant difference between the treatment and control groups in the number of new entrants (in this case, fewer new entrants in the treatment group). The percentage of the sample made up of the original cohort further declined as students left the schools. By Year 3, approximately 33 percent of the original sample had left. There were no significant differences between treatment and control leavers.

⁴⁶ In Year 2 (fall 2005), the Buffalo research team recruited two more schools, one assigned to treatment and one assigned to control, which were followed to the end of the study (spring 2007). A description of this second cohort and all relevant findings can be found in appendix A. The data from this second cohort are not included in the analyses and results reported in this chapter.

Table 2.2. Sample—ABC

Characteristic	Year 1 (Fall 3rd grade)			Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control
School sample size	12	6	6	12	6	6	12	6	6	12	6	6
Student sample size	879	380	499	875	373	502	877	367	510	871	353	518
Stayers	†	†	†	836	363	473	719	308	411	590	245	345
New entrants	†	†	†	39	10	29	158	59	99	281	108	173
New entrants as a percent of spring enrollment	†	†	†	4.5	2.7*	5.8	18.0	16.1	19.4	32.3	30.6	33.4
Total leavers (from original cohort)	†	†	†	43	17	26	160	72	88	289	135	154
Leavers as a percent of fall 2004 enrollment	†	†	†	4.9	4.5	5.2	18.2	18.9	17.6	32.9	35.5	30.9
Number of students per school (mean)	73	63	83	73	62	84	74	62	85	73	59	86
Range of number of students per school	48-115	48-84	64-115	47-118	47-83	66-118	41-131	41-80	63-131	45-125	45-77	49-125

† Not applicable.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Implementation

Training

The intervention teachers received 9 hours of program implementation training prior to the beginning of the school year (see panel 3 of table 2.1). If teachers were unable to attend this initial training due to scheduling conflicts, they were provided with make-up training by the program staff and behavioral consultants. Teachers had access to ongoing program implementation support throughout the school year from behavioral consultants. For this study, the behavioral consultants were master's-level therapists or advanced graduate students. On average, behavioral consultants were at the participating schools for 20 hours each week, including scheduled activities such as administrative meetings, in-service presentations, and parent conferences. Consultation visits typically included classroom observations, an opportunity for teachers to ask questions about the curriculum, and implementation feedback from the consultant. In addition to the consultation visits, behavioral consultants and ABC staff provided approximately 15 hours per school of formal in-service training and group presentations throughout the year.

Data Collection

MPR's subcontractor, Decision Information Resources, Inc. (DIR), collected the child, teacher, and school data at the Buffalo site. Table 2.3 presents the data collection dates. Data were collected in the fall and spring of the first 2 years and the spring of Year 3. The fall 2004 (third-grade) data collection window began on October 18, 2004, and ended on November 12, 2004. The average time frame from the beginning of program implementation to the beginning of fall data collection was 6 weeks. As a result, initial data collection took place after ABC implementation began. Therefore, these data provide a measure of the students, teachers, and schools near the beginning of the school year, when ABC had been operating for a relatively short period of time.

The spring data collection window was from April 11, 2005, to May 6, 2005. ABC had been implemented for 31 weeks at the time of the spring data collection and for 21 weeks from the end of the fall data collection. Year 2 followed a similar pattern, with implementation occurring at the start of the school year, fall data collection occurring 5 weeks later, and spring data collection occurring 21 weeks after fall data collection (and 29 weeks after the start of implementation). In spring 2007, data collection occurred 32 weeks after the start of implementation. Data collection took from 3 to 5 weeks at each collection point.

Table 2.3. Data collection dates—ABC

Data collection schedule	Year 1 (Fall 3rd grade)	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)	Year 2 (Fall 4th grade)	Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)	Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)
School sample size	12	12	12	12	12
School year dates					
First day of school	9/7/04	†	8/15/05 9/7/05 ²	†	8/15/05 9/6/06 ²
Start of implementation	9/8/04	†	First day	†	First day
Last day of school	†	6/24/05	†	6/23/06	6/22/07
Data collection					
Start	10/18/04 ¹	4/11/05	10/10/05 ²	3/27/06	4/18/07
End	11/12/04	5/6/05	10/27/05	5/1/06	5/8/07
Calendar weeks from program implementation to start of fall 2004 data collection	6	†	†	†	†
Calendar weeks from start of school to start of fall 2004 data collection	6	†	†	5 ²	†
Calendar weeks from end of fall data collection to start spring data collection	†	21	†	21	†
Calendar weeks from program implementation to start of spring data collection	†	31	†	29	32

† Not applicable.

¹ Data collection occurred at two schools on 9/21/04. The calculations that include the start of fall 2004 data collection use the 10/18/04 date as the start date of the data collection.² The two charter schools started earlier than the public schools and had earlier data collection.

NOTE: The dates provided in the table reflect the more common dates and are used to calculate the week's data.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Consent Rates, Completion Rates, and Percentage of Sample With Data

The actual number of child, primary caregiver, and teacher reports available for analysis was smaller than the number in the sample because consent and completion rates were less than 100 percent. Primary caregivers had to provide consent before children could complete the Child Report, before their child's teacher could complete the Teacher Report on Student, and before they themselves completed the Primary Caregiver Report. Teachers also had to provide consent before completing the Teacher Report on Classroom and School. In addition, of those with consent, not all completed their respective reports. Table 2.4 shows the consent rates, completion rates, and percentages of sample with data for each of the four reports over the 3 years. For the Child Report and the two teacher reports, completion rates ranged from 91 percent to 100 percent. For the Primary Caregiver Report, the completion rates dropped over time from 90 percent to 64 percent.

The percentages of the sample with Child Report data ranged from 57 percent to 69 percent over the 3 years, with significantly higher percentages of treatment students having data in Years 1 and 3. The percentages of students with information from the Teacher Report on Student ranged from 56 percent to 74 percent, with significantly higher percentages of treatment students having data in Years 1 and 3. The percentages of students with data from the Primary Caregiver Report ranged from 42 percent to 60 percent and declined over time. The percentages of teachers with data from the Teacher Report on Classroom and School ranged from 78 percent to 92 percent.

Table 2.4. Consent rates, completion rates, and percentage of sample with data from each report—ABC

Report	Year 1 (Fall 3rd grade)			Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Treat- ment			Treat- ment			Treat- ment			Treat- ment		
	Total		Control	Total		Control	Total		Control	Total		Control
Student sample size	879	380	499	875	373	502	877	367	510	871	353	518
Child Report (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate	63.7	68.7*	59.7	64.0	67.3	61.6	64.7	65.4	64.1	67.7	73.7**	63.7
Student completion rate	93.2	91.2	95.0	97.5	98.0	97.1	96.3	95.8	96.6	93.6	93.8	93.3
Students with data ¹	59.4	62.7*	56.7	62.5	66.0	60.0	62.3	62.7	62.0	63.4	69.1**	59.5
Primary Caregiver Report (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate	63.3	68.2*	59.5	63.9	67.3	61.4	64.7	65.4	64.1	67.7	73.7**	63.7
Primary caregiver completion rate	89.4	88.0	90.6	75.3	78.1	73.1	70.9	70.0	71.6	65.4	64.2	66.4
Primary caregivers with data ¹	56.6	60.0	53.9	48.1	52.5	44.8	45.8	45.8	45.9	44.3	47.3	42.3
Teacher Report on Student (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate ²	63.7	68.7*	59.7	64.0	67.3	61.6	64.7	65.4	64.1	67.7	73.7**	63.7
Teacher completion rate	93.9	95.0	93.0	99.3	99.2	99.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.2	100.0*	98.5
Students with data ¹	59.7	65.3**	55.5	63.7	66.8	61.4	64.7	65.4	64.1	67.2	73.7*	62.7
Teacher Report on Classroom and School (3rd- to 5th-grade teachers) (percent)												
Teacher consent rate	89.9	96.7*	84.6	92.1	91.8	92.3	91.9	93.2	90.9	85.8	90.0	82.7
Teacher completion rate	95.2	94.9	95.5	91.4	91.1	91.7	93.6	90.9	95.7	95.0	96.3	94.0
Teachers with data ¹	85.6	91.8	80.8	84.2	83.6	84.6	86.0	84.7	87.0	81.6	86.7	77.8

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

¹ Calculated as consent rate x completion rate.

² The primary caregiver consent rates for the Child Report and the Teacher Report on Student are identical, as the primary caregiver gave consent to both together.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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Responses from students in the original cohort (stayers) and new entrants in the ABC sample were examined to investigate possible differences between the two groups in consent rates, completion rates, and the percentages of sample with data that might affect outcome data (table 2.5). There were four statistically significant differences between the completion rates of these two groups across the 3 years: in Year 1, stayers completed more Child Reports than did new entrants (98% versus 85%); in Years 2 and 3, new entrants completed more Primary Caregiver Reports than did stayers (84% versus 68% and 75% versus 62%, respectively); and in Year 3, teachers of stayers completed more Teacher Reports on Students than did teachers of new entrants (100% versus 97%).

Table 2.5. Consent rates, completion rates, and percentage of sample with data: Stayers versus new entrants—ABC

Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Total	Stayers	New entrants	Total	Stayers	New entrants	Total	Stayers	New entrants
Student sample size	875	836	39	877	719	158	871	590	281
Child Report (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate	64.0	63.8	69.2	64.7	65.2	62.0	67.7	68.8	65.5
Student completion rate	97.5	98.1***	85.2	96.3	96.4	95.9	93.6	93.3	94.0
Students with data ¹	62.4	62.6	59.0	62.3	62.9	59.5	63.4	64.2	61.6
Primary Caregiver Report (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate	63.9	63.8	66.7	64.7	65.2	62.0	67.7	68.8	65.5
Primary caregiver completion rate	75.3	76.0	61.5	70.9	68.2**	83.7	65.8	61.8**	74.5
Primary caregivers with data ¹	48.1	48.4	41.0	45.8	44.5	51.9	44.5	42.5	48.8
Teacher Report on Student (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate ²	64.0	63.8	69.2	64.7	65.2	62.0	67.7	68.8	65.5
Teacher completion rate	99.3	99.4	96.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.2	100.0***	97.3
Students with data ¹	63.5	63.4	66.7	64.7	65.2	62.0	67.2	68.8	63.7

* Stayers significantly different from new entrants at the .05 level.

** Stayers significantly different from new entrants at the .01 level.

*** Stayers significantly different from new entrants at the .001 level.

¹ Calculated as consent rate x completion rate.

² The primary caregiver consent rates for the Child Report and the Teacher Report on Student are identical, as the primary caregiver gave consent to both together.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Fidelity of Implementation

Each year, the six ABC treatment schools were independently rated for quantity and quality of program implementation by two raters from the research team. The global measure of fidelity for the multisite study was used; inter-rater reliability was measured with Cronbach's alpha (1.00, 0.98, and 0.99) in all 3 years. The ratings were combined into a single consensus rating and used to identify schools with high implementation fidelity. In Year 1, four treatment schools were identified as having high fidelity, and in Years 2 and 3, three schools were identified as having high fidelity. Cohen's kappa was used as the measure of agreement when identifying schools as high fidelity, and it equaled 1.00 in Years 1 and 2, and 0.67 in Year 3.

Initial Characteristics

The initial characteristics of the students, teachers, and schools participating in the evaluation of the ABC program were collected from students enrolled in the third grade at the study schools in fall 2004, as well as from their primary caregivers and third-grade teachers. In addition, third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers and principals in the study schools provided information about activities related to social and character development in these schools. Documenting the characteristics of students, teachers, and schools, and their status on key outcomes at a point before the intervention had been operating for an extended period, helps to determine whether the random assignment of schools to treatment and control status produces groups with similar distributions of observed characteristics. As noted in the following discussion, 6 significant differences (out of 62 comparisons, with 3 expected to be significant by chance) were found between the treatment and control students, teachers, and schools in the level of SACD activity in the classroom and school.

Characteristics of Children, Their Families, and Communities

There were no significant differences in the observed student, caregiver, and community characteristics between the treatment and control groups (table 2.6). For students, the mean age was 8 years. The sample contained almost equal percentages of girls and boys. The sample was ethnically diverse: White non-Hispanic students made up 33 percent of the sample, Black non-Hispanic students made up 41 percent, and Hispanic students made up 17 percent.

The sample was also diverse in levels of family income, education levels of primary caregivers of the children in the sample, and family situation. Fifty percent of the children lived in a household with an income at 135 percent of the federal poverty level or lower, which is the income threshold for eligibility for free school meals. Thirteen percent of primary caregivers did not complete high school. Half of the children lived with both their father and their mother. There were no significant differences between the treatment and control groups in these characteristics.

The mean values of the outcomes for children's behavior and attitudes as reported by the primary caregivers, children, and teachers at initial data collection in fall 2004 are shown in table 2.7. There were no significant differences between the treatment and control groups in these scores.

Table 2.6. Initial characteristics of children, their families, and communities—ABC

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Student sample size	497	228	269
Student demographics			
Gender (percent)			
Male	50.1	46.4	53.9
Female	49.9	53.6	46.1
Race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	32.7	26.2	39.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	41.2	48.6	33.8
Hispanic	17.3	16.9	17.6
Other	8.8	8.3	9.4
Age (in years) (mean)	8.0	8.0	8.0
Primary caregiver and family characteristics			
Primary caregiver's age (in years) (mean)	35.3	35.9	34.7
Primary caregiver's race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	38.3	31.3	45.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	41.1	46.7	35.6
Hispanic	14.9	15.4	14.3
Other	5.7	6.6	4.8
Primary caregiver's education (percent)			
Did not complete high school	12.5	11.0	14.0
Completed high school or equivalent	26.6	24.9	28.2
Some college	49.4	52.6	46.2
Bachelor's or higher degree	11.5	11.4	11.7
Primary caregiver's employment (percent)			
Full-time	45.1	43.0	47.1
Other	54.9	57.0	52.9
Primary caregiver's marital status (percent)			
Married	47.3	43.5	51.2
Other	52.7	56.5	48.8
Students who live in one household (percent)	93.8	94.0	93.6
Number of individuals in household (mean)	4.6	4.5	4.7
Primary caregiver's relationship to child (percent)			
Mother (stepmother)	86.0	86.7	85.3
Father (stepfather)	7.7	6.0	9.5
Other relative/nonrelative	6.3	7.4	5.3

See notes at end of table.

Table 2.6. Initial characteristics of children, their families, and communities—ABC—Continued

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Student lives with (percent)			
Mother (stepmother) and father (stepfather)	50.4	46.6	54.2
Mother (stepmother) only; father (stepfather) not present	42.5	44.8	40.3
Father (stepfather) only; mother (stepmother) not present	1.8	2.1	1.6
Other relative/nonrelative, parents not present	5.2	6.6	3.9
Highest education of anyone in household (percent)			
Did not complete high school	8.7	5.2	12.1
Completed high school or equivalent	23.3	22.5	24.0
Some college	52.4	56.6	48.2
Bachelor's or higher degree	15.6	15.7	15.6
Total household income (percent)			
Less than \$20,000	40.7	39.8	41.6
\$20,000 to \$39,999	34.0	35.5	32.4
\$40,000 to \$59,999	16.2	17.9	14.5
\$60,000 or more	9.1	6.7	11.5
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio—Below 135 percent (percent)	49.7	48.0	51.4
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio—135 to 185 percent (percent)	25.2	26.9	23.4
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio—Above 185 percent (percent)	25.2	25.1	25.3
Alabama Parenting Questionnaire—Poor Monitoring and Supervision Subscale (mean)	1.1	1.2	1.1
Alabama Parenting Questionnaire—Positive Parenting Subscale (mean)	3.5	3.5	3.5
Confusion, Hubbub, and Order Scale (mean)	2.2	2.2	2.2
Community characteristics (mean)			
Community Risks Scale	1.7	1.7	1.7
Community Resources Scale	2.8	2.8	2.8
Child-Centered Social Control Scale	3.0	3.0	3.0

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 2.7. Mean scores and standard deviations for initial outcome measures of sample—ABC

Outcome measure—Report	Range	Total		Treatment		Control	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Social and Emotional Competence Domain							
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interaction—CR	1-4	3.0	0.7	3.0	0.7	3.0	0.7
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR	1-4	1.3	0.5	1.2	0.5	1.3	0.5
Empathy—CR	1-3	2.3	0.4	2.3	0.4	2.4	0.4
Behavior Domain							
Altruistic Behavior—CR	0-3	1.5	0.9	1.5	0.9	1.5	0.9
Altruistic Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.3	0.4	1.4	0.4	1.3	0.4
Altruistic Behavior—PCR	1-4	2.3	0.7	2.3	0.7	2.3	0.7
Positive Social Behavior—TRS	1-4	2.9	0.7	2.9	0.7	2.9	0.7
Positive Social Behavior—PCR	1-4	2.9	0.5	2.9	0.5	3.0	0.5
Problem Behavior—CR	0-3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.5
Problem Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.4	0.5	1.4	0.4	1.4	0.5
Problem Behavior—PCR	1-4	1.6	0.3	1.6	0.3	1.6	0.4
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.8	0.6	1.8	0.6	1.8	0.6
Academics Domain							
Academic Competence and Motivation—TRS	1-5	2.8	0.8	2.7	0.9	2.8	0.8
Engagement with Learning—CR	1-4	3.7	0.6	3.6	0.7	3.7	0.6
Perceptions of School Climate Domain							
Positive School Orientation—CR	1-4	3.2	0.7	3.2	0.7	3.3	0.7
Negative School Orientation—CR	1-4	1.9	0.7	2.0	0.7	1.9	0.7
Student Afraid at School—CR	1-4	2.3	1.0	2.4	1.0	2.3	1.0
Victimization at School—CR	0-3	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
Student sample size—PCR		497		228		269	
Student sample size—CR		521		238		283	
Student sample size—TRS		525		248		277	

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

SD: Standard deviation

No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Characteristics of Teachers and Schools

The third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers at the study schools were predominantly White non-Hispanic (80%) and female (90%), had an average of 12.3 years of total teaching experience, and about three-fourths (77%) held an advanced or specialist degree (table 2.8). There were no statistically significant differences between the treatment and control groups of teachers.

Data regarding school characteristics were drawn from the Common Core of Data in order to compare treatment and control schools. There were no significant differences between the two groups of schools in terms of student composition (race/ethnicity and school lunch eligibility), number of students enrolled, number of full-time teachers, Title I status, or number of years the principal had been at the school (see table 2.9). In addition, there were no significant differences between treatment and control schools in terms of location (urban, suburban, or rural) or lowest and highest grade offered (these data are not shown in a table).

Table 2.8. Initial characteristics of teachers in sample—ABC

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Teacher sample size	119	56	63
Gender (percent)			
Male	9.7	9.4	10.1
Female	90.3	90.6	89.9
Race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	80.1	73.2	86.9
Other	19.9	26.8	13.1
Number of years teaching experience (mean)	12.3	12.7	11.9
Number of years teaching experience in this school (mean)	4.9	4.5	5.3
Type of teaching certificate (percent)			
Regular state certificate or advanced professional certificate	65.7	63.4	68.0
Other	34.3	36.6	32.0
Education (percent)			
Bachelor's degree	23.0	24.0	22.0
Advanced degree/other	77.0	76.0	78.0

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 2.9. Initial characteristics of schools in sample—ABC

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
School sample size	12	6	6
Student race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	34.3	29.1	39.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	48.8	54.9	42.7
Hispanic	14.8	14.6	15.0
Other	2.0	1.4	2.7
Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (percent)	66.7	68.5	65.3
Number of students enrolled (mean)	679.2	584.3	774.0
Number of full-time teachers (mean)	46.5	41.6	51.5
Title I status (percent)			
Title I eligible school	83.3	83.3	83.3
Schoolwide Title I	90.0	80.0	100.0
Number of years principal has been at this school (mean)	4.3	4.5	4.2

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: NCES Common Core of Data (2003-04), the Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

In the Teacher Report on Classroom and School, teachers reported on nine dimensions of school environment (these data are not shown in a table): feelings of safety, adequacy of resources, student support, freedom to teach as desired, affiliation with and ties to colleagues, innovation regarding new approaches to teaching, professional interest, participatory decisionmaking, and work pressure. There were no statistically significant differences between treatment and control schools in these reports.

The Level of SACD in the Schools Near the Beginning of the Study

During the initial data collection period, principals and teachers reported on the SACD activities used in the schools and classrooms, the availability of SACD materials, and the professional development provided on SACD (see tables 2.10, 2.11, and 2.12, respectively). It is important to note that data collection at the beginning of the school year took place 6 weeks after the start of ABC implementation; therefore the SACD-related activities and practices in the treatment and control schools are a measure of what was happening in the study schools near the beginning of the study. The principals at the 12 schools reported on activities to promote six social and character development goals (see table 2.10): violence prevention and peace promotion (83%), social and emotional development (92%), character education (100%), tolerance and diversity (75%), risk prevention and health promotion (83%), and civic responsibility and community service (83%). In addition, all 12 principals reported activities directed toward behavior management. There were no statistically significant differences between the treatment and control schools in the percentages of principal reports, although this may be due to the relatively small principal sample size. The percentages of teachers who reported the use of these activities in their classrooms ranged from 63 percent to 93 percent; there were no significant differences between treatment and control teachers. With respect to the use of schoolwide activities, 59 percent to 81 percent of teachers reported that their schools used such activities, and there were no significant differences between treatment and control teachers in reported use.

Table 2.10. Principal and teacher initial reports on use of SCD programs or activities in sample—ABC

SACD program or activity	Total	Treatment	Control
Principal sample size	12	6	6
Teacher sample size	119	56	63
Principals reporting that school had programs or activities to promote the following SACD goals (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	83.3	66.7	100.0
Social and emotional development	91.7	83.3	100.0
Character education	100.0	100.0	100.0
Tolerance and diversity	75.0	66.7	83.3
Risk prevention and health promotion	83.3	83.3	83.3
Civic responsibility and community service	83.3	83.3	83.3
Behavior management	100.0	100.0	100.0
None of the above	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teachers reporting on using programs or activities in their class to promote the following SACD goals (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	74.7	82.1	67.2
Social and emotional development	81.9	87.1	76.8
Character education	88.5	93.1	83.8
Tolerance and diversity	71.6	70.2	73.0
Risk prevention and health promotion	64.1	66.7	61.6
Civic responsibility and community service	63.0	71.1	54.9
Behavior management	93.4	98.6	88.2
None of the above	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teachers reporting schoolwide use of the following activities to promote SACD (percent)			
Morning announcements or videos	80.9	81.1	80.8
School assemblies	76.2	70.4	82.1
School newspapers or bulletins	64.4	67.6	61.3
Special school days	59.2	66.6	51.8
Special events	78.4	80.3	76.6
Other activities	17.5	19.4	15.6

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SCD) Research Program.

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Teachers reported using a broad range of teaching materials (table 2.11). The materials most used in support of SACD activities were teacher guides (used by 59% of teachers), giveaways (used by 55%), children's literature (used by 47%), and student materials (used by 46%). There were no significant differences between treatment and control teachers in the use of materials.

Teachers reported using a wide variety of teaching strategies (table 2.11). All teachers in the sample reported using any of the 20 strategies, and, on average, they used 12 of the strategies. There were no significant differences between treatment and control teachers in the average number of strategies used. In regard to the specific strategies, there were 5 significant differences out of 29 comparisons made (with 1 expected to be significant by chance). A significantly greater number of treatment teachers reported incorporating SACD into the academic curriculum (87% versus 62%), sending home good behavior notes (93% versus 64%), presenting role models (76% versus 59%), using an honor roll for positive behavior (76% versus 45%), and using time-outs for negative behavior (94% versus 73%). These differences between treatment and control teachers at the start of the study may reflect the fact that program implementation at the treatment schools began before data collection at the start of the school year.

Table 2.11. Teacher initial reports on use of SACD materials and classroom strategies in sample—ABC

SACD material and classroom strategy	Total	Treatment	Control
Teacher sample size	119	56	63
Teachers using the following materials in conjunction with social and character development activities (percent)			
Teacher guides (manuals, curricula)	59.4	48.1	70.7
Student materials (workbooks, worksheets)	46.2	46.1	46.2
Instructional aids (games, software, videos)	26.8	29.3	24.3
Giveaways (bookmarks, stickers)	55.3	59.5	51.2
Children's literature	47.3	52.3	42.3
Other types of materials	11.4	11.2	11.7
Do not use any of the materials listed above	13.3	14.3	12.4
Teachers using any of the strategies listed below to promote social and character development in the classroom (percent)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of strategies (listed below) used by teachers to promote social and character development in the classroom (mean)	11.7	12.7	10.8
Teachers using each of the following strategies to promote social and character development (percent)			
Role-playing	67.1	63.1	71.1
Cooperative learning	99.4	100.0	98.7
Peer group discussions	86.3	91.4	81.1
Direct instruction of social and character development	82.9	88.8	77.0
Skill training	47.6	46.2	49.0
Incorporating social and character development into academic curriculum	74.6	87.2**	62.0
Parent training	6.0	5.1	6.8
Parent/community involvement in program development or delivery	19.4	19.6	19.2
Mentoring	30.9	36.1	25.6
Good behavior notes sent home daily or weekly	78.2	92.6*	63.9
Presenting role models	67.5	75.6*	59.3
Targeted story reading or writing on SACD themes	72.6	77.3	67.9
Peer mediation	36.0	36.9	35.1
Honor roll for positive behavior	60.0	75.5*	44.6
Pledges or recitations on social and character development themes	41.1	37.8	44.4
Guided visualization	45.1	49.9	40.3
Student-led/student-assisted instruction	42.3	41.4	43.2
Journaling	70.5	80.3	60.7
Time out for negative behavior	83.6	94.0*	73.2
Daily or weekly rewards for positive behavior	93.7	98.1	89.2

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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Principals and teachers reported on participation in and amount of SCD training and staff development provided over the previous 12 months (table 2.12). Principals reported higher participation rates than did teachers (100% versus 76%), and teachers reported more training hours (11 versus 8). There were no significant differences between treatment and control principals and teachers in overall training and hours. Out of seven targeted areas for professional development, there was one statistically significant difference in the area of behavior management, with more treatment teachers than control teachers reporting attending training in this area (71% versus 41%).

Table 2.12. Principal and teacher initial reports on SCD professional development in sample—ABC

SACD professional development	Total	Treatment	Control
Principal sample size	12	6	6
Teacher sample size	119	56	63
Principals reporting that staff participated in social and character development training within the past year (percent)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Teachers reporting participation in social and character development training within the past 12 months (percent)	76.2	81.9	70.5
Number of hours of social and character development training principals report were provided to each staff person last year (mean)	7.8	8.0	7.5
Number of hours of social and character development training teachers report receiving during the past 12 months (mean)	10.8	11.9	9.6
Teachers reporting receiving training in the past 12 months in the following areas (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	22.5	13.7	31.2
Social and emotional development	25.2	23.1	27.2
Character education	37.4	35.5	39.3
Tolerance and diversity	20.5	17.6	23.5
Risk prevention and health promotion	6.4	5.8	7.0
Civic responsibility and community service	3.0	‡	‡
Behavior management	56.0	71.2*	40.7

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SCD) Research Program.

The data on the initial level of SCD activity illustrate that the control condition was a “standard practice” control. Standard practice at the control schools included using SCD activities, materials, and practices, along with professional development for staff, at rates and in types and amounts similar to the treatment schools. For example, the percentages of teachers who reported using programs or activities to promote specific SCD goals ranged from 67 percent to 99 percent in the treatment schools and from 55 percent to 88 percent in the control schools. However, the 6 significant differences between the treatment and control conditions in the use of SCD activities were more than would be expected by chance (3 out of 62 comparisons), and in all cases they favored the treatment group. Because initial data collection happened after

program implementation began, these differences may reflect that program implementation and program training for staff started before initial data collection.

Impacts on Use of SACD Activities

The introduction of the formal ABC program would be expected to increase the use of SACD activities in the treatment schools in comparison to the control schools. The analysis of this impact is based on the Teacher Report on Classroom and School (TRCS). Every spring, third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers in the schools provided information through the TRCS about the social and character development activities they used in their classrooms. Specifically, information from the TRCS was used to determine the difference between treatment and control teachers in the following areas:

1. the use of SACD activities in their classrooms overall and by SACD goal;
2. the use of materials and strategies to implement the SACD activities within classrooms and within the entire school;
3. the use of staff development to support the teachers; and
4. teacher support for SACD efforts in the school and the use of practices conducive to the social and character development of students.

TRCS consent and completion rates (table 2.4) led to 82 percent to 86 percent of teachers overall having data for the 3 years, with greater percentages of treatment teachers providing data in most of the years. To estimate intervention impacts for each of the outcomes, the statistical significance of the differences in means was assessed. Preliminary analysis using covariates indicated little or no gains in precision. Before testing the mean differences, the data were weighted such that each school received equal weight. Standard errors of the impact estimates accounted for the clustering of teachers within schools. In addition, a set of heuristics (described in chapter 1) was applied to determine whether each outcome domain was statistically significant after adjustments were made for the multiple tests conducted.

Use of Activities

The percentages of control teachers who reported using any SACD activities in their classrooms ranged from 85 percent to 97 percent over the 3 years (table 2.13, panel 1). For the six individual SACD goals, the percentages varied from 52 percent to 87 percent in Year 1, 54 percent to 71 percent in Year 2, and 42 percent to 69 percent in Year 3. Control teachers' use of behavior management activities ranged from 80 percent to 86 percent over this period. The percentages of control teachers who reported using any SACD activities in their classrooms for at least 1 hour per week ranged from 78 percent to 80 percent over the 3 years (table 2.13, panel 2). For the six individual SACD goals, the range varied from 20 percent to 55 percent in Year 1, 14 percent to 38 percent in Year 2, and 14 percent to 35 percent in Year 3. Their use of behavior management activities for at least 1 hour per week ranged from 62 percent to 74 percent over this period. These findings show that the control schools were using these activities as part of their standard practice related to social and character development.

For teachers' reported use of any SACD activity (panels 1 and 2), 48 comparisons were made, with 2 expected to be significant by chance. The percentages of treatment teachers using any SACD activity were not significantly different from the percentages of control teachers in any year (panel 1). A significantly larger percentage of treatment teachers reported using civic responsibility activities (impact = 23 percentage points) in Year 1. In Year 2, more treatment teachers reported using activities for social and emotional development (impact = 24 percentage points), character education (impact = 20 percentage points), tolerance and diversity (impact = 24 percentage points), and behavior management (impact = 16 percentage points). There were no significant differences between treatment and control teacher reports of using activities for at least 1 hour a

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week (panel 2). After the heuristics were applied, the domain for engagement in any SCD activities showed the ABC program had statistically significant impacts in Year 1.

For teachers' reported use of any named SCD activity (panels 3 and 4), 42 comparisons were made, with 2 expected to be significant by chance. None of the impact estimates were statistically significant over the 3 years. The overall impact of the ABC program on the domain for engagement in named SCD activities was not significant in any year.

Table 2.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—ABCPanel 1: Engagement in any activities to promote SACD goals¹

SACD activity	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	63	73			50	67			51	64		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	70.3	77.0	-6.8	0.587	74.8	63.3	11.5	0.339	63.5	62.0	1.5	0.882
Social and emotional development (percent)	77.7	86.5	-8.8	0.474	85.6*	61.9	23.8	0.044	69.2	55.2	14.0	0.111
Character education (percent)	91.4	83.5	7.9	0.383	90.9*	71.1	19.8	0.044	69.6	69.0	0.6	0.961
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	78.7	71.1	7.7	0.451	77.9*	54.2	23.7	0.014	66.4^	44.8	21.6	0.072
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	74.8	80.2	-5.4	0.664	65.5	68.4	-2.9	0.833	57.3	56.6	0.7	0.955
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	74.7*	51.8	22.9	0.038	62.9	53.9	9.1	0.571	65.6^	41.6	24.0	0.094
Any SACD goal (percent)	94.0	97.1	-3.2	0.454	98.8	92.6	6.2	0.108	93.8	84.6	9.2	0.214
Behavior management (percent)	92.7	79.6	13.1	0.186	96.9*	81.1	15.7	0.022	94.1	85.8	8.3	0.179

See notes at end of table.

Table 2.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—ABC—Continued

Panel 2: Engagement in any activities to promote SACD goals for at least 1 hour per week

SACD activity	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	63	73			50	67			51	64		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	32.9	44.0	-11.2	0.341	41.0	37.2	3.8	0.797	27.5	34.9	-7.4	0.537
Social and emotional development (percent)	40.4	54.5	-14.0	0.314	38.2	34.9	3.2	0.827	33.2	29.6	3.5	0.748
Character education (percent)	45.5	50.2	-4.7	0.747	61.2^	34.1	27.0	0.059	38.5	34.6	4.0	0.723
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	30.8	38.7	-7.9	0.568	23.2	22.2	1.0	0.913	20.1	19.9	0.3	0.968
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	38.9	46.7	-7.8	0.433	22.9	37.5	-14.6	0.304	17.1	17.2	0.0	0.996
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	25.4	20.1	5.4	0.522	15.6	14.1	1.5	0.886	14.0	14.0	0.0	0.997
Any SACD goal (percent)	74.8	80.1	-5.3	0.560	77.6	78.3	-0.7	0.952	84.0	79.6	4.4	0.567
Behavior management (percent)	78.8	61.5	17.3	0.232	79.9	68.7	11.2	0.454	79.4	73.8	5.6	0.527

See notes at end of table.

Table 2.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—ABC—Continued

Panel 3: Engagement in activities to promote SACD goals linked to named SACD programs

SACD activity	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	63	73			50	67			51	64		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	30.8	28.9	1.8	0.856	26.2	30.2	-4.0	0.670	14.1	24.9	-10.9	0.280
Social and emotional development (percent)	28.1	12.5	15.6	0.160	28.4	17.6	10.8	0.264	9.8	16.7	-7.0	0.474
Character education (percent)	33.1	20.6	12.5	0.317	25.9	13.6	12.3	0.219	11.6	13.9	-2.3	0.768
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	20.0	10.1	9.8	0.233	19.4	6.8	12.6	0.125	8.0	7.9	0.2	0.979
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	21.7	37.2	-15.5	0.156	21.8	37.1	-15.3	0.252	17.1	16.3	0.8	0.941
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	‡	‡	1.6	0.717	‡^	‡	9.7	0.059	9.8	8.1	1.7	0.773
Any named activity (percent)	50.8	55.2	-4.4	0.742	42.7	55.1	-12.4	0.244	31.1	46.6	-15.6	0.283

See notes at end of table.

Table 2.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—ABC—Continued

Panel 4: Engagement in activities to promote SACD goals linked to named SACD programs for at least 1 hour per week

SACD activity	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	63	73			50	67			51	64		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	25.2	18.4	6.7	0.381	21.8	24.9	-3.2	0.735	8.6	13.4	-4.8	0.537
Social and emotional development (percent)	23.6	7.8	15.8	0.141	20.7	11.5	9.2	0.327	6.3	10.0	-3.7	0.553
Character education (percent)	21.9	13.6	8.3	0.420	25.4 [^]	8.9	16.5	0.073	7.2	9.3	-2.1	0.767
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	8.4	4.3	4.1	0.397	13.7 [^]	3.9	9.8	0.073	‡	‡	-0.8	0.760
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	13.3 [^]	29.1	-15.7	0.088	15.8	25.5	-9.7	0.464	5.3	7.3	-2.0	0.706
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	5.3	3.5	1.8	0.690	‡	‡	2.9	0.348	4.1	0.0	4.1	†
Any named activity (percent)	34.4	44.5	-10.1	0.410	32.2	41.0	-8.7	0.498	14.5	20.5	-6.0	0.606

† Not applicable.

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

[^] Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.¹ In Year 1, the omnibus impact for all the outcomes measured together was positive and statistically significant on the basis of a multivariate statistical test.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. The number of results found significant was no more than expected by chance.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Use of Materials and Strategies

For use of materials and strategies to support SACD goals, 87 comparisons were made, with 4 expected to be significant by chance. A significant impact was found on treatment teachers' use of giveaways in Year 2 (impact = 31 percentage points) (table 2.14). Regarding use of instructional techniques, significantly greater percentages of treatment teachers reported using journaling in Year 1 (impact = 17 percentage points), behavior honor roll in Year 2 (impact = 32 percentage points), and mentoring in Year 3 (impact = 17 percentage points). No significant impact on the domain of materials and strategies was found in any year.

Table 2.14. Impacts on use of SACD classroom materials and teaching strategies—ABC

SACD material and teaching strategy	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	(Spring 3rd grade)				(Spring 4th grade)				(Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	63	73			50	67			51	64		
Use of SACD materials (percent)												
Teacher guides (manuals, curricula)	57.9	64.4	-6.5	0.578	57.7	64.7	-7.0	0.528	50.6	47.8	2.8	0.796
Student materials (workbooks or sheets)	49.6	63.1	-13.5	0.295	57.3	68.0	-10.6	0.261	51.8	51.3	0.5	0.957
Instructional aids (games, software, videos)	38.3	43.6	-5.3	0.644	37.0	31.2	5.8	0.581	26.9	29.9	-3.0	0.768
Giveaways (bookmarks, stickers)	58.4	51.9	6.5	0.571	77.3*	46.0	31.2	0.015	61.2^	43.5	17.7	0.099
Children's literature	62.6	47.0	15.6	0.138	58.2	50.4	7.8	0.518	48.5	38.8	9.7	0.420
Other types of materials	6.5	10.0	-3.5	0.563	10.9	11.4	-0.5	0.937	10.4	11.1	-0.6	0.924
Did not use any of these materials	7.7	9.3	-1.6	0.818	‡	‡	-7.7	0.179	13.5	19.2	-5.7	0.336
Use of teaching strategies (percent)												
Role-playing	77.3	76.3	1.0	0.941	84.8	74.1	10.7	0.316	77.9	71.5	6.4	0.489
Cooperative learning	97.6	96.6	1.0	0.761	100.0	97.9	2.1	†	100.0	98.9	1.1	†
Peer group discussions	85.5	89.6	-4.1	0.513	85.0	89.9	-4.9	0.554	94.9	87.6	7.3	0.190
Direct instruction of SACD	82.1	78.9	3.2	0.755	79.7	67.5	12.2	0.471	90.4	81.7	8.7	0.287
Skill training	44.9	50.5	-5.6	0.685	47.7	37.4	10.3	0.395	66.3	59.7	6.5	0.437
Incorporating SACD into academic curriculum	82.5	79.7	2.8	0.776	80.6	71.6	9.1	0.368	82.3	80.6	1.7	0.848
Parent training	7.1	7.2	-0.1	0.977	17.8	8.3	9.5	0.186	13.0	12.8	0.2	0.984
Parent and community involvement	20.6	20.7	-0.1	0.988	23.7	10.6	13.1	0.150	39.1	33.9	5.2	0.546
Mentoring	39.1	41.6	-2.6	0.814	46.5	39.9	6.7	0.518	59.9*	42.7	17.2	0.036
Good behavior notes sent home daily or weekly	96.2^	80.4	15.9	0.053	91.3^	72.5	18.8	0.072	94.4	86.4	8.0	0.254
Presenting role models	74.3	84.5	-10.2	0.344	82.0^	70.2	11.8	0.066	78.2	78.3	-0.1	0.977

See notes at end of table.

Table 2.14. Impacts on use of SACD classroom materials and teaching strategies—ABC—Continued

SACD material and teaching strategy	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Use of teaching strategies (percent)— Continued												
Targeted story reading or writing on social and character development themes	80.4	76.2	4.3	0.656	79.2	77.2	2.0	0.825	87.7	80.7	7.0	0.278
Peer mediation	35.7	47.8	-12.1	0.170	52.9^	34.5	18.4	0.071	62.0	51.7	10.3	0.278
Honor roll for positive behavior	71.2	57.9	13.3	0.471	76.0*	43.8	32.1	0.037	79.0	65.9	13.1	0.259
Pledges or recitations on social and character development themes	39.4	56.3	-16.9	0.257	34.9	45.2	-10.3	0.542	32.8	61.3	-28.5	0.105
Guided visualization	49.3	53.6	-4.3	0.740	49.1	41.9	7.1	0.588	51.8	51.1	0.7	0.900
Student-led/student-assisted instruction	60.2	50.9	9.3	0.218	53.4	47.8	5.6	0.491	65.7	54.2	11.5	0.306
Journaling	90.4*	73.4	17.0	0.014	83.0	65.6	17.5	0.176	84.6	76.7	7.9	0.290
Time out for negative behavior	78.4	82.6	-4.3	0.725	78.9	73.1	5.8	0.458	90.6	82.9	7.7	0.408
Daily or weekly rewards for positive behavior	97.1	93.7	3.3	0.441	95.0	88.4	6.6	0.297	100.0	94.4	5.6	†
Any strategy	100.0	100.0	†	†	100.0	100.0	0.0	†	100.0	100.0	0.0	†
Number of strategies (mean)	13.0	12.9	0.0	0.980	13.3	11.5	1.8	0.163	14.2	13.4	0.8	0.258

† Not applicable

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

^ Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. The number of results found significant was no more than expected by chance.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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Regarding the use of schoolwide strategies, 18 comparisons were made between treatment and control teacher reports, with 1 expected to be significant by chance. In Year 1, a significantly greater percentage of treatment teachers reported that their schools used three of five specific schoolwide strategies (these data are not shown in a table): newspapers or bulletins (impact = 29 percentage points), special school days (impact = 16 percentage points), and special events (impact = 24 percentage points). In Years 2 and 3, no significant impacts were found for the individual schoolwide strategies. ABC did have a significant impact on the domain of schoolwide strategies in Year 1.

Participation in Professional Development

Regarding reported participation in professional development, 27 comparisons were made over 3 years, with 1 expected to be significant by chance. In all 3 years, the intervention had no statistically significant effects on teachers' participation in professional development for activities related to social and character development overall or on training for specific SACD goals (table 2.15). No significant impacts were found on the domain in all 3 years.

Table 2.15. Impacts on teacher-reported SCD professional development—ABC

	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
SACD professional development												
Teacher sample size	63	73			50	67			51	64		
SACD training in past 12 months (percent)	77.3	61.9	15.3	0.293	51.4	46.8	4.6	0.713	40.4	37.9	2.5	0.799
Hours of SACD training (mean)	9.8	8.3	1.4	0.682	7.4	7.2	0.2	0.993	2.5	2.6	-0.2	0.854
Training by goal (percent)												
Violence prevention and peace promotion	13.8	27.7	-13.9	0.154	17.9	14.6	3.2	0.732	13.1	8.4	4.7	0.578
Social and emotional development	23.6	27.4	-3.8	0.751	14.3	14.6	-0.4	0.966	‡	‡	-6.2	0.251
Character education	33.7	39.3	-5.6	0.691	16.2	19.6	-3.4	0.694	9.1	14.3	-5.2	0.464
Tolerance and diversity	9.1	19.4	-10.3	0.223	13.3	19.0	-5.6	0.505	‡	‡	1.6	0.749
Risk prevention and health promotion	6.5	16.6	-10.1	0.110	10.3	5.5	4.8	0.321	13.9	4.3	9.6	0.164
Civic responsibility and community service	6.5	4.4	2.1	0.679	10.6	6.1	4.6	0.440	‡	‡	0.7	0.794
Behavior management	53.6	31.6	21.9	0.211	28.6	25.6	3.0	0.829	16.9	20.0	-3.2	0.704

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

NOTE: No findings were found statistically significant at or below the .05 level. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Attitudes and Practices

Teachers reported on their enthusiasm for SCD efforts in their schools (these data are not shown in a table) by indicating enthusiasm, cooperation, or open dislike. They also reported on the SCD practices of teachers and staff members in their schools (these data are not shown in a table). These practices included modeling positive character and behavior traits with students and fellow teachers, involving students in making decisions, giving students a voice in school governance, the school encouraging parent involvement in children's social and character development, and using developmentally appropriate discipline strategies rather than punishment for misbehavior. In each year, 9 comparisons were made between treatment and control teachers on attitudes and practices (27 total), with 1 expected to be significant by chance. In Year 1 there was a statistically significant negative impact on enthusiasm (impact = -5 percentage points). There were significant positive impacts on encouraging parent involvement in Years 2 and 3 (impact = 20 and 37 percentage points) and on developmentally appropriate discipline strategies in Year 2 (impact = 26 percentage points). ABC had a significant positive effect on the domain in Year 3.

Year-by-Year Impacts on Students and Perceptions of School Climate

The primary research question for the ABC evaluation was this:

What is the average effect of the ABC program on children's social and emotional competence, behavior, academics, and perceptions of school climate?

The first approach to answering this question was to examine the year-by-year impacts of ABC on these student and school climate outcomes over the 3 years as the students progressed from third through fifth grades.

Equation (2) (described in chapter 1) was estimated to provide ABC's impacts on the 20 outcomes based on data from the 12 treatment and control schools. For the ABC evaluation, equation (2) excluded the program fixed effects (θ_j) and included program-specific covariates and random school effects covariates. Table 2.16 lists the covariates used with outcomes from each report in the ABC analysis.

Table 2.16. Covariates used with outcomes from each report for analysis—ABC

Potential covariate	CR outcome	PCR outcome	TRS outcome	TRCS outcome
Total number	11	13	24	8
Child-reported				
Female	✓	✓	✓	
Hispanic	✓	✓	✓	
Black (non-Hispanic)	✓	✓	✓	
Other ethnicity	✓	✓	✓	
Age in years	✓	✓	✓	
Scales				
Afraid at School			✓	
Altruistic Behavior	✓		✓	
Empathy				
Engagement with Learning			✓	
Negative School Orientation	✓			
Normative Beliefs About Aggression				
Sense of School as a Community			✓	
Problem Behavior				
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions		✓		
Victimization at School				
Primary caregiver-reported				
Age in years		✓	✓	
Completed high school or equivalent				
Some college				
Bachelor's or higher degree				
Highest level of education in household				
Completed high school or equivalent			✓	
Some college			✓	
Bachelor's or higher degree			✓	
Mother present in home life		✓	✓	
Mother and father present		✓	✓	
Respondent someone other than mother or father		✓	✓	
Number of people in household			✓	
Household income: \$20,000 to \$40,000				
Household income: \$40,000 to \$60,000				
Household income: More than \$60,000				
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio: Below 135 percent				
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio: 135 to 185 percent				
Full-time employment	✓		✓	
Part-time employment	✓		✓	

See notes at end of table.

Table 2.16. Covariates used with outcomes from each report for analysis—ABC—Continued

Potential covariate	CR outcome	PCR outcome	TRS outcome	TRCS outcome
Parental scales				
APQ-Poor Monitoring and Supervision Subscale	✓	✓	✓	
APQ-Positive Parenting Subscale				
Child-Centered Social Control				
Confusion, Hubbub, and Order		✓	✓	
Community Resources				
Community Risk				
Parent and Teacher Involvement				
Child scales				
Altruistic Behavior				
Positive Social Behavior	✓	✓	✓	
Problem Behavior				
Teacher-reported				
Female				✓
Hispanic				✓
Black (non-Hispanic)				✓
Other ethnicity				✓
Total teaching experience				✓
Total experience in current school				
Regular certificate				✓
Other certificate				✓
Highest degree—bachelor's				✓
Child scales				
Academic Competence and Motivation				
ADHD-Related Behavior				
Altruistic Behavior				
Positive Social Behavior				
Problem Behavior			✓	
Parent and Teacher Involvement				

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

APQ: Alabama Parenting Questionnaire

✓: Covariate used

Blank cell: Covariate not used

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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To assess the statistical power of the program-level impact estimates, minimum detectable impacts in effect size units (MDES) for each outcome measure were calculated for the ABC evaluation (table 2.17). MDES represent the smallest impacts in effect size (standard deviation) units that can be detected with a high probability (80%). MDES are primarily a function of study sample sizes, the degrees of freedom available for statistical tests, and design effects due to clustering (Schochet 2005). For the ABC evaluation, the MDES ranged from 0.110 to 0.551 for the child-level outcomes and from 0.396 to 0.629 for the perception of school climate outcomes based on the Teacher Report on Classroom and School. In general, the MDES for the school climate outcomes were larger than those for the child-level outcomes.

Table 2.17. Adjusted minimum detectable effect sizes for impact evaluation—ABC

Outcome measure—Report	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Social and Emotional Competence Domain			
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interaction—CR	0.110	0.130	0.173
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR	0.159	0.159	0.315
Empathy—CR	0.133	0.225	0.262
Behavior Domain			
Altruistic Behavior—CR	0.155	0.110	0.124
Altruistic Behavior—PCR	0.189	0.170	0.236
Altruistic Behavior—TRS	0.214	0.551	0.353
Positive Social Behavior—PCR	0.166	0.148	0.130
Positive Social Behavior—TRS	0.190	0.423	0.381
Problem Behavior—CR	0.221	0.184	0.244
Problem Behavior—PCR	0.231	0.167	0.143
Problem Behavior—TRS	0.297	0.295	0.304
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS	0.297	0.381	0.402
Academics Domain			
Engagement with Learning—CR	0.181	0.110	0.175
Academic Competence and Motivation—TRS	0.149	0.189	0.320
Perceptions of School Climate Domain			
Positive School Orientation—CR	0.163	0.311	0.320
Negative School Orientation—CR	0.110	0.189	0.286
Student Afraid at School—CR	0.242	0.240	0.243
Victimization at School—CR	0.156	0.110	0.211
Feelings of Safety—TRCS	0.491	0.396	0.586
Student Support for Teachers—TRCS	0.474	0.474	0.629

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The minimum detectable effect (MDE) formula used in the calculations is as follows:

$$MDE = factor(df) * \sqrt{\rho_1 \left(\frac{1}{s_T} + \frac{1}{s_C} \right) + (1 - \rho_1) \left(\frac{1}{s_T n_T} + \frac{1}{s_C n_C} \right)}$$

where s_T and s_C are the number of treatment and comparison schools; n_T and n_C are the average number of students per classroom; ρ_1 is the intraclass correlation (ICC) at the school level; and $factor(df)$ is a constant that depends on the number of degrees of freedom (df) available for analysis (and is 2.802 for the pooled analysis).

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Chapter 2. Academic and Behavioral Competencies Program

Table 2.18 provides the estimates of ABC's impacts on each of the 20 outcomes over each of the 3 years (60 comparisons in total, with 3 expected to be statistically significant by chance). Of the 60 results, 5 were statistically significant, with 4 having beneficial impacts. ABC had a significant positive impact on third-graders' Altruistic Behavior (Teacher Report on Student, effect size [ES] = 0.39); on fourth-graders' Academic Competence and Motivation (Teacher Report on Student, ES = 0.31) and Feelings of Safety (Teacher Report on Classroom and School, ES = 0.75); and on fifth-graders' Positive Social Behavior (Primary Caregiver Report, ES = 0.21). A negative impact was found on fourth-graders' Altruistic Behavior (Child Report, ES = -0.20). ABC had two beneficial impacts that were substantively important but not statistically significant: (1) on fourth-graders' Student Support for Teachers (Teacher Report on Classroom and School, ES = 0.27) and (2) on fifth-graders' Feelings of Safety (Teacher Report on Classroom and School, ES = 0.31). Application of the heuristics to adjust for multiple comparisons within each outcome domain indicated significant beneficial impacts on the domains of Academics and Perceptions of School Climate in Year 2.

Table 2.18. Impacts on child and school outcomes—ABC

Scale—Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value
Social and Emotional Competence Domain												
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions—CR (+)	3.15	3.11	0.06	0.464	3.31	3.29	0.03	0.770	3.31	3.23	0.11	0.315
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR (-)	1.35	1.30	0.09	0.440	1.39	1.29	0.18	0.141	1.51	1.51	0.00	0.981
Empathy—CR (+)	2.27	2.26	0.02	0.823	2.08	2.19	-0.21	0.144	2.00	2.01	-0.03	0.859
Behavior Domain												
Altruistic Behavior—CR (+)	1.29	1.35	-0.07	0.449	0.94*	1.09	-0.20	0.029	1.01	0.98	0.04	0.656
Altruistic Behavior—PCR (+)	2.25	2.15	0.15	0.249	2.14	2.19	-0.06	0.595	2.28	2.32	-0.04	0.767
Altruistic Behavior—TRS (+)	1.44*	1.29	0.39	0.026	1.24	1.26	-0.03	0.914	1.21	1.22	-0.05	0.789
Positive Social Behavior—PCR (+)	2.96	2.96	0.00	0.993	3.06^	2.96	0.16	0.071	3.06*	2.94	0.21	0.041
Positive Social Behavior—TRS (+)	2.90	2.89	0.02	0.800	3.01	3.02	-0.01	0.962	3.03	3.16	-0.19	0.406
Problem Behavior—CR (-)	0.36	0.34	0.04	0.713	0.33	0.36	-0.05	0.659	0.51	0.53	-0.03	0.812
Problem Behavior—PCR (-)	1.60	1.60	0.00	0.976	1.56	1.61	-0.11	0.229	1.58	1.61	-0.08	0.465
Problem Behavior—TRS (-)	1.53	1.52	0.03	0.850	1.43	1.46	-0.07	0.655	1.54	1.44	0.21	0.262
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS (-)	1.84	1.85	-0.01	0.958	1.69	1.77	-0.13	0.525	1.72	1.62	0.17	0.447
Academics Domain ¹												
Engagement with Learning—CR (+)	3.61	3.61	0.00	0.986	3.68	3.63	0.10	0.281	3.58	3.58	0.00	0.964
Academic Competence and Motivation— TRS (+)	2.81	2.79	0.03	0.719	2.92*	2.65	0.31	0.011	2.76	2.77	-0.02	0.924

See notes at end of table.

Table 2.18. Impacts on child and school outcomes—ABC—Continued

Scale–Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value
Perceptions of School Climate Domain ²												
Positive School Orientation–CR (+)	2.82	2.94	-0.17	0.143	2.67	2.61	0.07	0.668	2.41	2.45	-0.05	0.773
Negative School Orientation–CR (-)	1.94	1.85	0.16	0.108	1.97	1.96	0.01	0.963	2.16	2.12	0.07	0.680
Student Afraid at School–CR (-)	2.23	2.28	-0.06	0.707	2.21	2.36	-0.17	0.263	2.19	2.35	-0.19	0.218
Victimization at School–CR (-)	0.74	0.81	-0.08	0.417	0.58	0.66	-0.11	0.213	0.66	0.82	-0.19	0.151
Feelings of Safety–TRCS (+)	3.42	3.25	0.21	0.353	3.59*	2.97	0.75	0.003	3.29	3.03	0.31°	0.235
Student Support for Teachers–TRCS (+)	3.27	3.28	0.00	0.979	3.48	3.26	0.27°	0.276	3.25	3.21	0.05	0.847

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

^ Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

° Substantive (but nonsignificant at .05 level) effect size of $\geq .25$ or $\leq -.25$.

¹ In Year 2, at least half of the impacts were positive and statistically significant and no impact was negative and statistically significant based on univariate statistical tests. In addition, at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts.

² In Year 2, at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All Impact estimates were calculated using regression models, where each program and school within a program was weighted equally. The standard errors of all estimates account for design effects due to unequal weighting and the clustering of students within schools. The effect size was calculated by dividing the estimated Impact by the standard deviation of the outcome measure for the control group. See table 1.5 for information about the measures used to create the outcome variables.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Impacts on Child Outcomes Over Time

ABC impacts on the child outcomes over time were estimated using growth curve models by examining treatment and control group differences in the trajectories of student outcomes during the follow-up period while accounting for clustering at the school level. The growth curve models are estimated using a three-level hierarchical linear model, where Level 1 corresponds to time, Level 2 to students, and Level 3 to schools (described in chapter 1).

Table 2.19 provides the estimates of the ABC impacts on the growth in student outcomes over the 3 years. The estimated impacts range in effect size units (absolute value) from 0.01 to 0.12. ABC did not have a statistically significant effect on any of the 18 estimated impacts (1 is expected to be significant by chance).

Table 2.19. Impacts on growth of child outcomes—ABC

Scale–Report	Mean score at implementation ²	Average growth in the score per year ¹					
		Treatment	Control	Impact on growth ³	Effect size ⁴	Standard error of impact	p-value of impact
Social and Emotional Competence Domain							
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions–CR (+)	3.05	0.13	0.07	0.06	0.07	0.03	0.116
Normative Beliefs About Aggression–CR (-)	1.28	0.10^	0.02	0.08	0.12	0.04	0.078
Empathy–CR (+)	2.35	-0.15^	-0.10	-0.05	-0.11	0.03	0.096
Behavior Domain							
Altruistic Behavior–CR (+)	1.47	-0.20	-0.21	0.01	0.01	0.05	0.908
Altruistic Behavior–PCR (+)	2.29	-0.04	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	0.04	0.654
Altruistic Behavior–TRS (+)	1.33	-0.06	-0.01	-0.05	-0.10	0.05	0.325
Positive Social Behavior–PCR (+)	2.91	0.05^	0.00	0.05	0.08	0.03	0.097
Positive Social Behavior–TRS (+)	2.89	0.05	0.11	-0.07	-0.08	0.06	0.293
Problem Behavior–CR (-)	0.29	0.08	0.06	0.02	0.04	0.03	0.451
Problem Behavior–PCR (-)	1.63	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	-0.02	0.02	0.611
Problem Behavior–TRS (-)	1.45	0.05^	-0.01	0.06	0.11	0.03	0.057
ADHD-Related Behavior–TRS (-)	1.84	-0.06	-0.05	0.00	-0.01	0.06	0.935
Academics Domain							
Engagement with Learning–CR (+)	3.64	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.04	0.835
Academic Competence and Motivation–TRS (+)	2.70	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.05	0.858
See notes at end of table.							

See notes at end of table.

Table 2.19. Impacts on growth of child outcomes—ABC—Continued

Scale—Report	Mean score at implementation ²	Average growth in the score per year ¹					
		Treatment	Control	Impact on growth ³	Effect size ⁴	Standard error of impact	p-value of impact
Perceptions of School Climate Domain							
Positive School Orientation—CR (+)	3.12	-0.27	-0.22	-0.05	-0.06	0.05	0.343
Negative School Orientation—CR (-)	1.85	0.09	0.07	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.691
Student Afraid at School—CR (-)	2.29	-0.02	0.02	-0.04	-0.04	0.06	0.484
Victimization at School—CR (-)	0.74	-0.03	0.01	-0.05	-0.05	0.04	0.248

¹ Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

² Pertains to the estimated slope of the outcome for the treatment or control groups.

³ The average score at implementation is calculated across treatment and control groups, using regression models for adjustment on covariates.

⁴ Estimated difference between the slope of the treatment and control groups.

⁵ Effect size: the slope of the treatment group minus the slope of the control group divided by the standard deviation of the outcome for the program's control group (the standard deviation is calculated without accounting for school-level clustering or regression adjustments).

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

No findings were found statistically significant at or below the .05 level. The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All Impact estimates were calculated using HLM 6.06. Sample weights were used in all analyses to give (1) each school equal weight in each program (within each time period) and (2) each time period equal weight within the analysis. See table 1.5 for information about the measures used to create the outcome variables.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Summary

As part of the Social and Character Development (SACD) initiative, researchers at the Buffalo site implemented and evaluated the ABC program, which consists of multiple components related to classroom behavior management and teaching and promoting social skills. Twelve public schools in three school districts in upstate New York were recruited by the Buffalo research team and randomly assigned to treatment and control conditions to determine the impact of ABC on social and character development activities in the schools and on the child outcome domains of Social and Emotional Competence, Behavior, Academics, and Perceptions of School Climate.

Analyses of the initial characteristics of the sample (students, caregivers, communities, teachers, and schools) indicated that randomization to treatment and control status produced groups that were similar on the observed characteristics near the start of the study (none of the comparisons were statistically significantly different). Documentation of the initial level of social and character development activities in the schools revealed six differences between the treatment and control teachers and classrooms, more than would be expected by chance.

The data on the initial level of SACD activity led to two findings. First, treatment teachers reported greater use of and training in SACD activities than did control teachers, and they did so more often than would be expected by chance. There are two potential causes for this finding, and the analysis cannot be used to determine whether the reason for such a difference was that the two groups did differ on their initial use of SACD activities (i.e., that randomization did not create similar treatment and control groups) or the fact that the training of all treatment teachers and the implementation of the program before the initial data were collected influenced the teacher reports (program implementation began at the treatment schools on average 6 weeks before the fall 2004 data collection occurred). Because it is likely (though unproven) that the training and implementation affected the teacher reports, these data were not considered appropriate for use as a baseline measure of SACD activities and training in the treatment schools.

Second, these data indicated that the control condition for the SACD project was not a “no treatment” control but a “standard practice” control. Because the control teachers were not affected by the implementation of the SACD programs before data collection, their reports reflect standard practice in the control schools. Standard practice at the control schools included reports of 55 percent to 88 percent of teachers using SACD activities, 88 percent of teachers reporting the use of specific materials in conjunction with these activities, 100 percent reporting the use of at least one of the specified instructional strategies, and 71 percent reporting participation in SACD training over the past 12 months.

Analyses of ABC impacts on the use of SACD activities in the schools revealed few differences between treatment and control schools. Five of the 90 program impacts on SACD activities, 4 of the 87 impacts on SACD materials and strategies, 3 of the 18 impacts on schoolwide strategies, and 4 of the 27 impacts on attitudes and practices (1 negative) were statistically significant. No impacts on professional development were found in any of the years.

Of the 20 child-level outcomes representing the four domains of Social and Emotional Competence, Behavior, Academics, and Perceptions of School Climate assessed in each of the 3 years of the study (a total of 60 results), 5 were statistically significant. One of these 5 was a detrimental impact and 4 were beneficial impacts. There were no effects of the ABC program over time as assessed using growth curve models.

The SACD evaluation did not find evidence to support the hypothesis that the ABC program had beneficial impacts on students’ social and character development. These results could have been due to the inability of the program to cause such change, possibly because the theory of action was incomplete or because the activities to carry out that theory were not effective.

Chapter 2. Academic and Behavioral Competencies Program

These results may also be due to the inability of the evaluation to observe such an impact due to the control condition, the level of nonparticipation, or the sample size. The control schools continued using their standard SACD activities, and these turned out to be high in quantity and broad in scope. New York passed the Safe Schools Against Violence in Education Act of 2001 to encourage districts to promote instruction in civility, citizenship, and character education, and this may have been a factor in high SACD activity in the control schools. The high level of control school activity, combined with relatively few significant impacts by the ABC program on the use of SACD activities in the treatment schools, may have caused the resulting difference in the amount of SACD activities between the treatment and control schools to be too small to cause significant differences in the student outcomes. In addition, about one-third of the students in the sample universe did not take part because of nonconsent or noncompletion of the surveys. As a determination could not be made as to whether these students significantly differed from those who did take part, the evaluation's results are valid only for the students who took part. If the students not taking part were different, and if they would have responded better to the ABC program than to the SACD activities occurring in the control schools, then the evaluation could have underestimated the program's impact. Also, the sample size of 12 schools and the resulting higher MDES compared to those for the multiprogram evaluation may have reduced the likelihood of detecting statistically significant effects. However, it should be noted that 58 percent of the MDES for the 60 outcomes used in the year-by-year analysis were below 0.25 (47% were below 0.20). In addition, only 2 of the 60 outcomes were found to be substantively important.

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Chapter 3. Competence Support Program

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (North Carolina Site)

Intervention

Researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (North Carolina site) implemented and evaluated the *Competence Support Program* (CSP). The program, developed at the School of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is a combination of three programs: the *Making Choices* program (Fraser et al. 2000), the *Competence Enhancement Behavior Management* program (Farmer et al. 2006), and the *Social Dynamics Training* program (Farmer 2000). It is a universal, classroom-level intervention that functions as an add-on curriculum made up of scripted lessons and training for teachers in behavior management and social dynamics. Table 3.1 describes CSP's general characteristics (panel 1), the types of instruction and strategies used (panel 2), the professional development provided for those implementing the program (panel 3), and the social and character development activities (panel 4) and outcomes (panel 5) addressed by the program.

- In the third grade, the *Making Choices* curriculum consists of 28 scripted lessons that focus on social problem solving and involve learning about emotions and feelings, identifying social cues, making sense of social cues, setting social goals, choosing options, making choices, and acting on choices. The third grade is considered a keystone year. In the first and second grades, the *Making Choices* curriculum includes eight scripted lessons per year that prepare children for the third-grade program and focus on emotions and simple emotion regulation techniques (e.g., stop and think). In the fourth and fifth grades, the program consists of eight scripted lessons per year that focus on the application of problem-solving skills to routine peer situations (e.g., social aggression and bullying). Across all grades, teachers engage students by using a variety of learning strategies—story reading, discussion, role-playing, worksheets, art projects, and games. Lessons are designed to last approximately 45 minutes.
- The *Competence Enhancement Behavior Management* component is an in-service training and direct consultation program for teachers and is developed from evidenced-based behavioral and ecological best practices for promoting positive classroom behavior. It includes training in establishing proactive behavior management aims and goals, establishing productive classroom routines and structures, teaching and reinforcing alternative behaviors, building supportive relationships, communicating with troubled students, using constructive discipline and natural consequences, and preventing and managing behavioral crises.
- *Social Dynamics Training* is an in-service teacher training and consultation model that includes training teachers to recognize the influence of peer social structures on students' behavior and to manage classroom social dynamics. Teachers are trained to monitor and intervene in processes of social aggression, prevent the establishment of social hierarchies that promote jealousy and conflict, prevent social roles that promote aggression and violence (e.g., bullies), and monitor and prevent the establishment of antisocial and enemy peer groups.

Table 3.1. Competence Support Program

Panel 1: General characteristics

Target population

Universal

Program components

Peer: In and out of class

Parent: None

Classroom: Lessons, behavior management, and social dynamics

Schoolwide: None or not major focus

Community: None or not major focus

Training: Pretraining and ongoing for teachers and counselors

Level of integration

Add-on curriculum

Flexibility

Manualized: Scripted lessons for teachers

Adaptability: Teachers may adapt program to setting

See notes at end of table.

Panel 2: Description of instruction and strategies

Classroom

Lessons

Who delivers: Teacher

Activities and tools: Story reading, discussion, role-playing, worksheets, games, artifacts (e.g., turtle puppet), art projects

Content: Problem solving, emotion identification and regulation, identifying social cues, goal formation, choosing options, behavior regulation

Frequency: 45 minutes, once per week, 28 lessons

Strategies

Who delivers: Teacher

Activities and tools: Prevention of social hierarchies that promote conflict, social reinforcement for positive behavior

Frequency: Daily

Supplement to classroom

None

Schoolwide activities

None

See notes at end of table.

Table 3.1. Competence Support Program—Continued

Panel 3: Professional development

Pre-implementation

Teachers

Content: Training on curriculum implementation, behavior management, and social dynamics*Duration:* 4 hours

Other

Content: Principal consultation on development of schoolwide management policy*Duration:* As requested

Ongoing consultation

Teachers

Content: Consultation on use of program materials*Duration:* 2 times per month

Other

Content: None*Duration:* None

See notes at end of table.

Panel 4: Activities for SACD goals

Violence prevention and peace promotion	✓	Risk prevention and health promotion	
Social and emotional development	✓	Civic responsibility and community service	
Character education		Behavior management	✓
Tolerance and diversity			

See notes at end of table.

Panel 5: SACD outcomes addressed

Engagement with Learning	✓	Empathy	✓
Academic Competence and Motivation		Positive School Orientation	
Altruistic Behavior		Negative School Orientation	
Positive Social Behavior	✓	Student Afraid at School	
Problem Behavior	✓	Victimization at School	✓
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions	✓	Feelings of Safety	
Normative Beliefs About Aggression	✓	Student Support for Teachers	✓

NOTE: Abbreviations are

✓: Activity or outcome addressed

Blank cell: Activity or outcome not addressed

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Chapter 3. Competence Support Program

- Teachers receive 4 hours of training on curriculum implementation, behavior management strategies, and social dynamics. Principals receive consultation on the development of schoolwide management policy, as requested. Teachers receive consultations on the use of program materials twice a month.
- Consultation to school staff is a standard element of CSP. This consultation is provided by school personnel, such as guidance counselors, master teachers, school psychologists, or school social workers, who are trained to be program specialists.

Sample and Random Assignment

The North Carolina research team recruited a total of 10 public elementary schools in 2 school districts in 2 counties in North Carolina. The 10 schools were randomly assigned to treatment and control conditions prior to the fall 2004 data collection.⁴⁷ A two-step process was used. First, a computer-generated pairwise matching algorithm developed by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (MPR) was used to identify the best pairwise matches across the 10 schools based on variables identified by the North Carolina research team. The variables used in the pairwise matching for North Carolina included (a) total number of students; (b) percentages of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch; (c) percentages of students who were White/Black/Hispanic/Other; (d) math achievement scores; and (e) reading achievement scores. Then, using the flip of a coin, 1 school in each matched pair was assigned to either the intervention or control condition, resulting in 5 schools receiving CSP and 5 schools acting as control schools and continuing to implement the social and character development activities that constituted their standard practice. Assignment to treatment or control condition was at the school level and therefore limited the risk of contamination between treatment and control classrooms.

All 10 schools remained in the study for the full 3 years; however, one K-5 school in the treatment group became a K-4 school and continued implementation of the intervention. The cohort of students from that school who were in fifth grade during the 2006-07 school year went to an intermediate school that had fifth and sixth grades. The intermediate school did not implement the intervention. These fifth-grade students who were part of the original cohort were followed to their intermediate school, and they, their primary caregivers, and their fifth-grade teachers at the intermediate school provided data that were used in all analyses of the impact of CSP on children and on the use of activities related to social and character development in the schools. This change in grade configuration, which resulted in the absence of the intervention for that subgroup of fifth-graders and their teachers, should be noted when considering the results for the North Carolina site.

The original student sample (the cohort of students in the third grade in the 10 schools in fall 2004) numbered 959 students (476 treatment and 483 control). Table 3.2 documents the change in the sample over the 3 spring follow-up data collection periods. Over time, new entrants to the cohort became a larger percentage of the sample, eventually making up 24 percent of the sample by the spring of Year 3. In Year 2 there was a statistically significant difference between the treatment and control groups in the number of new entrants (in this case, fewer in the control group). The percentage of the sample made up of the original cohort further declined as students left the schools. By Year 3, approximately 25 percent of the original sample had left. In Years 2 and 3 there was a statistically significant difference between treatment and control groups, with a larger percentage of leavers in the treatment group.

⁴⁷ In Year 2 (fall 2005), the North Carolina research team recruited four more schools from an additional county, two assigned to treatment and two assigned to control, which were followed to the end of the study (spring 2007). A description of this second cohort and all relevant findings can be found in appendix A. The data from this second cohort are not included in the analyses and results reported in this chapter.

Table 3.2. Sample—CSP

Characteristic	Year 1 (Fall 3rd grade)			Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control
School sample size	10	5	5	10	5	5	10	5	5	10 ¹	5	5
Student sample size	959	476	483	975	485	490	969	474	495	947	458	489
Stayers	†	†	†	923	456	467	729	341	388	721	337	384
New entrants	†	†	†	52	29	23	240	133	107	226	121	105
New entrants as a percent of spring enrollment	†	†	†	5.3	6.0	4.7	24.8	28.1*	21.6	23.9	26.4	21.5
Total leavers (from original cohort)	†	†	†	36	20	16	230	135	95	238	139	99
Leavers as a percent of fall 2004 enrollment	†	†	†	3.8	4.2	3.3	24.0	28.4**	19.7	24.8	29.2**	20.5
Number of students per school (mean)	96	95	97	98	97	98	97	95	99	95	92	98
Range of number of students per school	46-148	85-106	46-148	47-155	86-117	47-155	46-144	84-121	46-144	47-139	73-105	47-139

† Not applicable.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

¹One of the treatment group schools that had been a K-5 school in prior years became a K-4 school and continued implementation of the intervention. The Cohort 1 students, who were in fifth grade during the 2006-07 school year, went to an intermediate school that had fifth and sixth grades. The intermediate school did not implement the intervention. These fifth-grade students, their primary caregivers, and their teachers were included in the spring 2007 data collection and all analyses based upon spring 2007 data.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Implementation

Training

The intervention teachers received 4 hours of program implementation training prior to or within the first 2 weeks of the beginning of the school year (see panel 3 of table 3.1). Teachers had access to ongoing program implementation support throughout the school year from two consultants. One consultant was a program specialist who focused on the *Making Choices Program*. She provided onsite consultation in the form of biweekly planning meetings with teachers to go over lesson content and to discuss any implementation issues. The second consultant, a program specialist for the *Competence Enhancement* and *Social Dynamics Training* components, conducted biweekly consultation meetings with teacher teams to discuss key concepts in program implementation and issues and strategies around specific case examples generated by the teachers. In addition, each program specialist met at least once per semester with each principal to report on program activities. These two consultants also consulted with principals on the development of schoolwide management policy on an as-needed basis.

Data Collection

MPR collected the child, teacher, and school data at the North Carolina site. Table 3.3 presents the data collection dates. Data were collected in the fall and spring of the first 2 years and the spring of Year 3. The fall 2004 data collection began on August 30, 2004, and ended on September 16, 2004. The average time frame from the beginning of program implementation to the beginning of fall data collection was 4 weeks. As a result, initial data collection took place after CSP implementation began. Therefore, these data provide a measure of the students, teachers, and schools near the beginning of the school year, at a time when CSP had been operating for a relatively short period of time. The spring data collection window was from April 11, 2005, to April 29, 2005. CSP had been implemented for 36 weeks at the time of the spring data collection and for 30 weeks from the end of the fall data collection. Year 2 followed a similar pattern, with implementation occurring at the start of the school year, fall data collection occurring 5 weeks later, and spring data collection occurring 27 weeks after fall data collection (and 35 weeks after the start of implementation). In spring 2007, data collection occurred 35 weeks after the start of implementation. During the 2005-06 and 2006-07 school years, one school operated on a year-round schedule. Data collection took from 3 to 5 weeks at each collection point.

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Table 3.3. Data collection dates—CSP

Data collection schedule	Year 1 (Fall 3rd grade)	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)	Year 2 (Fall 4th grade)	Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)	Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)
School sample size	10	10	10	10	10
School year dates					
First day of school	7/26/04 8/2/04 ¹	†	8/25/05 ²	†	8/25/06 ²
Start of implementation	8/4/04	†	First day	†	First day
Last day of school	†	5/24/05	†	5/23/06 ²	6/7/07 ^{2,3}
Data collection					
Start	8/30/04	4/11/05	9/26/05 ⁴	4/24/06	4/26/07
End	9/16/04	4/29/05	10/20/05	5/5/06	5/10/07
Calendar weeks from program implementation to start of fall 2004 data collection	4	†	†	†	†
Calendar weeks from start of school to start of fall data collection	5 ¹	†	5	†	†
Calendar weeks from end of fall data collection to start of spring data collection	†	30	†	27	†
Calendar weeks from program implementation to start of spring data collection	†	36	†	35	35 ²

† Not applicable.

¹ Five schools started on 7/26/04 and five started on 8/2/04. The calculation of weeks from the start of school to the start of fall 2004 data collection uses 7/26/04 as the first day of the school year.

² During the 2005-06 school year and the 2006-07 school year, one school operated on a year-round schedule.

³ Schools ended between 6/7/07 and 6/8/07, with most ending on 6/7/07.

⁴ Data collection at one school occurred 3 weeks earlier.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Consent Rates, Completion Rates, and Percentage of Sample With Data

The actual number of student, primary caregiver, and teacher reports available for analysis was smaller than the number in the sample because consent and completion rates were less than 100 percent. Primary caregivers had to provide consent before children could complete the Child Report, before their child's teacher could complete the Teacher Report on Student, and before they themselves completed the Primary Caregiver Report. Teachers also had to provide consent before completing the Teacher Report on Classroom and School. Of those with consent, not all completed their respective reports. Table 3.4 shows the consent rates, completion rates, and percentages of sample with data for each of the four reports over the 3 years. For the Child Report and the Teacher Report on Student, completion rates ranged from 91 percent to 100 percent. In Year 3, a significantly higher percentage of control than treatment students had consent for all three reports on students. For the Primary Caregiver Report, the completion rates dropped over time from 91 percent to 74 percent.

The percentages of the sample with Child Report data ranged from 59 percent to 71 percent over the 3 years, with a significantly higher percentage of control students having data in Year 3. The percentages of students with information from the Teacher Report on Student similarly ranged from 55 percent to 70 percent, with a significantly higher percentage of control students having data in Year 3. The percentages of students with data from the Primary Caregiver Report ranged from 43 percent to 63 percent and declined over time. In Year 1, the percentage of primary caregivers with data was significantly less in the treatment group than in the control group (56% versus 63%). The percentages of teachers with data from the Teacher Report on Classroom and School ranged from 78 percent to 95 percent.

Table 3.4. Consent rates, completion rates, and percentage of sample with data from each report—CSP

Report	Year 1 (Fall 3rd grade)			Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control
Student sample size	959	476	483	975	485	490	969	474	495	947	458 ³	489
Child Report (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate	70.0	68.7	71.2	69.4	68.7	70.2	68.5	67.3	69.7	66.4	60.0***	72.4
Student completion rate	92.5	91.4	93.6	97.6	97.9	97.4	97.0	98.4	95.7	98.4	98.5	98.3
Students with data ¹	64.8	62.8	66.6	67.8	67.2	68.4	66.5	66.2	66.7	65.4	59.2***	71.2
Primary Caregiver Report (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate	65.9	63.4	68.3	67.4	66.6	68.2	65.1	63.9	66.3	62.8	57.0***	68.3
Primary caregiver completion rate	90.5	88.7	92.1	80.1	76.5*	83.5	80.0	78.5	81.4	74.3	76.2	72.8
Primary caregivers with data ¹	59.6	56.3*	62.9	53.9	50.9	56.9	52.1	50.2	53.9	46.7	43.4	49.7
Teacher Report on Student (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate ²	70.0	68.7	71.2	69.4	68.7	70.2	68.5	67.3	69.7	66.4	60.0***	72.4
Teacher completion rate	94.9	93.3*	96.5	99.0	98.8	99.1	99.7	100.0	99.4	94.6	91.6***	96.9
Students with data ¹	66.4	64.1	68.7	68.7	67.8	69.6	68.3	67.3	69.3	62.8	55.0***	70.1
Teacher Report on Classroom and School (3rd- to 5th- grade teachers) (percent)												
Teacher consent rate	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.2	98.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Teacher completion rate	84.1	83.1	85.2	78.5	77.9	79.0	88.6	86.4	90.9	90.6	86.3	95.4
Teachers with data ¹	84.1	83.1	85.2	78.5	77.9	79.0	88.0	85.1	90.9	90.6	86.3	95.4

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

*** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .001 level.

¹ Calculated as consent rate x completion rate.

² The primary caregiver consent rates for the Child Report and the Teacher Report on Student are identical, as the primary caregiver gave consent to both together.

³ One of the treatment group schools that had been a K-5 school in prior years became a K-4 school and continued implementation of the intervention. The Cohort 1 students, who were in fifth grade during the 2006-07 school year, went to an intermediate school that had fifth and sixth grades. The intermediate school did not implement the intervention. These fifth-grade students, their primary caregivers, and their teachers were included in the spring 2007 data collection and all analyses based upon spring 2007 data.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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Responses from students in the original cohort (stayers) and new entrants in the CSP sample were examined to investigate possible differences between the two groups in consent rates, completion rates, and the percentages of sample with data that might affect outcome data (table 3.5). In Year 1, stayers completed more Child Reports than did new entrants (98% versus 93%), a statistically significant difference. In Years 2 and 3, primary caregivers of the stayers had significantly higher consent rates for both child and primary caregiver, which led to significantly higher percentages of data on all three reports in these 2 years for the stayers. The difference in consent rates for these two groups was significantly different by 14 to 35 percentage points.

Table 3.5. Consent rates, completion rates, and percentage of sample with data: Stayers versus new entrants—CSP

Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Total	Stayers	New entrants	Total	Stayers	New entrants	Total	Stayers	New entrants
Student sample size	975	923	52	969	729	240	947	721	226
Child Report (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate	69.4	69.0	76.9	68.5	77.2***	42.1	66.4	69.8***	55.8
Student completion rate	97.6	98.0*	92.5	97.0	97.0	97.0	98.4	98.4	98.4
Students with data ¹	67.8	67.6	71.2	66.5	74.9***	40.8	65.4	68.7***	54.9
Primary Caregiver Report (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate	67.4	67.0	75.0	65.1	73.8***	38.8	62.8	66.2***	52.2
Primary caregiver completion rate	80.1	80.1	79.5	80.0	81.2	73.1	75.1	75.1	75.4
Primary caregivers with data ¹	53.9	53.6	59.6	52.1	59.9***	28.3	47.2	49.7**	39.4
Teacher Report on Student (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate ²	69.4	69.0	76.9	68.5	77.2***	42.1	66.4	69.8***	55.8
Teacher completion rate	99.0	98.9	100.0	99.7	99.8	99.0	94.6	94.6	94.4
Students with data ¹	68.7	68.3	76.9	68.3	77.1***	41.7	62.8	66.0***	52.7

* Stayers significantly different from new entrants at the .05 level.

** Stayers significantly different from new entrants at the .01 level.

*** Stayers significantly different from new entrants at the .001 level.

¹ Calculated as consent rate x completion rate.

² The primary caregiver consent rates for the Child Report and the Teacher Report on Student are identical, as the primary caregiver gave consent to both together.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Fidelity of Implementation

Each year, CSP's five treatment schools were independently rated for quantity and quality of the program's implementation by two raters from the research team. The global measure of fidelity for the multisite study was used; inter-rater reliability was measured using Cronbach's alpha (0.70, 0.80, and 0.99 across the 3 years). The ratings were combined into a single consensus rating and used to identify schools with high implementation fidelity. In all 3 years, two treatment schools were identified as having high fidelity. Cohen's kappa was used as the measure of agreement when identifying schools as high fidelity, and it equaled 0.62 in Year 1, 0.55 in Year 2, and 1.00 in Year 3.

Initial Characteristics

This section examines the initial characteristics of the students, teachers, and schools participating in the CSP evaluation. These characteristics were collected from students who were enrolled in the third grade at the study schools in fall 2004, as well as from their primary caregivers and third-grade teachers. In addition, third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers and principals in the study schools provided information about activities related to social and character development in these schools. Documenting the characteristics of students, teachers, and schools and initial measures of key outcomes at a point before the intervention had been operating for an extended period helps to determine whether the random assignment of schools to treatment and control status produced treatment and control groups with similar distributions of observed characteristics. As noted in the following discussion, 7 significant differences were found in the observed characteristics, 6 of which (out of 62 comparisons, with 3 expected to be significant by chance) related to differences between the treatment and control groups in the level of SCD activity in the classroom and school.

Characteristics of Children, Their Families, and Communities

There were no significant differences in the observed student, caregiver, and community characteristics between the treatment and control groups (see table 3.6). For students, the mean age was 8.1 years. The sample contained roughly equal percentages of girls (53%) and boys (47%). The sample was ethnically diverse. White non-Hispanic students made up 47 percent of the sample, Black non-Hispanic students made up 35 percent, and Hispanic students made up 10 percent.

The sample was also diverse in its levels of family income, the education levels of primary caregivers of the children in the sample, and family situation. Thirty-three percent of the children lived in a household where the income was 135 percent of the federal poverty level or lower, which is the income threshold for eligibility for free school meals. Ten percent of the primary caregivers had not completed high school. About two-thirds of the children (65%) lived with both their mother and their father. There were no significant differences between the treatment and control groups in these characteristics.

The mean values of the outcomes for children's behavior and attitudes as reported by the primary caregiver, child, and teacher in fall 2004 are shown in table 3.7. There was 1 significant difference (out of 18 comparisons) in these scores between the treatment and control groups; children in the treatment group reported a more negative school orientation than did those in the control group.

Table 3.6. Initial characteristics of children, their families, and communities—CSP

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Student sample size	572	268	304
Student demographics			
Gender (percent)			
Male	46.9	45.2	48.7
Female	53.1	54.8	51.3
Race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	46.6	35.4	57.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	34.5	43.5	25.4
Hispanic	9.9	8.7	11.1
Other	9.1	12.4	5.7
Age (in years) (mean)	8.1	8.1	8.1
Primary caregiver and family characteristics			
Primary caregiver's age (in years) (mean)	34.7	34.3	35.1
Primary caregiver's race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	51.2	41.0	61.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	33.4	42.7	24.1
Hispanic	8.6	6.8	10.4
Other	6.9	9.5	4.2
Primary caregiver's education (percent)			
Did not complete high school	9.5	8.0	11.0
Completed high school or equivalent	27.7	25.4	30.1
Some college	47.3	51.0	43.5
Bachelor's or higher degree	15.5	15.6	15.4
Primary caregiver's employment (percent)			
Full-time	54.1	51.5	56.7
Other	45.9	48.5	43.3
Primary caregiver's marital status (percent)			
Married	64.2	60.7	67.7
Other	35.8	39.3	32.3
Students who live in one household (percent)	95.2	95.9	94.6
Number of individuals in household (mean)	4.5	4.4	4.5
Primary caregiver's relationship to child (percent)			
Mother (stepmother)	85.7	84.8	86.5
Father (stepfather)	8.0	7.8	8.2
Other relative/nonrelative	6.3	7.4	5.2

See notes at end of table.

Table 3.6. Initial characteristics of children, their families, and communities—CSP—Continued

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Student lives with (percent)			
Mother (stepmother) and father (stepfather)	64.6	60.3	68.8
Mother (stepmother) only; father (stepfather) not present	28.5	32.3	24.8
Father (stepfather) only; mother (stepmother) not present	1.6	1.4	1.8
Other relative/nonrelative, parents not present	5.3	6.0	4.6
Highest education of anyone in household (percent)			
Did not complete high school	6.8	7.3	6.3
Completed high school or equivalent	21.1	17.5	24.7
Some college	51.5	54.6	48.4
Bachelor's or higher degree	20.7	20.7	20.7
Total household income (percent)			
Less than \$20,000	29.1	30.3	27.9
\$20,000 to \$39,999	31.7	35.3	28.2
\$40,000 to \$59,999	21.2	18.8	23.6
\$60,000 or more	18.0	15.6	20.3
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio—Below 135 percent (percent)	33.1	34.1	32.0
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio—135 to 185 percent (percent)	25.1	26.3	24.0
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio—Above 185 percent (percent)	41.8	39.6	44.0
Alabama Parenting Questionnaire—Poor Monitoring and Supervision Subscale (mean)	1.2	1.2	1.2
Alabama Parenting Questionnaire—Positive Parenting Subscale (mean)	3.6	3.6	3.6
Confusion, Hubbub, and Order Scale (mean)	2.2	2.1	2.2
Community characteristics (mean)			
Community Risks Scale	1.2	1.2	1.2
Community Resources Scale	2.2	2.3	2.2
Child-Centered Social Control Scale	3.2	3.1	3.2

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 3.7. Mean scores and standard deviations for initial outcome measures of sample—CSP

Outcome measure—Report	Range	Total		Treatment		Control	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Social and Emotional Competence Domain							
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interaction—CR	1-4	2.9	0.6	2.9	0.6	3.0	0.6
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR	1-4	1.2	0.4	1.2	0.4	1.2	0.4
Empathy—CR	1-3	2.4	0.4	2.4	0.4	2.4	0.4
Behavior Domain							
Altruistic Behavior—CR	0-3	1.5	0.8	1.5	0.9	1.4	0.8
Altruistic Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.4	0.5	1.5	0.5	1.3	0.4
Altruistic Behavior—PCR	1-4	2.3	0.7	2.3	0.7	2.3	0.7
Positive Social Behavior—TRS	1-4	3.0	0.6	3.0	0.6	3.0	0.6
Positive Social Behavior—PCR	1-4	3.0	0.5	3.0	0.5	3.0	0.5
Problem Behavior—CR	0-3	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4
Problem Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.4	0.4	1.4	0.4	1.3	0.3
Problem Behavior—PCR	1-4	1.5	0.3	1.5	0.3	1.6	0.3
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.8	0.7	1.8	0.7	1.7	0.6
Academics Domain							
Academic Competence and Motivation—TRS	1-5	3.0	0.8	3.0	0.8	2.9	0.9
Engagement with Learning—CR	1-4	3.7	0.7	3.6	0.7	3.7	0.6
Perceptions of School Climate Domain							
Positive School Orientation—CR	1-4	3.1	0.7	3.1	0.7	3.1	0.7
Negative School Orientation—CR	1-4	1.9	0.6	2.0*	0.7	1.8	0.6
Student Afraid at School—CR	1-4	2.5	0.9	2.5	0.9	2.5	0.9
Victimization at School—CR	0-3	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8
Student sample size—PCR		572		268		304	
Student sample size—CR		621		299		322	
Student sample size—TRS		638		306		332	

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

SD: Standard deviation

Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Characteristics of Teachers and Schools

The third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers at the study schools were predominantly White non-Hispanic (77%) and female (93%), had an average of 14.8 years of total teaching experience, and about 26 percent held an advanced or specialist degree (see table 3.8). There was one statistically significant difference between the groups of teachers; control group teachers had been teaching in their current schools for a greater number of years on average than had treatment group teachers (7.7 versus 4.9 years).

Data regarding school characteristics were drawn from the Common Core of Data in order to compare treatment and control schools. There were no significant differences between the two groups of schools in terms of student composition (race/ethnicity and school lunch eligibility), number of students enrolled, number of full-time teachers, Title I status, or number of years the principal had been at the school (table 3.9). In addition, there were no significant differences between treatment and control schools in terms of location (urban, suburban, or rural) or lowest and highest grade offered (these data are not shown in a table).

Table 3.8. Initial characteristics of teachers in sample—CSP

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Teacher sample size	106	54	52
Gender (percent)			
Male	7.2	7.1	7.4
Female	92.8	92.9	92.6
Race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	77.1	74.8	79.4
Other	22.9	25.2	20.6
Number of years teaching experience (mean)	14.8	14.7	14.9
Number of years teaching experience in this school (mean)	6.3	4.9*	7.7
Type of teaching certificate (percent)			
Regular state certificate or advanced professional certificate	95.0	‡	‡
Other	5.0	‡	‡
Education (percent)			
Bachelor's degree	74.3	66.7	81.9
Advanced degree/other	25.7	33.3	18.1

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 3.9. Initial characteristics of schools in sample—CSP

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
School sample size	10	5	5
Student race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	44.0	34.8	53.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	41.3	51.0	31.5
Hispanic	10.3	8.0	12.7
Other	4.4	6.2	2.5
Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (percent)	57.0	63.8	50.2
Number of students enrolled (mean)	626.5	657.8	595.2
Number of full-time teachers (mean)	38.9	40.8	37.0
Title I status (percent)			
Title I eligible school	100.0	100.0	100.0
Schoolwide Title I	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of years principal has been at this school (mean)	4.9	2.5	6.8

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: NCES Common Core of Data (2003-04), the Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

In the Teacher Report on Classroom and School, teachers reported on nine dimensions of school environment (these data are not shown in a table): feelings of safety, adequacy of resources, student support, freedom to teach as desired, affiliation with and ties to colleagues, innovation regarding new approaches to teaching, professional interest, participatory decisionmaking, and work pressure. There were no statistically significant differences between treatment and control schools in these reports.

The Level of SACD in the Schools Near the Beginning of the Study

During the initial data collection, principals and teachers reported on the SACD activities used in the schools and classrooms, the availability of SACD materials, and the professional development provided on SACD. It is important to note that this data collection at the beginning of the school year took place, on average, 4 weeks after the start of the CSP implementation; therefore the activities and practices related to SACD in the treatment and control schools are a measure of what was happening in the study schools near the beginning of the study. Table 3.10 shows that the majority of the school principals reported activities to promote six social and character development goals: violence prevention and peace promotion (100%), social and emotional development (100%), character education (100%), tolerance and diversity (80%), risk prevention and health promotion (80%), and civic responsibility and community service (90%). In addition, all of the principals reported activities directed toward behavior management. There were no statistically significant differences between the treatment group and the control group in the percentages on principal reports, although this may be due to the relatively small principal sample size. Teachers' reports on the use of these activities in their classrooms ranged from 60 percent to 93 percent, with no significant difference between treatment and control teachers. With respect to the use of schoolwide activities, 64 percent to 97 percent of teachers reported that their schools used such activities, and again there were no significant differences between treatment and control teachers in reported use.

Table 3.10. Principal and teacher initial reports on use of SACD programs or activities in sample—CSP

SACD program or activity	Total	Treatment	Control
Principal sample size	10	5	5
Teacher sample size	106	54	52
Principals reporting that school had programs or activities to promote the following SACD goals (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	100.0	100.0	100.0
Social and emotional development	100.0	100.0	100.0
Character education	100.0	100.0	100.0
Tolerance and diversity	80.0	80.0	80.0
Risk prevention and health promotion	80.0	100.0	60.0
Civic responsibility and community service	90.0	80.0	100.0
Behavior management	100.0	100.0	100.0
None of the above	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teachers reporting on using programs or activities in their class to promote the following SACD goals (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	60.2	67.9	52.4
Social and emotional development	76.5	77.4	75.6
Character education	84.6	88.2	80.9
Tolerance and diversity	66.4	67.3	65.6
Risk prevention and health promotion	67.4	60.8	74.1
Civic responsibility and community service	62.1	62.7	61.6
Behavior management	93.4	94.1	92.7
None of the above	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teachers reporting schoolwide use of the following activities to promote SACD (percent)			
Morning announcements or videos	97.2	95.6	98.8
School assemblies	75.8	74.2	77.3
School newspapers or bulletins	73.5	67.4	79.6
Special school days	63.9	57.7	70.0
Special events	80.5	83.0	78.1
Other activities	17.2	18.9	15.6

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Teachers reported using a broad range of teaching materials to support SACD activities (table 3.11), including teacher guides (69%), student materials (69%), giveaways (50%), instructional aids (45%), and children's literature (42%). There were statistically significant differences in the use of teacher guides (81% versus 57%) and instructional aids (53% versus 38%), with treatment teachers reporting greater use of these two types of materials than control teachers.

Teachers also reported using a wide variety of teaching strategies (table 3.11). All teachers reported using any of the 20 strategies asked about, and teachers used an average of 12.3 of the strategies. There were no significant differences in the average number of strategies, or in the specific strategies, used by treatment versus control teachers.

Table 3.11. Teacher initial reports on use of SACD materials and classroom strategies in sample—CSP

SACD material and classroom strategy	Total	Treatment	Control
Teacher sample size	106	54	52
Teachers using the following materials in conjunction with social and character development activities (percent)			
Teacher guides (manuals, curricula)	69.0	81.0*	57.0
Student materials (workbooks, worksheets)	68.8	74.4	63.1
Instructional aids (games, software, videos)	45.3	53.0*	37.6
Giveaways (bookmarks, stickers)	50.3	49.9	50.8
Children's literature	42.3	35.5	49.0
Other types of materials	14.6	12.8	16.3
Do not use any of the materials listed above	8.3	‡	‡
Teachers using any of the strategies listed below to promote social and character development in the classroom (percent)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of strategies (listed below) used by teachers to promote social and character development in the classroom (mean)	12.3	13.1	11.6
Teachers using each of the following strategies to promote social and character development (percent)			
Role-playing	62.4	68.1	56.8
Cooperative learning	92.9	93.0	92.7
Peer group discussions	86.7	86.8	86.7
Direct instruction of social and character development	85.7	87.9	83.5
Skill training	30.2	40.1	20.2
Incorporating social and character development into academic curriculum	82.2	89.6	74.8
Parent training	18.7	12.2	25.1
Parent/community involvement in program development or delivery	30.5	35.7	25.3
Mentoring	38.7	44.5	32.9
Good behavior notes sent home daily or weekly	90.3	85.5	95.1
Presenting role models	71.9	64.2	79.5
Targeted story reading or writing on SACD themes	75.0	82.5	67.5
Peer mediation	48.8	56.8	40.8
Honor roll for positive behavior	57.2	54.0	60.3
Pledges or recitations on social and character development themes	42.2	53.3	31.1
Guided visualization	54.4	61.6	47.2
Student-led/student-assisted instruction	45.0	54.9	35.0
Journaling	58.9	57.4	60.5
Time out for negative behavior	94.4	98.3	90.5
Daily or weekly rewards for positive behavior	96.5	95.6	97.5

‡ Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Chapter 3. Competence Support Program

Principals and teachers reported on participation in and amount of SCD training and staff development provided over the previous 12 months (table 3.12). Principals reported higher participation rates (100% versus 72%) and reported more training hours (8.9 versus 7.2) than did teachers. There was a significant difference in the percentages of teachers reporting participation in training, with more treatment teachers reporting participation in SCD training than control teachers (93% versus 52%). In addition, a significantly greater percentage of treatment teachers than control teachers reported receiving training in three of the seven targeted SCD goals: social and emotional development (38% versus 9%), character education (62% versus 14%), and behavior management (60% versus 26%).

Table 3.12. Principal and teacher initial reports on SCD professional development in sample—CSP

SACD professional development	Total	Treatment	Control
Principal sample size	10	5	5
Teacher sample size	106	54	52
Principals reporting that staff participated in social and character development training within the past year (percent)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Teachers reporting participation in social and character development training within the past 12 months (percent)	72.2	93.0**	51.5
Number of hours of social and character development training principals report were provided to each staff person last year (mean)	8.9	9.6	8.2
Number of hours of social and character development training teachers report receiving during the past 12 months (mean)	7.2	8.1	6.4
Teachers reporting receiving training in the past 12 months in the following areas (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	7.9	‡	‡
Social and emotional development	23.3	37.8*	8.8
Character education	37.6	61.6**	13.6
Tolerance and diversity	20.5	24.0	17.0
Risk prevention and health promotion	8.6	11.9	5.3
Civic responsibility and community service	3.0	‡	‡
Behavior management	43.1	60.0*	26.1

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SCD) Research Program.

The data on the initial levels of SCD activity emphasize that the control condition was a “standard practice” control. Standard practice at the control schools included using SCD activities, materials, and practices, along with professional development for staff, at rates and in types and amounts similar to the treatment schools. For example, the percentages of teachers who reported using programs or activities to promote specific SCD goals ranged from 61 percent to 94 percent in the treatment schools and from 52 percent to 93 percent in the control schools. However, the 6 significant differences between the treatment and control conditions in the use of SCD activities was more than expected by chance (3 out of 62 comparisons), and in

all cases they favored the treatment group. An important point about this difference between treatment and control teachers is that this training took place just prior to the start of the school year. Because initial data collection happened after program implementation began, these differences may reflect the fact that program implementation and program training for staff started before initial data collection.

Impacts on Use of SACD Activities

The introduction of the formal CSP program would be expected to increase the use of SACD activities in the treatment schools in comparison to the control schools. The analysis of this impact is based on the Teacher Report on Classroom and School. Every spring, third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers provided information through the Teacher Report on Classroom and School about the social and character development activities they used in their classrooms. Specifically, information from the Teacher Report on Classroom and School was used to determine the difference between treatment and control teachers in the following areas:

1. the use of SACD activities in their classrooms overall and by SACD goal;
2. the use of materials and strategies to implement the SACD activities within classrooms and within the entire school;
3. the use of staff development to support the teachers; and
4. teacher support for SACD efforts in the school and the use of practices conducive to the social and character development of students.

Teacher Report on Classroom and School consent and completion rates (table 3.4) led to 78 percent to 95 percent of all teachers having data for the 3 years. To estimate intervention impacts for each of the outcomes, testing of the statistical significance of the differences in means was used. Preliminary analysis indicated little or no gains in precision from using covariates. Before testing the mean differences, the data were weighted such that each school received equal weight. Standard errors of the impact estimates accounted for the clustering of teachers within schools. In addition, a set of heuristics (described in chapter 1) was applied to determine whether each outcome domain was statistically significant after adjustments were made for the multiple tests conducted.

Use of Activities

The percentages of control teachers who reported using any SACD activities in their classrooms ranged from 87 percent to 96 percent over the 3 years (table 3.13, panel 1). For the six individual SACD goals, the ranges varied from 67 percent to 84 percent in Year 1, 67 percent to 88 percent in Year 2, and 57 percent to 81 percent in Year 3. Control teachers' use of behavior management activities ranged from 85 percent to 91 percent over this period. The percentages of control teachers who reported using any SACD activities in their classrooms for at least 1 hour per week (panel 2) ranged from 63 percent to 82 percent over the 3 years. For the six individual SACD goals, the ranges varied from 18 percent to 37 percent in Year 1, 20 percent to 40 percent in Year 2, and 11 percent to 37 percent in Year 3. Control teachers' use of behavior management activities for 1 hour per week ranged from 75 percent to 79 percent over this period. These findings show that the control schools were using these activities as part of their standard practice related to social and character development.

For teachers' reported use of any SACD activity (panels 1 and 2), 48 comparisons were made, with 2 expected to be significant by chance. The percentages of treatment teachers using any SACD activity, or specific SACD activities, at any point in the previous year were not significantly different from the percentages of control teachers in any year. There was a significant difference between treatment and control teacher reports of using behavior management activities for at least 1 hour per week in Year 3, with more control teachers reporting these activities (impact = -14 percentage points). After the heuristics were applied, the domain for engagement in SACD activities showed CSP had a statistically significant impact in Year 1.

Chapter 3. Competence Support Program

For teachers' reported use of any named SCD activity (panels 3 and 4), 42 comparisons were made, with 2 expected to be significant by chance. Eight of the 14 impact estimates in Year 1, 5 of the 14 in Year 2, and 4 of the 14 in Year 3 were statistically significant. Impacts on the use of a named activity at any point in the previous year (panel 3) were as follows: violence prevention and peace promotion in all 3 years (impact = 28, 30, and 38 percentage points), social and emotional development in Year 1 (impact = 40 percentage points) and Year 2 (impact = 44 percentage points), character education in Year 2 (impact = 37 percentage points) and Year 3 (impact = 29 percentage points), tolerance and diversity in Year 1 (impact = 20 percentage points) and Year 2 (impact = 33 percentage points), and the use of any named activity in all 3 years (impact = 32, 34, and 40 percentage points). In Year 1 there were significant impacts on the use of any named activity for at least 1 hour per week (panel 4) for violence prevention and peace promotion (impact = 18 percentage points), social and emotional development (impact = 21 percentage points), and character education (impact = 23 percentage points). The impact on the use of any named activity for at least 1 hour per week was significant in Year 1 (impact = 34 percentage points) and Year 3 (impact = 23 percentage points). The overall impact of CSP on the domain for engagement in named SCD activities was significant in all 3 years.

Table 3.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—CSP

Panel 1: Engagement in any activities to promote SACD goals¹

SACD activity	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	(Spring 3rd grade)				(Spring 4th grade)				(Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment ³	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	65.0	61.0			57.0	60.0			63.0	62.0		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	77.4	67.1	10.3	0.287	73.0	72.3	0.8	0.935	72.6	61.8	10.8	0.205
Social and emotional development (percent)	88.4	72.5	16.0	0.151	79.0	73.2	5.8	0.358	72.3	65.1	7.2	0.449
Character education (percent)	95.2^	84.0	11.2	0.097	91.6	87.5	4.1	0.382	83.0	80.6	2.4	0.751
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	84.9	74.7	10.2	0.420	73.5	72.4	1.1	0.795	64.9	60.0	4.9	0.684
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	76.4	73.8	2.6	0.804	62.0	73.3	-11.2	0.341	66.6	68.8	-2.2	0.844
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	72.4	78.7	-6.3	0.650	65.2	67.1	-1.9	0.819	58.7	56.5	2.2	0.861
Any SACD goal (percent)	96.7	90.8	5.9	0.288	94.3	96.3	-2.0	0.550	94.1	87.3	6.8	0.283
Behavior management (percent)	96.9	90.6	6.3	0.144	89.2	85.2	3.9	0.565	80.3	88.6	-8.3	0.110

See notes at end of table.

Table 3.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—CSP—Continued

Panel 2: Engagement in any activities to promote SACD goals for at least 1 hour per week

SACD activity	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	(Spring 3rd grade)				(Spring 4th grade)				(Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment ³	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	65.0	61.0			57.0	60.0			63.0	62.0		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	28.5	29.6	-1.0	0.932	24.9	28.8	-3.9	0.623	26.1	27.4	-1.3	0.867
Social and emotional development (percent)	39.2^	26.7	12.6	0.087	32.5	27.5	4.9	0.654	21.6	24.9	-3.3	0.748
Character education (percent)	55.2^	36.9	18.2	0.098	48.6	39.6	9.0	0.411	31.3	37.3	-6.0	0.547
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	27.1	18.0	9.0	0.363	24.5	30.9	-6.3	0.496	27.1	11.4	15.7	0.145
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	35.6	24.7	10.9	0.427	30.1	29.0	1.0	0.904	24.0	29.3	-5.3	0.659
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	27.4	28.3	-1.0	0.933	18.2	20.1	-1.8	0.876	31.8	15.0	16.8	0.133
Any SACD goal (percent)	68.8	62.8	6.0	0.431	76.2	78.1	-1.8	0.824	76.8	81.5	-4.7	0.373
Behavior management (percent)	80.6	78.8	1.8	0.789	70.8	74.6	-3.8	0.720	61.3*	75.3	-14.0	0.046

See notes at end of table.

Table 3.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—CSP—Continued

Panel 3: Engagement in activities to promote SACD goals linked to named SACD programs²

SACD activity	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	(Spring 3rd grade)				(Spring 4th grade)				(Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment ³	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	65.0	61.0			57.0	60.0			63.0	62.0		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	38.8*	10.5	28.3	0.022	50.4*	20.5	29.9	0.016	51.5*	13.3	38.2	0.003
Social and emotional development (percent)	‡*	‡	39.7	0.003	54.5*	10.3	44.3	0.007	47.0	0.0	47.0	†
Character education (percent)	35.8^	7.1	28.7	0.063	49.0*	11.7	37.3	0.001	33.7*	4.9	28.8	0.018
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	‡*	‡	19.6	0.015	‡*	‡	32.5	0.014	15.6	0.0	15.6	†
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	36.8	23.0	13.8	0.381	28.6	23.8	4.8	0.569	26.0	18.9	7.1	0.545
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	‡	‡	1.5	†	9.5	8.9	0.6	0.936	6.3	5.6	0.7	0.811
Any SACD goal (percent)	67.8*	35.7	32.1	0.025	74.1*	39.8	34.3	0.005	69.7*	29.9	39.8	0.007

See notes at end of table.

Table 3.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—CSP—Continued

Panel 4: Engagement in activities to promote SACD goals linked to named SACD programs for at least 1 hour per week

SACD activity	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment ³	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	65.0	61.0			57.0	60.0			63.0	62.0		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	‡*	‡	17.8	0.009	21.1	14.4	6.7	0.334	19.9	11.8	8.0	0.211
Social and emotional development (percent)	‡*	‡	21.4	0.012	23.9	5.8	18.1	0.145	13.5	0.0	13.5	†
Character education (percent)	‡*	‡	23.4	0.005	28.0 [^]	10.9	17.1	0.055	‡ [^]	‡	8.3	0.097
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	‡ [^]	‡	8.3	0.057	16.2	0.0	16.2	†	8.4	0.0	8.4	†
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	18.1	6.4	11.8	0.157	17.0	18.6	-1.6	0.834	13.5	11.8	1.7	0.860
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	‡	‡	1.7	†	‡	‡	-2.9	0.664	0.0	0.0	0.0	†
Any SACD goal (percent)	45.1*	10.8	34.3	0.008	36.8 [^]	25.5	11.3	0.097	38.7*	16.0	22.7	0.047

† Not applicable.

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

[^] Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.¹ In Year 1, the omnibus impact for all the outcomes measured together was positive and statistically significant on the basis of a multivariate statistical test.² In Year 1, based on univariate statistical tests, at least half of the impacts were positive and statistically significant and no impact was negative and statistically significant. In all 3 years, at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts.³ One of the treatment group schools that had been a K-5 school in prior years became a K-4 school and continued implementation of the intervention. The Cohort 1 students, who were in fifth grade during the 2006-07 school year, went to an intermediate school that had fifth and sixth grades. The intermediate school did not implement the intervention. These fifth-grade students, their primary caregivers, and their teachers were included in the spring 2007 data collection and all analyses based upon spring 2007 data.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Use of Materials and Strategies

For use of materials and strategies to support SCD goals, 87 comparisons were made, with 4 expected to be significant by chance. Several significant impacts were found on treatment teachers' use of materials and strategies in all 3 years. In Year 1, more treatment teachers used role-playing (impact = 20 percentage points), direct instruction of SCD (impact = 16 percentage points), skill training (impact = 33 percentage points), and guided visualization (impact = 36 percentage points) (table 3.14). In Year 2, more treatment teachers continued to use direct instruction of SCD (impact = 18 percentage points), and more treatment teachers used teacher guides (impact = 19 percentage points) and student materials (impact = 16 percentage points). In Year 3, more treatment teachers used teacher guides (impact = 21 percentage points). The average number of strategies used was significantly different in Year 1 (by 1.6 activities on average). The impact on the domain of materials and strategies was not statistically significant in any of the 3 years. Regarding the use of schoolwide strategies, 18 comparisons were made between treatment and control teacher reports, with 1 expected to be significant by chance. There were no statistically significant differences between treatment and control teacher reports on use of schoolwide strategies in any year (these data are not shown in a table).

Table 3.14. Impacts on use of SACD classroom materials and teaching strategies—CSP

SACD material and teaching strategy	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment ¹	Control	Impact	p-value
	65	61			57	60			63	62		
Use of SACD materials (percent)												
Teacher guides (manuals, curricula)	87.1	69.7	17.4	0.109	88.0*	69.4	18.6	0.002	84.1*	62.8	21.3	0.015
Student materials (workbooks or sheets)	78.4	70.7	7.6	0.405	87.7*	71.8	15.9	0.004	74.6	65.7	9.0	0.221
Instructional aids (games, software, videos)	49.2	53.9	-4.7	0.690	54.0	46.0	7.9	0.469	60.5^	40.4	20.1	0.096
Giveaways (bookmarks, stickers)	48.1	72.5	-24.4	0.136	51.1	52.1	-1.0	0.940	46.4	60.2	-13.9	0.187
Children's literature	69.6	48.2	21.4	0.102	68.9	53.8	15.1	0.119	48.7	45.6	3.1	0.637
Other types of materials	5.3	6.2	-0.9	0.857	‡	‡	-5.5	0.296	10.9	11.6	-0.7	0.915
Did not use any of these materials	‡	‡	-6.6	0.206	‡	‡	-2.5	0.520	‡	‡	-8.6	0.111
Use of teaching strategies (percent)												
Role-playing	83.0*	62.6	20.4	0.034	85.7	72.3	13.5	0.111	87.5	79.9	7.6	0.282
Cooperative learning	91.2^	98.8	-7.6	0.083	96.0	98.9	-2.9	0.294	100.0	98.7	1.3	†
Peer group discussions	94.2^	82.8	11.4	0.064	93.2	88.5	4.7	0.249	98.3	94.1	4.2	0.255
Direct instruction of SACD	98.3*	82.9	15.5	0.043	97.0*	79.5	17.6	0.013	99.0	95.0	4.1	0.181
Skill training	69.0*	36.2	32.8	0.023	53.1	40.9	12.1	0.344	80.2	84.3	-4.1	0.533
Incorporating SACD into academic curriculum	90.6	78.1	12.5	0.248	88.1^	74.5	13.6	0.082	96.3	93.5	2.8	0.492
Parent training	10.2	12.8	-2.6	0.700	‡	‡	-5.2	0.146	39.6	30.4	9.3	0.367
Parent/community involvement	25.4	34.5	-9.1	0.397	31.5	23.1	8.4	0.424	51.7	46.9	4.7	0.600
Mentoring	59.5	48.2	11.3	0.293	53.4	56.7	-3.2	0.863	84.6^	67.7	16.9	0.080
Good behavior notes sent home daily or weekly	80.3	92.2	-11.9	0.308	86.9	93.0	-6.1	0.128	96.3	97.5	-1.2	0.734
Presenting role models	73.8	79.1	-5.3	0.596	75.7	67.9	7.8	0.472	85.8	91.0	-5.3	0.394

See notes at end of table.

Table 3.14. Impacts on use of SACD classroom materials and teaching strategies—CSP—Continued

SACD material and teaching strategy	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment ¹	Control	Impact	p-value
Use of teaching strategies (percent)— Continued												
Targeted story reading or writing on social and character development themes	86.2	75.8	10.4	0.186	95.8	85.4	10.3	0.104	98.0	93.3	4.7	0.278
Peer mediation	60.3	40.9	19.4	0.288	60.0	59.7	0.3	0.975	72.2	68.0	4.2	0.738
Honor roll for positive behavior	69.1	70.5	-1.4	0.889	75.8	84.7	-8.9	0.311	81.5	79.8	1.7	0.843
Pledges or recitations on social and character development themes	51.6	33.7	17.8	0.228	49.6	48.8	0.8	0.962	74.8	65.7	9.1	0.578
Guided visualization	74.9*	38.5	36.4	0.004	58.5	55.0	3.5	0.673	75.3	59.0	16.2	0.134
Student-led/student-assisted instruction	67.2	50.9	16.2	0.198	57.8	46.2	11.6	0.245	78.7	75.2	3.5	0.697
Journaling	66.8	76.0	-9.1	0.469	61.0	62.7	-1.7	0.881	86.2	81.1	5.1	0.484
Time out for negative behavior	93.7	93.0	0.7	0.905	87.9	88.2	-0.3	0.971	93.2	93.3	-0.1	0.985
Daily or weekly rewards for positive behavior	94.4	87.9	6.5	0.453	96.4	97.0	-0.6	0.836	100.0	96.3	3.7	†
Any strategy	100.0	100.0	0.0	†	100.0	100.0	0.0	†	100.0	100.0	0.0	†
Number of strategies (mean)	14.2*	12.6	1.6	0.029	13.9	13.3	0.6	0.296	16.5	15.5	1.0	0.278

† Not applicable.

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

^ Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

¹ One of the treatment group schools that had been a K-5 school in prior years became a K-4 school and continued implementation of the intervention. The Cohort 1 students, who were in fifth grade during the 2006-07 school year, went to an intermediate school that had fifth and sixth grades. The intermediate school did not implement the intervention. These fifth-grade students, their primary caregivers, and their teachers were included in the spring 2007 data collection and all analyses based upon spring 2007 data.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Participation in Professional Development

Regarding reported participation in professional development, 27 comparisons were made over 3 years, with 2 expected to be significant by chance. In Year 1, CSP had a statistically significant effect on treatment teachers' participation in professional development, with more treatment teachers reporting SCD training in the past 12 months (impact = 39 percentage points) and more hours of training (by 5 hours on average). In terms of specific SCD goals, more treatment teachers reported training in character education (impact = 38 percentage points) and behavior management (impact = 16.3 percentage points). In Year 3, there was a significant impact on teachers' training in violence prevention and peace promotion (impact = 13 percentage points). CSP had a significant impact on the domain of professional development in Year 1.

Table 3.15. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD professional development—CSP

	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
SACD professional development ¹												
Teacher sample size	65	61			57	60			63	62		
SACD training in past 12 months (percent)	82.0*	43.0	39.0	0.009	54.9	51.1	3.8	0.723	56.1	49.3	6.8	0.524
Hours of SACD training (mean)	7.9*	2.9	5.0	0.006	3.8	6.2	-2.4	0.375	4.9	4.6	0.3	0.899
Training by goal (percent)												
Violence prevention and peace promotion	21.0	8.2	12.9	0.143	8.4	10.8	-2.4	0.753	‡*	‡	13.1	0.036
Social and emotional development	29.4	9.3	20.1	0.118	18.4	18.6	-0.2	0.978	13.3	9.7	3.6	0.561
Character education	57.6*	19.7	37.9	0.016	32.7	16.2	16.5	0.106	25.8	12.9	13.0	0.122
Tolerance and diversity	23.5^	6.9	16.6	0.071	8.1	18.2	-10.2	0.273	21.0	12.9	8.1	0.231
Risk prevention and health promotion	14.1	8.2	5.9	0.387	8.1	20.1	-12.0	0.171	16.9	11.7	5.3	0.333
Civic responsibility and community service	15.1	19.7	-4.7	0.601	‡	‡	1.8	0.566	6.4	0.0	6.4	†
Behavior management	35.6*	19.3	16.3	0.021	27.8	26.2	1.6	0.904	31.3	22.2	9.1	0.351

† Not applicable.

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

^ Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

¹ In Year 1, at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts.² One of the treatment group schools that had been a K-5 school in prior years became a K-4 school and continued implementation of the intervention. The Cohort 1 students, who were in fifth grade during the 2006-07 school year, went to an intermediate school that had fifth and sixth grades. The intermediate school did not implement the intervention. These fifth-grade students, their primary caregivers, and their teachers were included in the spring 2007 data collection and all analyses based upon spring 2007 data.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Attitudes and Practices

Teachers reported on their enthusiasm for SCD efforts in their schools (these data are not shown in a table) by indicating enthusiasm, cooperation, or open dislike. They also reported on the SCD practices of teachers and staff members in their school (these data are not shown in a table). These practices included modeling positive character and behavior traits with students and fellow teachers, involving students in making decisions, giving students a voice in school governance, the school encouraging parent involvement in children's social and character development, and using developmentally appropriate discipline strategies rather than punishment for misbehavior. Twenty-seven comparisons were made over 3 years, with 1 expected to be significant by chance. There were no statistically significant estimated impacts on teachers' enthusiasm for SCD efforts in their schools in any of the years. There were 2 significant differences in the treatment and control teacher reports of the overall use of practices conducive to students' social and character development (out of 6 comparisons made in each year, or 18 overall); in Year 1, fewer treatment teachers reported modeling positive traits with students (impact = -22 percentage points), and in Year 3 more treatment teachers reported using discipline strategies that focused on promoting development rather than simply punishing for misbehavior (impact = 25 percentage points). There was no significant impact on the domain in any year.

Year-by-Year Impacts on Students and Perceptions of School Climate

The primary research question for the CSP evaluation was this:

What is the average effect of CSP on children's social and emotional competence, behavior, academics, and perceptions of school climate?

The first approach to answering this question was to examine the year-by-year impacts of CSP on these student and school climate outcomes over the 3 years as the students progressed from third through fifth grades.

Equation (2) (described in chapter 1) was estimated to provide CSP impacts on the 20 outcomes using data from the 10 treatment and control schools. For the CSP evaluation, equation (2) excluded the program fixed effects (θ_p) and included program-specific covariates and random school effects covariates. Table 3.16 lists the covariates used with outcomes from each report in the CSP analysis.

Table 3.16. Covariates used with outcomes from each report for analysis—CSP

Potential covariate	CR outcome	PCR outcome	TRS outcome	TRCS outcome
Total number	17	24	25	9
Child-reported				
Female	✓	✓	✓	
Hispanic	✓	✓	✓	
Black (non-Hispanic)	✓	✓	✓	
Other ethnicity	✓	✓	✓	
Age in years	✓	✓	✓	
Scales				
Afraid at School				
Altruistic Behavior	✓	✓	✓	
Empathy				
Engagement with Learning	✓		✓	
Negative School Orientation	✓	✓		
Normative Beliefs About Aggression		✓		
Sense of School as a Community			✓	
Problem Behavior				
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions		✓		
Victimization at School	✓		✓	
Primary caregiver-reported				
Age in years			✓	
Completed high school or equivalent	✓	✓	✓	
Some college	✓	✓	✓	
Bachelor's or higher degree	✓	✓	✓	
Highest level of education in household				
Completed high school or equivalent	✓	✓	✓	
Some college	✓	✓	✓	
Bachelor's or higher degree	✓	✓	✓	
Mother present in home life			✓	
Mother and father present		✓		
Respondent someone other than mother or father		✓		
Number of people in household				
Household income: \$20,000 to \$40,000		✓	✓	
Household income: \$40,000 to \$60,000		✓	✓	
Household income: More than \$60,000		✓	✓	
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio: Below 135 percent				
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio: 135 to 185 percent				
Full-time employment	✓		✓	
Part-time employment	✓		✓	

See notes at end of table.

Table 3.16. Covariates used with outcomes from each report for analysis—CSP—Continued

Potential covariate	CR outcome	PCR outcome	TRS outcome	TRCS outcome
Parental scales				
APQ-Poor Monitoring and Supervision Subscale				
APQ-Positive Parenting Subscale				
Child-Centered Social Control		✓		
Confusion, Hubbub, and Order		✓		
Community Resources				
Community Risk				
Parent and Teacher Involvement				
Child scales				
Altruistic Behavior				
Positive Social Behavior			✓	
Problem Behavior				
Teacher-reported				
Female				✓
Hispanic				✓
Black (non-Hispanic)				✓
Other ethnicity				✓
Total teaching experience				✓
Total experience in current school				✓
Regular certificate				✓
Other certificate				✓
Highest degree—bachelor's				✓
Child scales				
Academic Competence and Motivation		✓		
ADHD-Related Behavior			✓	
Altruistic Behavior		✓		
Positive Social Behavior				
Problem Behavior			✓	
Parent and Teacher Involvement				

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

APQ: Alabama Parenting Questionnaire

✓: Covariate used

Blank cell: Covariate not used

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Chapter 3. Competence Support Program

To assess statistical power of the program-level impact estimates, minimum detectable impacts in effect size units (MDES) for each outcome measure were calculated for the CSP evaluation (table 3.17). MDES represent the smallest impacts in effect size (standard deviation) units that can be detected with a high probability (80%). MDES are primarily a function of study sample sizes, the degrees of freedom available for statistical tests, and design effects due to clustering (Schochet 2005). For the CSP evaluation, the MDES ranged from 0.113 to 0.57 for the child-level outcomes based on the Child, Caregiver, and Teacher Report on Student and from 0.258 to 0.625 for the school climate outcomes based on the Teacher Report on Classroom and School. In general, the MDES for the school climate outcomes were larger than those for the child-level outcomes.

Table 3.17. Adjusted minimum detectable effect sizes for impact evaluation—CSP

Outcome measure—Report	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Social and Emotional Competence Domain			
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interaction—CR	0.129	0.184	0.116
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR	0.113	0.154	0.161
Empathy—CR	0.238	0.114	0.182
Behavior Domain			
Altruistic Behavior—CR	0.146	0.202	0.171
Altruistic Behavior—PCR	0.216	0.239	0.169
Altruistic Behavior—TRS	0.185	0.436	0.570
Positive Social Behavior—PCR	0.172	0.172	0.170
Positive Social Behavior—TRS	0.310	0.301	0.247
Problem Behavior—CR	0.182	0.334	0.168
Problem Behavior—PCR	0.210	0.136	0.226
Problem Behavior—TRS	0.352	0.304	0.369
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS	0.290	0.206	0.250
Academics Domain			
Engagement with Learning—CR	0.117	0.173	0.201
Academic Competence and Motivation—TRS	0.194	0.142	0.118
Perceptions of School Climate Domain			
Positive School Orientation—CR	0.113	0.310	0.371
Negative School Orientation—CR	0.162	0.251	0.354
Student Afraid at School—CR	0.135	0.222	0.215
Victimization at School—CR	0.210	0.237	0.284
Feelings of Safety—TRCS	0.541	0.447	0.562
Student Support for Teachers—TRCS	0.625	0.309	0.258

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The minimum detectable effect (MDE) formula used in the calculations is as follows:

$$MDE = factor(df) * \sqrt{\rho_1 \left(\frac{1}{s_T} + \frac{1}{s_C} \right) + (1 - \rho_1) \left(\frac{1}{s_T n_T} + \frac{1}{s_C n_C} \right)}$$

where s_T and s_C are the number of treatment and comparison schools; n_T and n_C are the average number of students per classroom; ρ_1 is the intraclass correlation (ICC) at the school level; and $factor(df)$ is a constant that depends on the number of degrees of freedom (df) available for analysis (and is 2.802 for the pooled analysis).

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Chapter 3. Competence Support Program

Table 3.18 provides the estimates of CSP's impacts on each of the 20 outcomes over each of the 3 years (60 impacts in total, with 3 expected to be statistically significant by chance). Of the 60 results, 1 was statistically significant. A beneficial impact was found on fourth-graders' Problem Behavior (Primary Caregiver Report, effect size [ES] = -0.21). Substantively important but nonsignificant beneficial impacts were found in Year 2 for Altruistic Behavior (Teacher Report on Student, ES = 0.47) and Student Afraid at School (Child Report, ES = -0.26). Substantively important but nonsignificant detrimental impacts were found on fifth-graders' Altruistic Behavior (Teacher Report on Student, ES = -0.41), Positive Social Behavior (Primary Caregiver Report, ES = -0.25), and Feelings of Safety (Teacher Report on Classroom and School, ES = -0.36). Application of the heuristics to adjust for multiple comparisons within each outcome domain indicated that CSP had a significant detrimental impact on the domain of Behavior in Year 1 and a significant detrimental impact on the domain of Perceptions of School Climate in Year 3.

Table 3.18. Impacts on child and school outcomes—CSP

Scale–Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment ¹	Control	Effect size	p-value
Social and Emotional Competence Domain												
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions–CR (+)	3.04	2.97	0.12	0.199	3.15	3.15	0.00	0.978	3.19	3.22	-0.05	0.581
Normative Beliefs About Aggression–CR (-)	1.30	1.26	0.07	0.401	1.35	1.29	0.12	0.273	1.48	1.52	-0.05	0.624
Empathy–CR (+)	2.34	2.26	0.17	0.168	2.18	2.23	-0.11	0.206	2.07	2.07	-0.02	0.888
Behavior Domain ²												
Altruistic Behavior–CR (+)	1.21	1.30	-0.11	0.221	1.06	1.00	0.08	0.505	0.99	1.03	-0.06	0.606
Altruistic Behavior–PCR (+)	2.29	2.25	0.04	0.773	2.33	2.31	0.03	0.849	2.25	2.28	-0.04	0.733
Altruistic Behavior–TRS (+)	1.42	1.41	0.04	0.713	1.39	1.25	0.47°	0.132	1.31	1.55	-0.41°	0.132
Positive Social Behavior–PCR (+)	3.04	3.01	0.06	0.515	3.11	3.02	0.17	0.125	3.03^	3.16	-0.25°	0.056
Positive Social Behavior–TRS (+)	2.95	3.05	-0.16	0.241	3.02	2.93	0.12	0.426	3.09	3.01	0.12	0.386
Problem Behavior–CR (-)	0.27	0.25	0.04	0.671	0.32	0.26	0.15	0.428	0.52	0.51	0.01	0.929
Problem Behavior–PCR (-)	1.54	1.57	-0.11	0.330	1.50*	1.56	-0.21	0.042	1.65	1.50	0.20	0.218
Problem Behavior–TRS (-)	1.42	1.38	0.09	0.566	1.48	1.50	-0.03	0.852	1.48	1.44	0.07	0.712
ADHD-Related Behavior–TRS (-)	1.73	1.74	-0.03	0.826	1.70	1.74	-0.06	0.585	1.71	1.74	-0.04	0.764
Academics Domain												
Engagement with Learning–CR (+)	3.70	3.68	0.04	0.645	3.71	3.71	-0.01	0.952	3.61	3.58	0.04	0.745
Academic Competence and Motivation– TRS (+)	3.05	2.97	0.08	0.245	2.96	2.93	0.04	0.622	2.99	2.96	0.03	0.680

See notes at end of table.

Table 3.18. Impacts on child and school outcomes—CSP—Continued

Scale–Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment ¹	Control	Effect size	p-value
Perceptions of School Climate Domain ³												
Positive School Orientation–CR (+)	2.81 [^]	2.71	0.15	0.081	2.64	2.65	-0.02	0.922	2.37	2.46	-0.13	0.527
Negative School Orientation–CR (-)	1.90	1.96	-0.11	0.274	1.95	1.98	-0.05	0.699	2.13	2.19	-0.10	0.590
Student Afraid at School–CR (-)	2.26	2.40	-0.15	0.103	2.17 [^]	2.38	-0.26 [°]	0.090	2.34	2.38	-0.04	0.728
Victimization at School–CR (-)	0.84	0.78	0.08	0.529	0.69	0.70	-0.01	0.947	0.74	0.75	-0.02	0.896
Feelings of Safety–TRCS (+)	3.42	3.44	-0.03	0.927	3.60	3.64	-0.05	0.834	3.35	3.58	-0.36 [°]	0.246
Student Support for Teachers–TRCS (+)	3.53	3.56	-0.05	0.890	3.55	3.48	0.10	0.551	3.37	3.45	-0.11	0.550

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

[^] Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

[°] Substantive (but nonsignificant at .05 level) effect size of $\geq .25$ or $\leq -.25$.

¹ One of the treatment group schools that had been a K-5 school in prior years became a K-4 school and continued implementation of the intervention. The Cohort 1 students, who were in fifth grade during the 2006-07 school year, went to an intermediate school that had fifth and sixth grades. The intermediate school did not implement the intervention. These fifth-grade students, their primary caregivers, and their teachers were included in the spring 2007 data collection and all analyses based upon spring 2007 data.

² In Year 1, the statistical model used to estimate impacts on the individual outcomes was re-estimated using a composite of all the outcome variables under a domain. The domain was found significant if the impact on the composite was significant. The composite was formed by standardizing each outcome variable using its standard deviation, combining the values of the outcome variables, and taking the average of the final value.

³ Impact on domain found statistically significant and negative in Year 3 based on the fourth heuristic in which the statistical model used to estimate impacts on the individual outcomes was re-estimated using a composite of all the outcome variables under a domain. The domain was found significant if the impact on the composite was significant. The composite was formed by standardizing each outcome variable using its standard deviation, combining the values of the outcome variables, and taking the average of the final value.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All Impact estimates were calculated using regression models where each program and school within a program was weighted equally. The standard errors of all estimates account for design effects due to unequal weighting and the clustering of students within schools. See Table 1.5 for information about the measures used to create the outcome variables. The effect size was calculated by dividing the estimated Impact by the standard deviation of the outcome measure for the control group. The number of results found significant was no more than expected by chance.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Impacts on Child Outcomes Over Time

CSP impacts on the child outcomes over time were estimated using growth curve models by examining treatment and control group differences in the trajectories of student outcomes during the follow-up period while accounting for clustering at the school level. The growth curve models are estimated using a three-level hierarchical linear model, where Level 1 corresponds to time, Level 2 to students, and Level 3 to schools (described in chapter 1).

Table 3.19 provides the estimates of CSP impacts on the growth in student outcomes over the 3 years. The estimated impacts range in effect size units (absolute value) from 0.00 to 0.30. CSP had a statistically significant beneficial effect on 1 of the 18 estimated impacts (1 of 18 is expected to be significant by chance), Victimization at School (Child Report), with an effect size of -0.09 . There was a substantively important but nonsignificant detrimental impact on Altruistic Behavior (Teacher Report on Student).

Table 3.19. Impacts on growth of child outcomes—CSP

Scale–Report	Mean score at implementation ²	Average growth in the score per year ¹					
		Treatment	Control	Impact on growth ³	Effect size ⁴	Standard error of impact	<i>p</i> -value of impact
Social and Emotional Competence Domain							
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions–CR (+)	2.94	0.13	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.974
Normative Beliefs About Aggression–CR (-)	1.20	0.12	0.06	0.05	0.11	0.04	0.207
Empathy–CR (+)	2.40	-0.12	-0.12	-0.01	-0.03	0.02	0.560
Behavior Domain							
Altruistic Behavior–CR (+)	1.41	-0.20	-0.16	-0.04	-0.04	0.03	0.208
Altruistic Behavior–PCR (+)	2.31	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.872
Altruistic Behavior–TRS (+)	1.40	-0.08^	0.07	-0.15	-0.30	0.07	0.075
Positive Social Behavior–PCR (+)	3.01	0.01	0.04	-0.02	-0.04	0.02	0.247
Positive Social Behavior–TRS (+)	2.96	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.580
Problem Behavior–CR (-)	0.19	0.12	0.08	0.03	0.07	0.03	0.273
Problem Behavior–PCR (-)	1.57	0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.05	0.01	0.219
Problem Behavior–TRS (-)	1.36	0.07	0.05	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.563
ADHD-Related Behavior–TRS (-)	1.76	-0.02	0.00	-0.01	-0.02	0.03	0.717
Academics Domain							
Engagement with Learning–CR (+)	3.69	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.03	0.871
Academic Competence and Motivation–TRS (+)	2.94	0.01	0.03	-0.02	-0.02	0.03	0.593

See notes at end of table.

Table 3.19. Impacts on growth of child outcomes—CSP—Continued

Scale–Report	Mean score at implementation ²	Average growth in the score per year ¹					
		Treatment	Control	Impact on growth ³	Effect size ⁴	Standard error of impact	p-value of impact
Perceptions of School Climate Domain							
Positive School Orientation–CR (+)	3.03	-0.26	-0.19	-0.07	-0.09	0.05	0.213
Negative School Orientation–CR (-)	1.87	0.08	0.10	-0.01	-0.02	0.04	0.744
Student Afraid at School–CR (-)	2.41	-0.09	-0.03	-0.06	-0.06	0.03	0.111
Victimization at School–CR (-)	0.82	-0.09*	-0.01	-0.08	-0.09	0.03	0.050

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

^ Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

¹ Pertains to the estimated slope of the outcome for the treatment or control groups.

² The average score at implementation is calculated across treatment and control groups, using regression models for adjustment on covariates.

³ Estimated difference between the slope of the treatment and control groups.

⁴ Effect size: The slope of the treatment group minus the slope of the control group divided by the standard deviation of the outcome for the program's control group (the standard deviation is calculated without accounting for school-level clustering or regression adjustments).

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using HLM 6.06. Sample weights were used in all analyses to give (1) each school equal weight in each program (within each time period) and (2) each time period equal weight within the analysis. See table 1.5 for information about the measures used to create the outcome variables.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Summary

As part of the Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program, researchers at the North Carolina site implemented and evaluated CSP, a program focused on social skills training, social and emotional learning, behavior management, and social dynamics management. Ten public schools in two school districts in North Carolina were recruited by the research team and randomly assigned to treatment and control conditions to determine the impact of CSP on social and character development activities in the schools and on the child outcome domains of Social and Emotional Competence, Behavior, Academics, and Perceptions of School Climate.

Analyses of the initial characteristics of the sample (students, caregivers, communities, teachers, and schools) indicated that randomization to treatment and control status produced groups that were relatively similar at the start of the study (with 2 out of 84 comparisons statistically significantly different, fewer than would be expected by chance). The data on the initial level of SACD activity led to two findings. First, treatment teachers reported greater use of and training in SACD activities than did control teachers, and they did so more often than would be expected by chance (6 out of 62 comparisons, with 3 expected significant by chance). There are two potential causes for this finding, and the analysis cannot be used to determine whether the reason for such a difference was that the two groups did differ on their initial use of SACD activities (i.e., that randomization did not create similar treatment and control groups) or the fact that the training of all treatment teachers and CSP implementation began before the initial data were collected (by 4 weeks), which may have influenced the teacher reports. Because it is likely (though unproven) that the training and implementation affected the teacher reports, these data were not considered appropriate for use as a baseline measure of SACD activities and training in the treatment schools.

Second, these data indicate that the control condition for the SACD project was not a “no treatment” control but a “standard practice” control. Because the control teachers were not affected by the implementation of the SACD programs before data collection, their reports reflected standard practice in the control schools. Standard practice at the control schools included 52 percent to 93 percent of teachers reporting the use of any SACD activities, 88 percent of teachers reporting the use of specific materials in conjunction with these activities, 100 percent reporting the use of at least one of the specified instructional strategies, and 52 percent reporting participation in SACD training over the past 12 months.

Analyses of CSP impacts on the use of SACD activities in the schools revealed impacts on the use of such activities (18 out of 90 comparisons) and related materials and strategies (8 out of 87 comparisons) across the 3 years, and use of more professional development activities for treatment teachers (5 out of 27 comparisons). These same measures in the control schools across the 3 years of the study confirm that use of these activities in the control schools constituted their standard practice.

Of the 20 child-level outcomes representing the four domains of Social and Emotional Competence, Behavior, Academics, and Perceptions of School Climate assessed in each of the 3 years of the study (a total of 60 results), CSP had a statistically significant beneficial impact on Problem Behavior (Primary Caregiver Report) in Year 2. A growth curve analysis was used to analyze the change over time in these same outcomes between initial data collection and the final outcome data collection at the end of the study. Of the 18 child-level outcomes assessed, CSP had a significant beneficial impact on the trajectory of 1, Victimization at School (Child Report).

The SACD evaluation did not find evidence to support the hypothesis that CSP had beneficial impacts on students’ social and character development. Such results could be caused by the inability of the program to cause such change, possibly because the theory of action for the program is incomplete or the activities to carry out that theory are not effective.

However, these results may also be due to the inability of the evaluation to observe such a change due to the control condition, differences in initial conditions, the level of nonparticipation, or the sample size. The

Chapter 3. Competence Support Program

control schools continued using their standard SADC activities, and these turned out to be high in quantity and broad in scope. Under the Student Citizen Act of 2001, character education was made a required part of the standard curriculum for North Carolina schools starting in the 2002-03 school year, and this may have been a factor in high SADC activity in the control schools. While the CSP program had significant positive impact on the amount and type of SADC activities, the resulting difference in the amount of SADC activities between the treatment and control school may not have been large enough to cause significant differences in the student outcomes.

Second, there were differences between the treatment and control groups that might also be related to differences in outcomes. Treatment teachers had less teaching experience in their current schools and treatment students reported greater negative school orientation (both statistically significant differences, although no more than expected by chance). For Year 3, the treatment students at one school did not receive the intervention when they were transferred to a new school for fifth grade when their former school dropped fifth grade.

Third, about one-third of the students in the sample universe did not take part because of nonconsent or noncompletion of the surveys. As a determination could not be made as to whether the students not taking part differed significantly from those who did take part, the evaluation's results are valid only for the students who took part. If the students not taking part were different, and if they would have responded better to CSP than to the SADC activities occurring in the control schools, then the evaluation could have underestimated the program's impact. In addition, significantly lower percentages of treatment teachers and students provided data in Year 3, and there were significantly larger percentages of treatment leavers in Years 2 and 3.

Finally, the sample size of 10 schools and the resulting higher MDES than for the multiprogram evaluation may have reduced the likelihood of detecting statistically significant effects. However, it should be noted that 67 percent of the MDES for the 60 outcomes used in the year-by-year analysis were below 0.25 (42% were below 0.20). In addition, 5 of the 60 outcomes were found to be substantively important, but 3 of these had detrimental impacts.

Chapter 4. Love In a Big World

Vanderbilt University (Tennessee Site)

Intervention

Researchers at Vanderbilt University (Tennessee site) evaluated the *Love In a Big World* (LBW) program as implemented by program staff. The curriculum is based on research conducted by the Social Development Research Group at the University of Washington and on asset development research conducted by the Search Institute. This character education program includes classroom lesson plans, staff and principal training, a peer recognition program, service projects, assembly programs, motivational morning announcements, and newsletters that aim to teach children positive character traits and moral principles and how to apply them in their lives. Table 4.1 describes LBW's general characteristics (panel 1), the types of instruction and strategies used (panel 2), the professional development provided for those implementing the program (panel 3), and the social and character development activities (panel 4) and outcomes (panel 5) addressed by the program. The program is designed to encourage wise decisionmaking, improve peer relationships, and promote dialogue about character choices. The program includes the following elements:

- Adults teach and model character traits such as honesty, kindness, responsibility, self-control, moderation, perseverance, respect, fairness, cooperation, and love.
- Classroom strategies for teaching character traits involve story reading, writing, discussion, song, and other classroom activities that occur daily in 10- to 15-minute lessons for 30 weeks. Teachers utilize behavior management strategies to reward exhibition of character traits and are encouraged to model and reinforce social skills throughout the day.
- Schoolwide strategies for teaching character traits include weekly announcements, assemblies, service projects, parent newsletters, and visual artifacts that illustrate character traits (e.g., posters and banners).
- Principals, teachers, and school staff participate in a workshop on lesson planning and on the logistics of program implementation at the start of each school year. In the first year of implementation, this workshop is 3 hours long, and in subsequent years it is 1 hour long.

Table 4.1. Love In a Big World

Panel 1: General characteristics

Target population

Universal

Program components

Peer: In and out of class

Parent: Contact and involvement

Classroom: Lessons and behavior management

Schoolwide: Planned events, modeling, and program artifacts

Community: None or not major focus

Training: Pretraining and ongoing

Level of integration

Add-on curriculum and schoolwide activities

Flexibility

Manualized: Curriculum guidebook

Adaptability: Less adaptable

See notes at end of table.

Panel 2: Description of instruction and strategies

Classroom

Lessons

Who delivers: Teacher

Activities and tools: Story reading, writing, interdisciplinary activities, rewards, singing

Content: Character traits and moral virtues

Frequency: Daily 10- to 15-minute lessons for 30 weeks

Strategies

Who delivers: Teacher

Activities and tools: Recognition and reinforcement of good behavior; modeling of character traits

Frequency: Daily

Supplement to classroom

Parent newsletters

Schoolwide activities

Weekly announcements, occasional assemblies, two service projects, program artifacts

See notes at end of table.

Table 4.1. Love In a Big World—Continued**Panel 3: Professional development****Pre-implementation****Teachers***Content:* Workshop on lesson plans and logistics of program*Duration:* 3 hours**Other***Content:* Principal and staff training on same material as teachers*Duration:* 3 hours**Ongoing consultation****Teachers***Content:* Faculty boosters with reminders about program implementation and discussion of challenges*Duration:* 24 weekly sessions; biannual meeting**Other***Content:* Program coordinator; calls with program developer to improve schoolwide implementation*Duration:* Once every 6 months

See notes at end of table.

Panel 4: Activities for SCD goals

Violence prevention and peace promotion	✓	Risk prevention and health promotion	
Social and emotional development	✓	Civic responsibility and community service	✓
Character education	✓	Behavior management	
Tolerance and diversity	✓		

See notes at end of table.

Panel 5: SCD outcomes addressed

Engagement with Learning		Empathy	✓
Academic Competence and Motivation		Positive School Orientation	✓
Altruistic Behavior	✓	Negative School Orientation	✓
Positive Social Behavior	✓	Student Afraid at School	✓
Problem Behavior	✓	Victimization at School	
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions		Feelings of Safety	✓
Normative Beliefs About Aggression		Student Support for Teachers	✓

NOTE: Abbreviations are

✓: Activity or outcome addressed

Blank cell: Activity or outcome not addressed

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SCD) Research Program.

Sample and Random Assignment

The Tennessee research team recruited a total of 12 public elementary schools in 2 school districts in 2 separate counties in Tennessee. The 12 schools were randomly assigned to treatment and control conditions prior to the fall 2004 data collection period.⁴⁸ A two-step process was used. First, a computer-generated pairwise matching algorithm developed by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (MPR) identified the best pairwise matches across the 12 schools based on (a) school district, (b) percentages of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, (c) total mobility rate, (d) Tennessee assessment scores, (e) total number of students, (f) promotion level, and (g) percentages of students who were members of a minority population. Second, using the flip of a coin, 1 school in each matched pair was assigned to either the intervention or control condition, resulting in 6 schools receiving LBW and 6 schools acting as control schools that continued to implement the social and character development activities that constituted their standard practice. Assignment to the treatment or control condition was at the school level and therefore limited the risk of contamination between treatment and control classrooms. After the first year, 1 control school discontinued involvement because it became a magnet school, resulting in a total of 11 schools in the study, with 6 in the treatment condition and 5 in the control condition.

The original student sample (the cohort of students in the third grade in the 12 schools in fall 2004) numbered 986 students (548 treatment and 438 control). Table 4.2 documents the changes in the sample over the three spring follow-up data collection points. Over time, new entrants to the cohort became a larger percentage of the sample, making up 28 percent of the sample by the spring of Year 3. There were no statistically significant differences between the treatment and control groups in the numbers of new entrants. The percentage of the sample made up of the original cohort further declined as students left the schools. By Year 3, approximately 31 percent of the original sample had left. In Years 1 and 3 there were statistically significant differences in “leavers” between treatment and control groups (in both cases, there were fewer in the treatment group).

⁴⁸ In Year 2 (fall 2005), the Tennessee research team recruited two more schools, one assigned to treatment and one assigned to control, which were followed to the end of the study (spring 2007). A description of this second cohort and all relevant findings can be found in appendix A. The data from this second cohort are not included in the analyses and results reported in this chapter.

Table 4.2. Sample—LBW

Characteristic	Year 1 (Fall 3rd grade)			Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control
School sample size	12	6	6	12	6	6	11	6	5 ¹	11	6	5 ¹
Student sample size	986	548	438	1,007	565	442	959	556	403	944	567	377
Stayers	†	†	†	926	523	403	758	438	320	678	403	275
New entrants	†	†	†	81	42	39	201	118	83	266	164	102
New entrants as a percent of spring enrollment	†	†	†	8.0	7.4	8.8	21.0	21.2	20.6	28.2	28.9	27.1
Total leavers (from original cohort)	†	†	†	60	25	35	228	110	118	308	145	163
Leavers as a percent of fall 2004 enrollment	†	†	†	6.1	4.6*	8.0	23.1	20.1	26.9	31.2	26.5**	37.2
Number of students per school (mean)	82	91	73	84	94	74	87	93	76	86	95	75
Range of number of students per school	40-138	57-138	40-111	44-141	58-141	44-111	45-151	45-151	45-112	34-164	47-164	34-113

† Not applicable.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

¹ One control group school discontinued involvement because it became a magnet school.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Implementation

Training

Teachers, principals, and school staff members in the intervention schools received 3 hours of program implementation training in the form of a workshop prior to the beginning of the first school year (table 4.1, panel 3). In the second and third years of the study, a 1-hour workshop was provided at the start of the school year. Teachers had access to ongoing program implementation support during the school year through 24 weekly faculty booster sessions that were provided to each school's program coordinator and could be e-mailed to the faculty. There were also biannual meetings that included reminders about lesson planning and discussions of program implementation challenges. In addition, the school program coordinator received monthly (in Year 1) or biannual (in later years, in accordance with school feedback) calls from program staff to answer questions and provide assistance or any required materials.

Data Collection

MPR collected the multiprogram child, teacher, and school data at the Tennessee site. Table 4.3 shows the school year milestones and dates of implementation for the Tennessee site. Data were collected in the fall and spring of the first 2 years and the spring of Year 3. The fall 2004 multiprogram data collection began on August 23, 2004, and ended on September 9, 2004. Fall data collection occurred before implementation of LBW began. The spring data collection window was from May 2, 2005, to May 20, 2005. The program had been implemented for 33 weeks at the time of the spring data collection and for 34 weeks from the end of the fall data collection. Year 2 followed a similar pattern, with implementation occurring at the start of the school year, fall data collection occurring 5 weeks later, and spring data collection occurring 31 weeks after fall data collection (and 40 weeks after the start of implementation). In spring 2007, data collection occurred 40 weeks after the start of implementation. Data collection took from 3 to 5 weeks at each collection point.

Table 4.3. Data collection dates—LBW

Data collection schedule	Year 1 (Fall 3rd grade)	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)	Year 2 (Fall 4th grade)	Year 3 (Spring 4th grade)	Year 4 (Spring 4th grade)
School sample size	12	12	11	10	10
School year dates					
First day of school	7/14/04; 7/4/04 ¹	†	7/26/05; 8/11/05 ⁴	†	7/24/06; 8/10/06 ⁶
Start of implementation	9/13/04	†	First day	†	First day
Last day of school	†	5/26/05; 6/2/05 ²	†	5/25/06; 6/1/06 ⁵	5/25/07; 6/1/07 ⁷
Data collection					
Start	8/23/04	5/2/05	8/29/05	5/1/06	5/1/07
End	9/9/04	5/20/05	9/23/05	5/19/06	5/16/07
Calendar weeks from program implementation to start of fall 2004 data collection	† ³	†	†	†	†
Calendar weeks from start of school to start of fall data collection	6 ¹	†	5 ⁴	†	†
Calendar weeks from end of fall data collection to start of spring data collection	†	34	†	31	†
Calendar weeks from program implementation to start of spring data collection	†	33	†	40 ⁴	40 ⁶

† Not applicable.

¹ Eight schools started on 7/14/04 and four started on 8/4/04. The calculation of weeks from the start of school to the start of fall 2004 data collection uses 7/14/04 as the first day of the school year.² Eight schools ended on 5/26/05 and four ended on 6/2/05. The calculation of weeks from program implementation to the end of the school year uses 5/26/05 as the last day of the school year.³ Program implementation occurred after fall 2004 data collection.⁴ Eight schools started on 7/25/05 and 7/27/05 and four started on 8/11/05. The calculation of weeks from the start of school to the start of data collection uses 7/26/05 as the first day of the school year.⁵ Eight schools ended on 5/25/06 and four ended on 6/1/06.⁶ Nine schools started between 7/24/06 and 7/26/06 and two started on 8/10/06. The calculation of weeks from the start of school to the start of spring 2007 data collection uses 7/26/06 as the first day of the school year.⁷ Six schools ended on 5/25/07, three ended on 5/31/07, and two ended on 6/1/07.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Consent Rates, Completion Rates, and Percentage of Sample With Data

The actual number of student, primary caregiver, and teacher reports available for analysis was smaller than the number in the sample because consent and completion rates were less than 100 percent. Primary caregivers had to provide consent before children could complete the Child Report, before teachers could complete the Teacher Report on Student, and before they themselves completed the Primary Caregiver Report. Teachers also had to provide consent before completing the Teacher Report on Classroom and School. Of those with consent, not all completed their respective reports. Table 4.4 shows the consent rates, completion rates, and percentages of sample with data for each of the four reports over the 3 years. For the Child Report and two teacher reports, completion rates ranged from 84 percent to 100 percent, so the consent rates had the most influence on what percentage of the sample had data. There were no statistically significant differences between treatment and control groups in consent rates for any of these reports. For the Primary Caregiver Report, the completion rates dropped over time from 95 percent to 74 percent.

The percentages of the sample with Child Report data ranged from 58 percent to 62 percent over the 3 years. The percentages of students with information from the Teacher Report on Student ranged from 62 percent to 68 percent. The percentages of students with data from the Primary Caregiver Report ranged from 46 percent to 65 percent and declined over time. The percentages of teachers with data from the Teacher Report on Classroom and School ranged from 84 percent to 97 percent. There were no statistically significant differences between treatment and control conditions in percentages of students with data for any of the four reports.

Table 4.4. Consent rates, completion rates, and percentage of sample with data from each report—LBW

Report	Year 1 (Fall 3rd grade)			Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Treat- ment		Control	Treat- ment		Control	Treat- ment		Control	Treat- ment		Control
	Total			Total			Total			Total		
Student sample size	986	548	438	1,007	565	442	959	556	403	944	567	377
Child Report (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate	65.7	67.9	63.0	66.3	68.1	64.0	64.4	65.5	63.0	64.9	66.0	63.4
Student completion rate	91.5	90.6	92.8	91.6	89.9	94.0	93.7	92.3	95.7	90.2	89.6	91.2
Students with data ¹	60.1	61.5	58.4	60.8	61.4	60.0	60.4	60.4	60.3	58.6	59.1	57.8
Primary Caregiver Report (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate	65.7	67.9	63.0	66.2	68.0	64.0	64.2	65.1	63.0	63.9	64.6	62.9
Primary caregiver completion rate	95.2	95.4	94.9	80.2	79.2	81.6	79.7	81.2	77.6	73.5	70.8	77.6
Primary caregivers with data ¹	62.6	64.8	59.8	53.1	54.0	52.0	51.2	52.9	48.9	46.9	45.7	48.8
Teacher Report on Student (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate ²	65.7	67.9	63.0	66.3	68.1	64.0	64.4	65.5	63.0	64.9	66.0	63.4
Teacher completion rate	97.8	97.6	98.2	99.7	99.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.0	96.8**	100.0
Students with data ¹	64.3	66.3	61.9	66.1	67.8	63.8	64.4	65.5	63.0	63.7	63.8	63.4
Teacher Report on Classroom and School (3rd- to 5th-grade teachers) (percent)												
Teacher consent rate	99.3	100.0	98.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	97.0	97.4	96.3	100.0	100.0	100.0
Teacher completion rate	89.0	84.0*	95.3	95.9	95.2	96.9	90.6	92.1	88.5	91.9	90.4	94.3
Teachers with data ¹	88.4	84.0	93.8	95.9	95.2	96.9	87.9	89.7	85.2	91.9	90.4	94.3

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

¹ Calculated as consent rate x completion rate.

² The primary caregiver consent rates for the Child Report and the Teacher Report on Student are identical, as the primary caregiver gave consent to both together.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Chapter 4. Love In a Big World

Responses from students in the original cohort (stayers) and new entrants in the LBW sample were examined to investigate possible differences between the two groups in consent rates, completion rates, and the percentages of sample with data that might affect outcome data (table 4.5). In all 3 years, stayers had significantly higher consent rates (by 18 to 32 percentage points) and higher percentages of sample with data (by 8 to 33 percentage points) than did new entrants.

Table 4.5. Consent rates, completion rates, and percentage of sample with data: Stayers versus new entrants—LBW

Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Total	Stayers	New entrants	Total	Stayers	New entrants	Total	Stayers	New entrants
Student sample size	1,007	926	81	959	758	201	944	678	266
Child Report (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate	66.3	68.9***	37.0	64.4	69.7***	44.8	64.9	70.1***	51.9
Student completion rate	91.6	91.5	93.3	93.7	93.2	96.7	90.2	89.9	91.3
Students with data ¹	60.8	63.1***	34.6	60.4	64.9***	43.3	58.6	63.0***	47.4
Primary Caregiver Report (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate	66.2	68.9***	35.8	64.2	69.4***	44.8	63.9	68.9***	51.1
Primary caregiver completion rate	80.2	80.1	82.8	79.7	80.0	77.8	73.6	71.5*	80.9
Primary caregivers with data ¹	53.1	55.2***	29.6	51.2	55.5***	34.8	47.0	49.3*	41.4
Teacher Report on Student (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate ²	66.3	68.9***	37.0	64.4	69.7***	44.8	64.9	70.1***	51.9
Teacher completion rate	99.7	99.8	96.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.0	98.3	97.1
Students with data ¹	66.1	68.8***	35.8	64.4	69.7***	44.8	63.7	68.9***	50.4

* Stayers significantly different from new entrants at the .05 level.

*** Stayers significantly different from new entrants at the .001 level.

¹ Calculated as consent rate x completion rate.

² The primary caregiver consent rates for the Child Report and the Teacher Report on Student are identical, as the primary caregiver gave consent to both together.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Fidelity of Implementation

Each year, LBW's six treatment group schools were individually rated for quantity and quality of program implementation by two raters from the research team. The global measure of fidelity for the multisite study was used; inter-rater reliability was measured using Cronbach's alpha. In Years 2 and 3 these values were 0.83 and 0.97, respectively; in Year 1, the inter-rater reliability coefficient was -0.08, indicating that there was lack of agreement among the two raters, and thus Cronbach's alpha was not calculated. The ratings were combined into a single consensus rating and used to identify schools with high implementation fidelity. In Year 1 one treatment school was identified as having high fidelity and in Years 2 and 3 two treatment schools were identified as having high fidelity. Cohen's kappa was used as the measure of agreement when identifying schools as high fidelity, and it equaled 1.00 in Years 2 and 3.

Initial Characteristics

This section examines the initial characteristics of the students, teachers, and schools participating in the LBW evaluation. These characteristics were collected from students who were enrolled in the third grade at the study schools in fall 2004, as well as from their primary caregivers and third-grade teachers. In addition, third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers and principals in the study schools provided information about activities related to social and character development in these schools. Documenting the characteristics of students, teachers, and schools and initial measures of key outcomes at a point before the intervention began operating helps to determine whether the random assignment of schools to treatment and control status produced treatment and control groups with similar distributions of observed characteristics. As noted in the following discussion, 4 significant differences between the treatment and control students, teachers, and schools were found in the observed characteristics, including the level of SCD activity in the classroom and school (3 of the 4 significant differences out of 62 comparisons, with 3 expected to be significant by chance).

Characteristics of Children, Their Families, and Communities

There were no significant differences between the treatment and control groups in the observed student, caregiver, and community characteristics (table 4.6). For students, the mean age was 8.1 years. The sample contained roughly equal percentages of girls (52%) and boys (48%). The sample was ethnically diverse. White non-Hispanic students made up 65 percent of the sample, Black non-Hispanic students made up 21 percent, and Hispanic students made up 8 percent.

The sample was also diverse in its levels of family income, education levels of primary caregivers of the children in the sample, and family situation. Twenty-eight percent of children lived in a household where the income was 135 percent of the federal poverty level or lower, which is the income threshold for eligibility for free school meals. Slightly less than 9 percent of primary caregivers had not completed high school. Nearly two-thirds of the children (64%) lived with both their mother and their father. There were no significant differences between the treatment and control groups in these characteristics.

The mean values of the outcomes for children's behavior and attitudes as reported by the primary caregiver, child, and teacher at initial data collection in fall 2004 are shown in table 4.7. There was 1 significant difference (out of 18 comparisons) between the treatment and control groups: the treatment group had a lower Altruistic Behavior score (as reported by caregivers) than did the control group.

Table 4.6. Initial characteristics of children, their families, and communities—LBW

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Student sample size	617	355	262
Student demographics			
Gender (percent)			
Male	48.0	47.7	48.4
Female	52.0	52.3	51.6
Race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	64.9	65.7	64.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	21.1	22.4	19.8
Hispanic	7.9	6.1	9.8
Other	6.1	5.8	6.3
Age (in years) (mean)	8.1	8.1	8.1
Primary caregiver and family characteristics			
Primary caregiver's age (in years) (mean)	35.5	35.8	35.2
Primary caregiver's race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	70.3	70.0	70.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	20.6	22.3	19.0
Hispanic	6.7	6.2	7.2
Other	2.3	1.5	3.1
Primary caregiver's education (percent)			
Did not complete high school	8.8	5.4	12.3
Completed high school or equivalent	25.8	22.3	29.3
Some college	40.4	42.2	38.6
Bachelor's or higher degree	25.0	30.2	19.8
Primary caregiver's employment (percent)			
Full-time	54.5	56.9	52.1
Other	45.5	43.1	47.9
Primary caregiver's marital status (percent)			
Married	63.9	65.9	61.8
Other	36.1	34.1	38.2
Students who live in one household (percent)	91.8	91.8	91.8
Number of individuals in household (mean)	4.3	4.3	4.3
Primary caregiver's relationship to child (percent)			
Mother (stepmother)	84.9	86.0	83.8
Father (stepfather)	10.4	9.6	11.2
Other relative/nonrelative	4.7	4.4	4.9

See notes at end of table.

Table 4.6. Initial characteristics of children, their families, and communities—LBW—Continued

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Student lives with (percent)			
Mother (stepmother) and father (stepfather)	64.3	66.6	61.9
Mother (stepmother) only; father (stepfather) not present	28.2	27.3	29.1
Father (stepfather) only; mother (stepmother) not present	3.8	2.9	4.7
Other relative/nonrelative, parents not present	3.7	3.1	4.3
Highest education of anyone in household (percent)			
Did not complete high school	5.6	2.7	8.4
Completed high school or equivalent	20.5	18.7	22.2
Some college	40.6	40.8	40.5
Bachelor's or higher degree	33.4	37.8	28.9
Total household income (percent)			
Less than \$20,000	24.1	19.5	28.8
\$20,000 to \$39,999	22.4	20.2	24.6
\$40,000 to \$59,999	19.9	19.8	20.1
\$60,000 or more	33.5	40.5	26.5
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio—Below 135 percent (percent)	28.1	24.6	31.6
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio—135 to 185 percent (percent)	18.1	14.0	22.1
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio—Above 185 percent (percent)	53.8	61.4	46.3
Alabama Parenting Questionnaire—Poor Monitoring and Supervision Subscale (mean)	1.1	1.1	1.2
Alabama Parenting Questionnaire—Positive Parenting Subscale (mean)	3.5	3.6	3.5
Confusion, Hubbub, and Order Scale (mean)	2.2	2.2	2.2
Community characteristics (mean)			
Community Risks Scale	1.2	1.2	1.2
Community Resources Scale	2.6	2.6	2.7
Child-Centered Social Control Scale	3.1	3.2	3.1

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 4.7. Mean scores and standard deviations for initial outcome measures of sample—LBW

Outcome measure—Report	Range	Total		Treatment		Control	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Social and Emotional Competence Domain							
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interaction—CR	1-4	3.0	0.6	3.0	0.6	3.0	0.7
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR	1-4	1.2	0.4	1.2	0.4	1.2	0.4
Empathy—CR	1-3	2.5	0.4	2.5	0.4	2.5	0.4
Behavior Domain							
Altruistic Behavior—CR	0-3	1.4	0.9	1.5	0.9	1.4	0.9
Altruistic Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.3	0.4	1.3	0.4	1.4	0.4
Altruistic Behavior—PCR	1-4	2.3	0.7	2.2**	0.6	2.4	0.7
Positive Social Behavior—TRS	1-4	3.2	0.7	3.3	0.7	3.2	0.7
Positive Social Behavior—PCR	1-4	3.0	0.5	3.1	0.5	3.0	0.5
Problem Behavior—CR	0-3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3
Problem Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.3	0.3	1.3	0.4	1.3	0.3
Problem Behavior—CR	1-4	1.6	0.3	1.6	0.3	1.6	0.3
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.7	0.6	1.7	0.7	1.6	0.6
Academics Domain							
Academic Competence and Motivation—TRS	1-5	3.1	0.9	3.1	0.9	3.1	0.9
Engagement with Learning—CR	1-4	3.7	0.5	3.7	0.6	3.8	0.5
Perceptions of School Climate Domain							
Positive School Orientation—CR	1-4	3.3	0.6	3.4	0.6	3.3	0.6
Negative School Orientation—CR	1-4	1.7	0.6	1.7	0.6	1.6	0.5
Student Afraid at School—CR	1-4	2.4	0.9	2.4	0.9	2.3	0.9
Victimization at School—CR	0-3	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8
Student sample size—PCR		617		355		262	
Student sample size—CR		593		337		256	
Student sample size—TRS		634		363		271	

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

SD: Standard deviation

Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Characteristics of Teachers and Schools

Table 4.8 describes the third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers at the study schools. They were predominantly White non-Hispanic (91%) and female (90%) and had an average of 14.9 years of total teaching experience. More than half (55%) held an advanced or specialist degree. There were no statistically significant differences between the treatment and control groups of teachers.

Data regarding school characteristics were drawn from the Common Core of Data in order to compare treatment and control schools.⁴⁹ There were no significant differences between the two groups of schools in terms of student composition (race/ethnicity and free lunch eligibility), number of students enrolled, number of full-time teachers, Title I status, or number of years the principal had been at the school (see table 4.9). In addition, there were no significant differences between treatment and control schools in terms of location (urban, suburban, or rural) or lowest and highest grade offered (these data are not shown in a table).

Table 4.8. Initial characteristics of teachers in sample—LBW

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Teacher sample size	129	68	61
Gender (percent)			
Male	10.0	8.6	11.4
Female	90.0	91.4	88.6
Race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	90.5	92.7	88.4
Other	9.5	7.3	11.6
Number of years teaching experience (mean)	14.9	14.5	15.2
Number of years teaching experience in this school (mean)	10.0	8.7	11.2
Type of teaching certificate (percent)			
Regular state certificate or advanced professional certificate	95.5	‡	‡
Other	4.5	‡	‡
Education (percent)			
Bachelor's degree	44.7	40.0	49.4
Advanced degree/other	55.3	60.0	50.6

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program

⁴⁹ Common Core of Data information on student race/ethnicity, percentage eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, and number of full-time teachers were missing for LBW treatment and control schools.

Table 4.9. Initial characteristics of schools in sample—LBW

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
School sample size	12	6	6
Student race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	—	—	—
Black (non-Hispanic)	—	—	—
Hispanic	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—
Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (percent)			
Number of students enrolled (mean)	536.2	576.5	495.8
Number of full-time teachers (mean)	—	—	—
Title I status (percent)			
Title I eligible school	66.7	66.7	66.7
Schoolwide Title I	‡	0	‡
Number of years principal has been at this school (mean)	6.7	4.8	8.5

— Not available.

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: NCES Common Core of Data (2003-04), the Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

In the Teacher Report on Classroom and School, teachers reported on nine dimensions of school environment (these data are not shown in a table): feelings of safety, adequacy of resources, student support, freedom to teach as desired, affiliation with and ties to colleagues, innovation regarding new approaches to teaching, professional interest, participatory decisionmaking, and work pressure. There were no statistically significant differences in these reports between treatment and control schools.

The Level of SACD in the Schools Near the Beginning of the Study

During the initial data collection, principals and teachers reported on the SACD activities used in the schools and classrooms, the availability of SACD materials, and the professional development provided on SACD. Table 4.10 shows that the majority of the school principals reported activities to promote six social and character development goals: violence prevention and peace promotion (92%), social and emotional development (92%), character education (92%), tolerance and diversity (83%), risk prevention and health promotion (82%), and civic responsibility and community service (91%). In addition, all of the principals reported activities directed toward behavior management. There were no statistically significant differences between treatment and control groups in the percentages, although this may be due to the relatively small principal sample size. The percentages of teachers reporting the use of these activities in their classrooms ranged from 46 percent to 89 percent, and there were no significant differences between treatment and control teacher reports. With respect to the use of schoolwide activities, 42 percent to 83 percent of teachers reported that their schools used such activities, and there were no significant differences between treatment and control teacher reports.

Table 4.10. Principal and teacher initial reports on use of SCD programs or activities in sample—LBW

SACD program or activity	Total	Treatment	Control
Principal sample size	12	6	6
Teacher sample size	129	68	61
Principals reporting that school had programs or activities to promote the following SCD goals (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	91.7	83.3	100.0
Social and emotional development	91.7	83.3	100.0
Character education	91.7	83.3	100.0
Tolerance and diversity	83.3	66.7	100.0
Risk prevention and health promotion	81.8	83.3	80.0
Civic responsibility and community service	90.9	83.3	100.0
Behavior management	100.0	100.0	100.0
None of the above	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teachers reporting on using programs or activities in their class to promote the following SCD goals (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	58.2	65.3	51.1
Social and emotional development	55.2	59.6	50.7
Character education	68.9	70.3	67.5
Tolerance and diversity	54.9	58.8	51.0
Risk prevention and health promotion	46.2	46.9	45.5
Civic responsibility and community service	55.4	62.2	48.6
Behavior management	88.8	92.7	84.9
None of the above	4.1	‡	‡
Teachers reporting schoolwide use of the following activities to promote SCD (percent)			
Morning announcements or videos	83.1	80.0	86.1
School assemblies	61.3	70.5	52.1
School newspapers or bulletins	62.1	61.1	63.2
Special school days	42.0	45.2	38.9
Special events	63.9	71.5	56.3
Other activities	9.6	10.3	8.8

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SCD) Research Program.

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Teachers reported using a broad range of teaching materials to support SACD activities (table 4.11), including teacher guides (46%), student materials (31%), instructional aids (29%), giveaways (32%), and children's literature (41%). There was a statistically significant difference between the groups, with a greater percentage of treatment teachers reporting the use of children's literature (one out of seven materials asked about) than control teachers (58% versus 24%).

Teachers also reported using a wide variety of teaching strategies (table 4.11). Nearly all teachers (99.5%) reported using any of the 20 strategies asked about, and teachers used an average of 11.2 strategies. There were no significant differences in the average number of strategies, or in the specific strategies, used by treatment versus control teachers.

Table 4.11. Teacher initial reports on use of SACD materials and classroom strategies in sample—LBW

SACD material and classroom /strategy	Total	Treatment	Control
Teacher sample size	129	68	61
Teachers using the following materials in conjunction with social and character development activities (percent)			
Teacher guides (manuals, curricula)	46.4	47.4	45.3
Student materials (workbooks, worksheets)	30.8	31.9	29.8
Instructional aids (games, software, videos)	29.0	22.9	35.1
Giveaways (bookmarks, stickers)	32.0	30.5	33.6
Children's literature	41.1	58.1**	24.0
Other types of materials	11.1	8.1	14.1
Do not use any of the materials listed above	22.3	22.7	21.9
Teachers using any of the strategies listed below to promote social and character development in the classroom (percent)	99.5	99.0	100.0
Number of strategies (listed below) used by teachers to promote social and character development in the classroom (mean)	11.2	11.2	11.1
Teachers using each of the following strategies to promote social and character development (percent)			
Role-playing	65.6	64.1	67.2
Cooperative learning	94.7	93.7	95.8
Peer group discussions	88.0	86.8	89.3
Direct instruction of social and character development	66.8	70.5	63.0
Skill training	29.4	32.0	26.7
Incorporating social and character development into academic curriculum	62.6	66.7	58.6
Parent training	2.9	‡	‡
Parent/community involvement in program development or delivery	14.3	15.9	12.7
Mentoring	46.8	44.0	49.5
Good behavior notes sent home daily or weekly	80.2	87.3	73.1
Presenting role models	60.7	70.2	51.2
Targeted story reading or writing on SACD themes	63.9	65.8	62.1
Peer mediation	36.1	35.1	37.1
Honor roll for positive behavior	43.4	37.1	49.8
Pledges or recitations on social and character development themes	35.3	39.3	31.3
Guided visualization	31.1	19.1	43.2
Student-led/student-assisted instruction	45.8	41.6	50.0
Journaling	81.5	78.7	84.2
Time out for negative behavior	95.1	92.1	98.1
Daily or weekly rewards for positive behavior	89.5	92.0	87.1

‡ Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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Principals and teachers reported on participation in and amount of SCD training and staff development provided over the previous 12 months (table 4.12). Principals reported higher participation rates than did teachers (91% versus 73%), although principals and teachers reported virtually the same number of training hours (5.8 versus 5.6). There was a significant difference in the percentages of teachers reporting participation in SCD training, with more treatment teachers reporting participation than control teachers (84% versus 62%). In addition, a significantly greater percentage of treatment teachers than control teachers reported receiving specific training in one of the seven targeted SCD goals (character education: 48% versus 18%).

Table 4.12. Principal and teacher initial reports on SCD professional development in sample—LBW

SACD professional development	Total	Treatment	Control
Principal sample size	12	6	6
Teacher sample size	129	68	61
Principals reporting that staff participated in social and character development training within the past year (percent)	90.9	83.3	100.0
Teachers reporting participation in social and character development training within the past 12 months (percent)	72.9	83.6*	62.2
Number of hours of social and character development training principals report were provided to each staff person last year (mean)	5.8	6.2	5.4
Number of hours of social and character development training teachers report receiving during the past 12 months (mean)	5.6	6.4	4.8
Teachers reporting receiving training in the past 12 months in the following areas (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	21.3	26.8	15.8
Social and emotional development	22.3	21.3	23.3
Character education	33.1	47.9**	18.3
Tolerance and diversity	24.9	29.4	20.3
Risk prevention and health promotion	18.5	20.0	17.0
Civic responsibility and community service	7.3	5.9	8.6
Behavior management	28.0	33.9	22.0

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SCD) Research Program.

The data on the initial level of SCD activity emphasized that the control condition was a “standard practice” control. Standard practice at the control schools included using SCD activities, materials, and practices, along with professional development for staff, at rates and in types and amounts similar to the treatment schools. For example, the percentage of teachers who reported using programs or activities to promote specific SCD goals ranged from 47 percent to 93 percent in the treatment schools and from 46 percent to 85 percent in the control schools. The 3 significant differences between the treatment and control conditions in the use of SCD activities equaled the number that would be expected by chance (3 out of 62 comparisons).

Impacts on Use of SCD Activities

The introduction of the formal LBW program would be expected to increase the use of SCD activities in the treatment schools in comparison to the control schools. The analysis of this impact is based on the Teacher Report on Classroom and School (TRCS). Every spring, third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers provided information through the TRCS about the social and character development activities they used in their classrooms. Specifically, information from the TRCS was used to determine the difference between treatment and control teachers in these areas:

1. the use of SCD activities in their classrooms overall and by SCD goal;
2. the use of materials and strategies to implement the SCD activities within classrooms and within the entire school;
3. the use of staff development to support the teachers; and
4. teacher support for SCD efforts in the school and the use of practices conducive to the social and character development of students.

TRCS consent and completion rates (table 4.4) led to 84 percent to 97 percent of all teachers having data for the 3 years, with greater percentages of control teachers providing data in Years 1 and 3. To estimate intervention impacts for each of the outcomes, testing of the statistical significance of the differences in means was used. Preliminary analysis indicated little or no gains in precision from using covariates. Before the mean differences were tested, the data were weighted such that each school received equal weight. Standard errors of the impact estimates accounted for the clustering of teachers within schools. In addition, a set of heuristics (described in chapter 1) was applied to determine whether each outcome domain was statistically significant after adjustments were made for the multiple tests conducted.

Use of Activities

The percentages of control teachers who reported using any SCD activities in their classrooms ranged from 82 percent to 87 percent over the 3 years (table 4.13, panel 1). For the six individual SCD goals, the ranges varied from 53 percent to 77 percent in Year 1, 52 percent to 70 percent in Year 2, and 64 percent to 81 percent in Year 3. Control teachers' use of behavior management activities ranged from 75 percent to 84 percent over this period. The percentages of control teachers who reported using any SCD activities in their classrooms for at least 1 hour per week (panel 2) ranged from 48 percent to 80 percent over the 3 years. For the six individual SCD goals, the percentages ranged from 6 percent to 29 percent in Year 1, 14 percent to 25 percent in Year 2, and 18 percent to 28 percent in Year 3. Control teachers' use of behavior management activities ranged from 43 percent to 57 percent over this period. These findings show that the control schools were using these activities as part of their standard practice related to social and character development.

For teachers' reported use of any SCD activity, 48 comparisons were made, with 3 expected to be significant by chance (panels 1 and 2). The percentage of treatment teachers using any SCD activity was significantly different from control teachers in Year 2 (impact = 17 percentage points). For specific SCD activities, there was a significant difference for character education in Year 2 (impact = 24 percentage points) and for behavior management activities in Year 3 (impact = 19 percentage points), both favoring treatment teachers. Significant differences between treatment and control teachers who reported use of these activities for at least 1 hour a week occurred in all years, again favoring treatment teachers. In Year 1, there was an impact on social and emotional development (impact = 14 percentage points), character education (impact = 45 percentage points), tolerance and diversity (impact = 16 percentage points), and any activity (impact = 32 percentage points). In Year 2, impacts were seen for violence prevention and peace promotion (impact = 18 percentage points), social and emotional development (impact = 23 percentage points), character education (impact = 43 percentage points), risk prevention and health promotion (impact = 16 percentage points), any activity (impact = 29 percentage points), and behavior management (impact = 33 percentage points). In Year

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3, there was an impact on behavior management (impact = 26 percentage points). After the heuristics were applied to adjust for multiple comparisons, the data showed that LBW had statistically significant impacts in Years 1 and 2 on the domain for engagement in SACD activities.

Regarding the use of named SACD activities, 42 comparisons were made, with 2 expected to be significant by chance (panels 3 and 4). Five of the 12 impact estimates in Year 1, 6 of the 12 in Year 2, and 3 of the 12 in Year 3 were statistically significant. An impact on character education activities (impact = 44, 59, and 31 percentage points) and any named activity (impact = 29, 45, and 20 percentage points) were seen in all 3 years. In Year 2, there was an impact on risk prevention and health promotion (impact = 26 percentage points). For named activities used at least 1 hour per week, there were significant impacts on character education (impact = 52 percentage points), tolerance and diversity (impact = 21 percentage points), and any named activity (impact = 37 percentage points) in Year 1; character education (impact = 43 percentage points) and any named activity (impact = 38 percentage points) in Year 2; and character education (impact = 21 percentage points) in Year 3. LBW had significant impacts on the domain for engagement in named SACD activities in Years 1 and 2.

Table 4.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—LBWPanel 1: Engagement in any activities to promote SACD goals¹

SACD activity	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	(Spring 3rd grade)				(Spring 4th grade)				(Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	85	64			69	47			75	50		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	65.6	61.2	4.4	0.698	58.8	51.5	7.3	0.337	72.0	71.9	0.1	0.989
Social and emotional development (percent)	66.1	55.5	10.6	0.309	66.6	52.2	14.4	0.102	64.4	74.4	-10.0	0.399
Character education (percent)	92.5	77.0	15.4	0.106	93.8*	69.6	24.3	0.003	84.9	81.4	3.6	0.575
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	66.4	62.7	3.7	0.704	61.6	59.9	1.7	0.862	61.5	70.6	-9.2	0.457
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	63.3	53.2	10.1	0.119	69.6	52.6	17.0	0.114	69.1	64.2	4.9	0.692
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	55.6	53.1	2.5	0.848	59.3	56.0	3.4	0.791	59.6	67.5	-7.9	0.469
Any SACD goal (percent)	93.5	83.2	10.3	0.190	98.3*	81.6	16.7	0.024	91.4	86.9	4.5	0.457
Behavior management (percent)	85.6	84.0	1.7	0.780	90.9	80.2	10.7	0.211	93.6*	74.7	18.9	0.008

See notes at end of table.

Table 4.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—LBW—Continued

Panel 2: Engagement in any activities to promote SACD goals for at least 1 hour per week

SACD activity	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	85	64			69	47			75	50		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	26.9	19.9	7.0	0.347	31.9*	14.0	17.8	0.034	25.2	17.8	7.4	0.497
Social and emotional development (percent)	32.1*	18.5	13.6	0.016	40.8*	17.5	23.3	0.008	21.3	26.5	-5.2	0.565
Character education (percent)	74.1*	28.7	45.4	0.000	64.2*	21.6	42.5	0.000	37.4^	21.5	15.8	0.061
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	32.0*	16.1	15.9	0.020	24.9	25.4	-0.5	0.944	16.9	23.2	-6.3	0.512
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	26.1	16.2	9.9	0.077	29.9*	14.0	15.9	0.046	29.6	28.1	1.5	0.920
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	9.4	5.7	3.7	0.503	25.2	16.8	8.4	0.419	11.4	17.9	-6.6	0.374
Any SACD goal (percent)	79.9*	47.8	32.1	0.001	91.7**	62.8	28.9	0.008	84.0	79.9	4.1	0.609
Behavior management (percent)	58.2	55.4	2.9	0.778	75.5**	43.0	32.5	0.004	82.2*	56.7	25.6	0.025

See notes at end of table.

Table 4.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—LBW—ContinuedPanel 3: Engagement in activities to promote SACD goals linked to named SACD programs²

SACD activity	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
	85	64			69	47			75	50		
Teacher sample size												
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	21.9	22.4	-0.4	0.964	29.1	17.3	11.7	0.281	25.9	13.0	12.9	0.191
Social and emotional development (percent)	25.6	10.0	15.6	0.311	31.6	14.4	17.2	0.172	10.4	15.2	-4.8	0.605
Character education (percent)	62.9*	18.5	44.4	0.003	75.4*	16.3	59.2	0.000	39.2*	8.0	31.2	0.047
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	25.4	12.0	13.4	0.241	24.6^	9.8	14.8	0.060	‡	‡	7.1	0.361
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	38.5^	25.8	12.7	0.075	52.3*	25.9	26.4	0.009	37.9	31.2	6.7	0.587
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	‡	‡	1.0	†	‡	‡	6.4	0.288	5.9	12.3	-6.4	0.401
Any named activity (percent)	69.1*	39.7	29.4	0.002	86.6*	42.1	44.6	0.001	63.0*	43.4	19.6	0.021

See notes at end of table.

Table 4.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SCD classroom activities—LBW—Continued

Panel 4: Engagement in activities to promote SCD goals linked to named SCD programs for at least 1 hour per week

SACD activity	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	(Spring 3rd grade)				(Spring 4th grade)				(Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	85	64			69	47			75	50		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	17.2 [^]	8.4	8.8	0.094	‡*	‡	18.3	0.016	15.1	5.1	9.9	0.272
Social and emotional development (percent)	‡ [^]	‡	19.6	0.055	23.9	9.2	14.6	0.107	7.8	5.2	2.6	0.701
Character education (percent)	59.1*	6.9	52.3	0.000	53.0*	8.2	44.8	0.000	‡*	‡	21.3	0.014
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	22.6*	1.7	20.9	0.016	14.9	8.8	6.1	0.337	6.9	0.0	6.9	†
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	23.3 [^]	15.0	8.3	0.093	22.8	12.6	10.2	0.198	19.6	19.3	0.3	0.975
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	‡	‡	1.0	†	4.8	0.0	4.8	†	‡	‡	-0.2	0.909
Any named activity (percent)	59.7*	23.0	36.7	0.000	60.3*	22.1	38.2	0.000	38.1	20.7	17.4	0.131

† Not applicable.

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

[^] Treatment group significantly different than control group at the .10 to > .05 level.¹ In Year 1, the omnibus impact for all the outcomes measured together was positive and statistically significant on the basis of a multivariate statistical test. In Years 1 and 2, at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts.² In Years 1 and 2, at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Use of Materials and Strategies

For use of materials and strategies to support SACD goals, 87 comparisons were made, with 5 expected to be significant by chance. Fifteen significant impacts were found on treatment teachers' use of materials and strategies in all 3 years (table 4.14). In Year 1, more treatment teachers than control teachers used teacher guides (impact = 43 percentage points), children's literature (impact = 38 percentage points), direct instruction of SACD (impact = 27 percentage points), skill training (impact = 21 percentage points), good behavior notes (impact = 24 percentage points), and targeted story reading and writing on SACD themes (impact = 29 percentage points). On average, treatment teachers also used more strategies than control teachers (by two strategies). In Year 2, more treatment teachers than control teachers continued to use children's literature (impact = 24 percentage points), direct instruction of SACD (impact = 25 percentage points), and skill training (impact = 22 percentage points), and fewer treatment teachers reported not using any of the SCD materials (impact = -16 percentage points). In addition, more treatment teachers presented role models (impact = 22 percentage points). In Year 3, more treatment teachers used teacher guides (impact = 22 percentage points), instructional aids (impact = 17 percentage points), and direct instruction of SCD (impact = 17 percentage points). LBW's impact on the domain of materials and strategies was statistically significant in Year 1.

Table 4.14. Impacts on use of SACD classroom materials and teaching strategies—LBW

SACD material and teaching strategy ¹	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	85	64			69	47			75	50		
Use of SACD materials (percent)												
Teacher guides (manuals, curricula)	87.3*	44.0	43.3	0.001	73.5	59.9	13.6	0.170	67.9*	46.2	21.7	0.028
Student materials (workbooks or sheets)	45.7	54.8	-9.2	0.337	46.5	38.3	8.2	0.425	46.7	34.7	12.0	0.142
Instructional aids (games, software, videos)	43.4	40.5	3.0	0.803	40.3	44.1	-3.8	0.791	45.3*	28.5	16.7	0.014
Giveaways (bookmarks, stickers)	58.2	48.3	9.9	0.402	50.2	35.0	15.2	0.232	39.7	43.2	-3.5	0.750
Children's literature	75.0*	36.9	38.2	0.006	60.0*	35.7	24.2	0.012	51.3	51.8	-0.5	0.953
Other types of materials	10.1	5.0	5.1	0.275	10.2	8.5	1.7	0.726	7.7	6.9	0.8	0.875
Did not use any of these materials	4.4	20.7	-16.2	0.132	6.9*	22.4	-15.5	0.035	16.8	14.7	2.1	0.776
Use of teaching strategies (percent)												
Role-playing	83.1	72.9	10.2	0.215	70.9	50.2	20.7	0.121	74.6	86.3	-11.6	0.350
Cooperative learning	94.3	92.7	1.5	0.669	92.8	90.7	2.1	0.680	98.4	95.8	2.7	0.405
Peer group discussions	95.5	92.7	2.8	0.425	92.1	93.8	-1.8	0.796	98.5	97.1	1.3	0.658
Direct instruction of SACD	98.1*	71.3	26.8	0.003	94.3*	69.1	25.2	0.008	95.3*	78.7	16.6	0.014
Skill training	57.8*	36.4	21.4	0.002	57.1*	35.3	21.8	0.047	75.2	61.6	13.6	0.305
Incorporating SACD into academic curriculum	77.7^	60.5	17.2	0.085	83.1	71.0	12.0	0.173	85.2	86.8	-1.5	0.816
Parent training	3.9	7.2	-3.3	0.458	5.1	12.0	-6.9	0.224	22.2	22.3	0.0	1.000
Parent/community involvement	22.1	25.1	-3.1	0.699	18.8	27.8	-8.9	0.463	37.9	43.5	-5.6	0.638
Mentoring	65.0	65.6	-0.7	0.956	62.6	61.9	0.6	0.958	72.5	75.1	-2.6	0.834
Good behavior notes sent home daily or weekly	91.0*	67.5	23.5	0.022	84.3	64.5	19.7	0.122	90.7	84.4	6.3	0.136
Presenting role models	84.9	74.8	10.1	0.115	80.9*	59.4	21.5	0.012	82.3	83.6	-1.3	0.874

See notes at end of table.

Table 4.14. Impacts on use of SACD classroom materials and teaching strategies—LBW—Continued

	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
SACD material and teaching strategy ¹												
Use of teaching strategies (percent)— Continued												
Targeted story reading or writing on social and character development themes	98.0*	69.1	28.9	0.001	86.2	76.6	9.6	0.301	86.6	90.8	-4.2	0.494
Peer mediation	63.9	47.6	16.2	0.165	51.9	49.5	2.3	0.839	62.8	78.3	-15.6	0.237
Honor roll for positive behavior	57.8	57.3	0.5	0.955	56.1	59.1	-3.0	0.795	67.2	61.6	5.6	0.529
Pledges or recitations on social and character development themes	52.7	37.3	15.4	0.241	51.7	43.5	8.1	0.709	49.0	48.0	1.0	0.944
Guided visualization	62.5	52.2	10.2	0.191	51.5	42.5	9.0	0.477	60.2	57.8	2.4	0.776
Student-led/student-assisted instruction	44.7	54.6	-9.9	0.269	36.2^	59.3	-23.1	0.074	71.3	65.8	5.5	0.631
Journaling	93.0^	78.8	14.2	0.097	87.4	93.6	-6.2	0.323	90.3	87.5	2.8	0.723
Time out for negative behavior	95.7^	86.8	8.9	0.086	92.9	94.3	-1.5	0.759	98.4	89.9	8.5	0.102
Daily or weekly rewards for positive behavior	91.0	78.0	13.0	0.164	96.1^	83.0	13.2	0.098	95.7	94.4	1.3	0.793
Any strategy	100.0	100.0	0.0	†	100.0	100.0	0.0	†	98.5	100.0	-1.5	†
Number of strategies (mean)	14.2*	12.1	2.0	0.002	13.5	12.3	1.2	0.293	15.0	14.7	0.3	0.792

† Not applicable.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

^ Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

¹ In Year 1, at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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Regarding the use of schoolwide strategies, 18 comparisons were made between treatment and control teacher reports, with 1 expected to be significant by chance. There was 1 statistically significant difference between treatment and control teachers regarding use of schoolwide strategies in Year 3 (these data are not shown in a table), with treatment teachers reporting more use of school assemblies than control teachers (impact = 22 percentage points). The overall impact of LBW on the domain for use of schoolwide strategies in named SCD activities was significant in Year 2; the omnibus impact for all the outcomes measured together was positive and statistically significant on the basis of a multivariate statistical test.

Participation in Professional Development

Regarding reported participation in professional development, 27 comparisons were made over 3 years, with 2 expected to be significant by chance. LBW had a statistically significant effect on treatment teachers' participation in professional development, with more treatment teachers reporting SCD training in the past 12 months in all years (impact = 29, 31, and 30 percentage points) and more hours of training in Years 1 and 2 (by 5.4 and 3.3 hours, on average). In terms of specific SCD goals, more treatment teachers reported training in character education in all 3 years (impact = 62, 34, and 37 percentage points). LBW had a significant impact on the domain of professional development in Year 1.

Table 4.15. Impacts on teacher-reported SCD professional development—LBW

	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
SACD professional development ¹												
Teacher sample size	85	64			69	47			75	50		
SACD training in past 12 months (percent)	89.5*	60.8	28.7	0.006	68.9*	37.7	31.2	0.027	73.4*	43.7	30.0	0.014
Hours of SACD training (mean)	8.6*	3.1	5.4	0.000	5.3*	2.1	3.3	0.044	5.6	3.8	1.8	0.292
Training by goal (percent)												
Violence prevention and peace promotion	21.9	17.7	4.2	0.707	17.0	8.1	8.9	0.188	26.2	18.3	7.9	0.498
Social and emotional development	21.8	16.9	4.8	0.474	16.5	7.8	8.7	0.452	12.7	5.9	6.7	0.339
Character education	77.5*	15.3	62.2	0.000	45.4*	11.3	34.0	0.037	46.7*	9.8	37.0	0.015
Tolerance and diversity	31.7	15.0	16.8	0.119	11.3	7.1	4.3	0.566	14.1	17.5	-3.4	0.613
Risk prevention and health promotion	18.3	12.5	5.8	0.483	22.1	14.8	7.3	0.516	17.5	12.0	5.6	0.339
Civic responsibility and community service	8.2	5.7	2.5	0.642	‡	‡	2.1	0.678	‡	‡	-1.9	0.623
Behavior management	34.8	22.3	12.5	0.184	26.7	18.0	8.7	0.227	35.1	20.6	14.4	0.344

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

¹ In Year 1, at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Attitudes and Practices

Teachers reported on their enthusiasm for SCD efforts in their schools (these data are not shown in a table) by indicating enthusiasm, cooperation, or open dislike. They also reported on the SCD practices of teachers and staff members in their schools (these data are not shown in a table). The practices included modeling positive character and behavior traits with students and fellow teachers, involving students in making decisions, giving students a voice in school governance, the school encouraging parent involvement in children's social and character development, and using developmentally appropriate discipline strategies rather than punishment for misbehavior. Twenty-seven comparisons were made over 3 years, with 1 expected to be significant by chance. There were no statistically significant estimated impacts on teachers' enthusiasm for SCD efforts in their schools in any of the years, nor were there any significant differences in teacher reports of the overall use of practices conducive to students' social and character development. No significant impact was found on the domain in any of the 3 years.

Year-by-Year Impacts on Students and Perceptions of School Climate

The primary research question for the LBW evaluation was this:

What is the average effect of LBW on children's social and emotional competence, behavior, academics, and perceptions of school climate?

The first approach to answering this question was to examine the year-by-year impacts of LBW on these student and school climate outcomes over the 3 years as the students progressed from third through fifth grades.

Equation (2) (described in chapter 1) was estimated to provide LBW impacts on the 20 outcomes based on data from the 11 schools (6 treatment and 5 control). For the LBW evaluation, equation (2) excluded the program fixed effects (θ_j) and included program-specific covariates and random school effects covariates. Table 4.16 lists the covariates used, with outcomes from each report in the LBW analysis.

Table 4.16. Covariates used with outcomes from each report for analysis—LBW

Potential covariate	CR outcome	PCR outcome	TRS outcome	TRCS outcome
Total number	6	24	21	5
Child-reported				
Female	✓	✓	✓	
Hispanic	✓	✓	✓	
Black (non-Hispanic)	✓	✓	✓	
Other ethnicity	✓	✓	✓	
Age in years	✓	✓	✓	
Scales				
Afraid at School				
Altruistic Behavior			✓	
Empathy		✓	✓	
Engagement with Learning				
Negative School Orientation		✓		
Normative Beliefs About Aggression				
Sense of School as a Community				
Problem Behavior				
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions		✓	✓	
Victimization at School		✓		
Primary caregiver-reported				
Age in years		✓		
Completed high school or equivalent				
Some college				
Bachelor's or higher degree				
Highest level of education in household				
Completed high school or equivalent		✓		
Some college		✓		
Bachelor's or higher degree		✓		
Mother present in home life				
Mother and father present				
Respondent someone other than mother or father				
Number of people in household			✓	
Household income: \$20,000 to \$40,000		✓	✓	
Household income: \$40,000 to \$60,000		✓	✓	
Household income: More than \$60,000		✓	✓	
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio: Below 135 percent			✓	
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio: 135 to 185 percent		✓	✓	
Full-time employment		✓	✓	
Part-time employment		✓	✓	

See notes at end of table.

Table 4.16. Covariates used with outcomes from each report for analysis—LBW—Continued

Potential covariate	CR outcome	PCR outcome	TRS outcome	TRCS outcome
Parental scales				
APQ-Poor Monitoring and Supervision Subscale		✓	✓	
APQ-Positive Parenting Subscale		✓		
Child-Centered Social Control				
Confusion, Hubbub, and Order		✓		
Community Resources		✓		
Community Risk			✓	
Parent and Teacher Involvement			✓	
Child scales				
Altruistic Behavior	✓		✓	
Positive Social Behavior				
Problem Behavior				
Teacher-reported				
Female				✓
Hispanic				✓
Black (non-Hispanic)				✓
Other ethnicity				✓
Total teaching experience				
Total experience in current school				✓
Regular certificate				
Other certificate				
Highest degree—bachelor's				
Child scales				
Academic Competence and Motivation				
ADHD-Related Behavior		✓		
Altruistic Behavior				
Positive Social Behavior			✓	
Problem Behavior				
Parent and Teacher Involvement				

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hypertensive disorder

APQ: Alabama Parenting Questionnaire

✓: Covariate used

Blank cell: Covariate not used

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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To assess the statistical power of the program-level impact estimates, minimum detectable impacts in effect size units (MDES) for each outcome measure were calculated for the LBW evaluation (table 4.17). MDES represent the smallest impacts in effect size (standard deviation) units that can be detected with a high probability (80%). The MDES are primarily a function of study sample sizes, the degrees of freedom available for statistical tests, and design effects due to clustering (Schochet 2005). For the LBW evaluation, the MDES range from 0.099 to 0.637 for the child-level outcomes based on the Child, Caregiver, and Teacher Report on Student and from 0.536 to 0.763 for the school climate outcomes based on the Teacher Report on Classroom and School. In general, the MDES for the school climate outcomes were larger than those for the child-level outcomes.

Table 4.17. Adjusted minimum detectable effect sizes for impact evaluation—LBW

Outcome measure—Report	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Social and Emotional Competence Domain			
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interaction—CR	0.104	0.107	0.126
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR	0.104	0.178	0.154
Empathy—CR	0.104	0.154	0.115
Behavior Domain			
Altruistic Behavior—CR	0.153	0.228	0.193
Altruistic Behavior—PCR	0.116	0.155	0.148
Altruistic Behavior—TRS	0.345	0.637	0.463
Positive Social Behavior—PCR	0.184	0.210	0.157
Positive Social Behavior—TRS	0.099	0.310	0.401
Problem Behavior—CR	0.104	0.169	0.340
Problem Behavior—PCR	0.152	0.196	0.135
Problem Behavior—TRS	0.220	0.104	0.185
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS	0.227	0.104	0.295
Academics Domain			
Engagement with Learning—CR	0.104	0.107	0.164
Academic Competence and Motivation—TRS	0.141	0.270	0.191
Perceptions of School Climate Domain			
Positive School Orientation—CR	0.231	0.202	0.212
Negative School Orientation—CR	0.237	0.260	0.179
Student Afraid at School—CR	0.223	0.322	0.283
Victimization at School—CR	0.297	0.140	0.175
Feelings of Safety—TRCS	0.763	0.611	0.552
Student Support for Teachers—TRCS	0.536	0.631	0.726

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The minimum detectable effect (MDE) formula used in the calculations is as follows:

$$MDE = factor(df) * \sqrt{\rho_1 \left(\frac{1}{s_T} + \frac{1}{s_C} \right) + (1 - \rho_1) \left(\frac{1}{s_T n_T} + \frac{1}{s_C n_C} \right)}$$

where s_T and s_C are the number of treatment and comparison schools; n_T and n_C are the average number of students per classroom; ρ_1 is the intraclass correlation (ICC) at the school level; and $factor(df)$ is a constant that depends on the number of degrees of freedom (df) available for analysis (and is 2.802 for the pooled analysis).

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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Table 4.18 provides the estimates of LBW's impacts on each of the 20 outcomes over each of the 3 years (60 impacts in total, with 3 expected to be statistically significant by chance). Of the 60 results, 5 were statistically significant (2 beneficial, 3 detrimental). In Year 1, LBW had beneficial impacts on Altruistic Behavior (Primary Caregiver Report, effect size [ES] = 0.31) and Student Support for Teachers (Teacher Report on Classroom and School, ES = 0.52). In Year 3, LBW had detrimental impacts on Engagement with Learning (Child Report, ES = -0.35), Positive School Orientation (Child Report, ES = -0.33), and Feelings of Safety (Teacher Report on Classroom and School, ES = -0.70). There were also four substantively important but nonsignificant impacts (one beneficial, three detrimental): In Year 2, there was a detrimental impact on Altruistic Behavior (Teacher Report on Student, ES = -0.34) and a beneficial impact on Student Support for Teachers (Teacher Report on Classroom and School, ES = 0.28); in Year 3, there were detrimental impacts on Problem Behavior (Child Report, ES = 0.31) and Student Support for Teachers (Teacher Report on Classroom and School, ES = -0.26). Application of the heuristic to adjust for multiple comparisons within each outcome domain indicates that LBW had a significant beneficial impact on the domain of Behavior in Year 1 and a significant detrimental impact on the domain of Academics in Year 3.

Table 4.18. Impacts on child and school outcomes—LBW

Scale–Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value
Social and Emotional Competence Domain												
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions–CR (+)	3.03	3.04	-0.01	0.894	3.19	3.21	-0.04	0.674	3.25	3.24	0.02	0.810
Normative Beliefs About Aggression–CR (-)	1.24	1.23	0.02	0.809	1.26	1.21	0.12	0.368	1.35	1.28	0.15	0.244
Empathy–CR (+)	2.37	2.38	-0.02	0.793	2.30	2.30	0.00	0.963	2.21	2.26	-0.13	0.176
Behavior Domain ¹												
Altruistic Behavior–CR (+)	1.19	1.31	-0.15	0.147	1.02	1.16	-0.19	0.191	0.99	1.13	-0.20	0.121
Altruistic Behavior–PCR (+)	2.33*	2.13	0.31	0.005	2.22	2.11	0.17	0.152	2.22	2.23	0.00	0.985
Altruistic Behavior–TRS (+)	1.43	1.41	0.04	0.844	1.29	1.46	-0.34°	0.270	1.33	1.31	0.03	0.914
Positive Social Behavior–PCR (+)	3.06	3.09	-0.07	0.471	3.12	3.04	0.13	0.250	3.10	3.05	0.09	0.397
Positive Social Behavior–TRS (+)	3.17	3.21	-0.06	0.343	2.94	3.11	-0.24	0.183	3.27	3.24	0.06	0.786
Problem Behavior–CR (-)	0.22	0.21	0.05	0.541	0.25	0.23	0.04	0.728	0.41	0.29	0.31°	0.223
Problem Behavior–PCR (-)	1.58	1.56	0.06	0.484	1.56	1.56	-0.01	0.898	1.52	1.57	-0.13	0.197
Problem Behavior–TRS (-)	1.43	1.40	0.08	0.488	1.46	1.40	0.14	0.117	1.32	1.38	-0.13	0.263
ADHD-Related Behavior–TRS (-)	1.76	1.69	0.12	0.263	1.73	1.64	0.13	0.105	1.56	1.65	-0.16	0.344
Academics Domain ²												
Engagement with Learning–CR (+)	3.66	3.66	0.01	0.942	3.67	3.69	-0.04	0.652	3.54*	3.68	-0.35	0.030
Academic Competence and Motivation– TRS (+)	3.06	3.09	-0.03	0.666	3.05	2.99	0.06	0.622	3.15	3.17	-0.02	0.871

See notes at end of table.

Table 4.18. Impacts on child and school outcomes—LBW—Continued

Scale–Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value
Perceptions of School Climate Domain												
Positive School Orientation–CR (+)	2.98	2.94	0.05	0.692	2.77	2.79	-0.03	0.794	2.62*	2.82	-0.33	0.047
Negative School Orientation–CR (-)	1.76	1.86	-0.17	0.201	1.87	1.89	-0.03	0.846	2.05	1.95	0.18	0.178
Student Afraid at School–CR (-)	2.28	2.30	-0.02	0.859	2.28	2.22	0.06	0.777	2.26	2.16	0.11	0.508
Victimization at School–CR (-)	0.73	0.79	-0.07	0.657	0.70	0.71	-0.01	0.929	0.70	0.70	0.00	0.993
Feelings of Safety–TRCS (+)	3.54	3.59	-0.07	0.793	3.39	3.45	-0.06	0.825	3.32*	3.67	-0.70	0.046
Student Support for Teachers–TRCS (+)	3.72*	3.37	0.52	0.022	3.57	3.40	0.28°	0.428	3.45	3.58	-0.26°	0.543

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

° Substantive (but nonsignificant at .05 level) effect size of $\geq .25$ or $\leq -.25$.

¹ In Year 1, at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts.

² Based on univariate statistical tests, one of the two unadjusted impacts is statistically significantly negative, indicating a detrimental impact of the intervention on child outcomes in this domain in Year 3.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using regression models where each program and school within a program was weighted equally. The standard errors of all estimates account for design effects due to unequal weighting and the clustering of students within schools. See table 1.5 for information about the measures used to create the outcome variables. The effect size was calculated by dividing the estimated impact by the standard deviation of the outcome measure for the control group. The number of results found significant was no more than expected by chance.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Impacts on Child Outcomes Over Time

LBW's impacts on the child outcomes over time were estimated using growth curve models by examining treatment and control group differences in the trajectories of student outcomes during the follow-up period while accounting for clustering at the school level. The growth curve models are estimated using a three-level hierarchical linear model, where Level 1 corresponds to time, Level 2 to students, and Level 3 to schools (described in chapter 1).

Table 4.19 provides the estimates of LBW impacts on the growth in student outcomes over the 3 years. The estimated impacts range in effect size units (absolute value) from 0.01 to 0.13. One of the 18 estimated LBW intervention impacts on the trajectories of child outcomes was statistically significant (no more than expected by chance); the program had a detrimental impact on Positive School Orientation (Child Report, $ES = -0.13$).

Table 4.19. Impacts on growth of child outcomes—LBW

Scale–Report	Mean score at implementation ²	Average growth in the score per year ¹				Standard error of impact	<i>p</i> -value of impact
		Treatment	Control	Impact on growth ³	Effect size ⁴		
Social and Emotional Competence Domain							
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions–CR (+)	2.96	0.08	0.12	-0.04	-0.04	0.03	0.298
Normative Beliefs About Aggression–CR (-)	1.17	0.06	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.620
Empathy–CR (+)	2.48	-0.10	-0.10	-0.01	-0.02	0.02	0.693
Behavior Domain							
Altruistic Behavior–CR (+)	1.39	-0.20	-0.16	-0.04	-0.04	0.07	0.591
Altruistic Behavior–PCR (+)	2.29	-0.08	-0.07	-0.01	-0.01	0.04	0.861
Altruistic Behavior–TRS (+)	1.40	0.00	-0.01	0.01	0.02	0.07	0.914
Positive Social Behavior–PCR (+)	3.07	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.486
Positive Social Behavior–TRS (+)	3.12	0.02	-0.01	0.04	0.04	0.09	0.691
Problem Behavior–CR (-)	0.14	0.06	0.08	-0.02	-0.04	0.04	0.706
Problem Behavior–PCR (-)	1.59	-0.03	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.813
Problem Behavior–TRS (-)	1.36	0.02	0.04	-0.03	-0.06	0.02	0.242
ADHD-Related Behavior–TRS (-)	1.71	-0.09	-0.01	-0.08	-0.11	0.05	0.144
Academics Domain							
Engagement with Learning–CR (+)	3.75	-0.08	-0.04	-0.04	-0.06	0.03	0.247
Academic Competence and Motivation–TRS (+)	3.11	0.03	0.08	-0.05	-0.05	0.04	0.263
See notes at end of table.							

See notes at end of table.

Table 4.19. Impacts on growth of child outcomes—LBW—Continued

Scale—Report	Mean score at implementation ²	Average growth in the score per year ¹					
		Treatment	Control	Impact on growth ³	Effect size ⁴	Standard error of impact	p-value of impact
Perceptions of School Climate Domain							
Positive School Orientation—CR (+)	3.23	-0.31*	-0.20	-0.11	-0.13	0.04	0.016
Negative School Orientation—CR (-)	1.68	0.17^	0.11	0.06	0.08	0.03	0.090
Student Afraid at School—CR (-)	2.35	-0.03	-0.07	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.232
Victimization at School—CR (-)	0.68	0.08^	-0.03	0.11	0.10	0.05	0.061

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

^ Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

¹ Pertains to the estimated slope of the outcome for the treatment or control groups.

² The average score at implementation is calculated across treatment and control groups, using regression models for adjustment on covariates.

³ Estimated difference between the slope of the treatment and control groups.

⁴ Effect size: The slope of the treatment group minus the slope of the control group divided by the standard deviation of the outcome for the program's control group (the standard deviation is calculated without accounting for school-level clustering or regression adjustments).

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using HLM 6.06. Sample weights were used in all analyses to give (1) each school equal weight in each program (within each time period) and (2) each time period equal weight within the analysis. See table 1.5 for information about the measures used to create the outcome variables.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Summary

As part of the Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program, researchers at the Tennessee site implemented and evaluated the LBW program. This program focused on character education by teaching children positive character traits and moral virtues and how to apply them in their day-to-day activities. Twelve public schools in two school districts in two separate counties in Tennessee were recruited by the Tennessee research team and randomly assigned to treatment and control conditions to determine the LBW impact on social and character development activities in the schools and on the child outcome domains of Social and Emotional Competence, Behavior, Academics, and Perceptions of School Climate.

Analyses of the initial characteristics of the sample (students, caregivers, communities, teachers, and schools) indicated that randomization to treatment and control status produced groups that were relatively similar on the observed characteristics at the start of the study (1 statistically significant difference in children's behavior was found out of 83 comparisons, fewer than the 4 that would be expected by chance). Documentation of the initial level of social and character development activities in the schools also revealed few differences (3, no more than expected by chance out of 62 comparisons) between the treatment and control teachers and classrooms. This is important for two reasons: one, it indicates that randomization created comparable groups near the start of the study, and two, it shows that treatment and control schools both had high levels of SACD activities near the start of the study, indicating that social and character development activities are part of the "standard practice" of these schools in Tennessee. Standard practice at all of the schools included reports that 46 percent to 89 percent of teachers used SACD activities, 78 percent of teachers used specific materials in conjunction with these activities, 96 percent used at least one of the specified instructional strategies, and 73 percent participated in SACD training over the past 12 months.

Analyses of LBW impacts on use of SACD activities in the schools revealed impacts on the use of such activities (27 out of 90) and related materials and strategies (14 out of 87) across the 3 years, and use of more professional development activities for treatment teachers than control teachers in all years (8 out of 27). These same measures in the control schools across the 3 years of the study confirmed that use of these activities in the control schools constituted their standard practice.

Of the 20 child-level outcomes representing the four domains of Social and Emotional Competence, Behavior, Academics, and Perceptions of School Climate assessed in each of the 3 years of the study (a total of 60 results), 5 were statistically significant (2 beneficial and 3 detrimental). A growth curve analysis was used to analyze the change over time in these same outcomes between initial data collection and the final outcome data collection at the end of the study. One of the 18 child-level outcomes assessed showed a significant detrimental impact of the LBW program.

The SACD evaluation did not find evidence to support the hypothesis that LBW had beneficial impacts on students' social and character development. Such results could be caused by the inability of the program to cause such change, possibly because the theory of action for the program is incomplete or the activities to carry out that theory are not effective.

However, these results may also be due to the inability of the evaluation to observe such a change due to the control condition, the level of nonparticipation, or the sample size. The control schools continued using their standard SACD activities, and these turned out to be high in quantity and broad in scope. While LBW had a significant positive impact on the amounts and types of SACD activities, the resulting difference in the amount of SACD activities between the treatment and control schools may not have been large enough to cause significant differences in the student outcomes. In addition, about one-third of the students in the sample universe did not take part because of nonconsent or noncompletion of the surveys. As a determination could not be made as to whether the students not taking part significantly differed from those who did take part, the evaluation's results are valid only for the students who took part. If the students not taking part were different, and if they would have responded better to LBW than to the SACD activities

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occurring in the control schools, then the evaluation could have underestimated the program's impact. Third, the sample size of 12 schools and the resulting higher MDES compared to those for the multiprogram evaluation may have reduced the likelihood of detecting statistically significant effects. However, it should be noted that 70 percent of the MDES for the 60 outcomes used in the year-by-year analysis were below 0.25 (53% were below 0.20). In addition, none of the 60 outcomes were found to be substantively important.

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Chapter 5. Positive Action

University of Illinois at Chicago/Oregon State University (Illinois Site)

Intervention

Researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago/Oregon State University (Illinois site) evaluated the *Positive Action* (PA) program (Flay, Allred, and Ordway 2001). The PA program consists of a school and home curriculum and a school climate program for teaching children about the benefits of physical, intellectual, social, and emotional positive actions, and for creating a supportive learning environment at school and at home. The curriculum is designed to build children's self-concept and self-management through identifying positive thoughts, feelings, and actions. Table 5.1 describes the PA program's general characteristics (panel 1), the types of instruction and strategies used (panel 2), the professional development provided for those implementing the program (panel 3), and the social and character development activities (panel 4) and outcomes (panel 5) addressed by the program.

- Teachers conduct 15- to 20-minute lessons, 4 days per week, with students. Lessons focus on positive actions for a healthy body and mind, social/emotional actions for managing oneself responsibly, ways to get along with others, how to be honest with oneself and others, and setting goals for self-improvement.
- Teachers engage in behavior management practices by recognizing and reinforcing positive behavior and by modeling and reinforcing social skills throughout the day.
- The school climate program is designed to reinforce positive actions throughout the school, using activities such as peer tutoring and mentoring, assemblies, service projects, PA days, and visual artifacts that illustrate positive actions.
- The parent and community program includes parent newsletters and parent night, which are designed to carry classroom concepts into homes and to help families learn and practice positive actions in their communities.

Teachers and staff receive a 4-hour training on the methods of instruction, role modeling, use of positive actions, and use of behavior management strategies at the beginning of the school year and a 2-hour training (refresher for teachers who continue in the same schools, new for new teachers) at the beginning of each subsequent year. Principals and the PA coordinator for each school receive an additional 2 hours of training on the program adoption process in a multischool setting. School counselors receive a kit that includes the curriculum and suggestions for activities with children and family groups. Ongoing consultation is provided to school staff by the PA research team as needed, as often as once per month.

Table 5.1. Positive Action

Panel 1: General characteristics

Target population

Universal

Program components

Peer: In and out of class

Parent: Training, contact, and involvement

Classroom: Lessons and behavior management

Schoolwide: Planned events, includes program coordinator and committee

Community: Committees and groups

Training: Pretraining and ongoing

Level of integration

Add-on curriculum and schoolwide activities

Flexibility

Manualized: Scripted curriculum and guidebook

Adaptability: Program staff and principal adapt

See notes at end of table.

Panel 2: Description of instruction and strategies

Classroom

Lessons

Who delivers: Teacher

Activities and tools: Direct instruction, story reading, writing, role-playing, discussion, singing, games, worksheets, puppets, plays, poems

Content: Self-concept, physical health, intellectual growth, emotional and behavioral self-regulation, getting along with others (social skills), self-honesty, self-improvement, goal setting, character traits

Frequency: 15- to 20-minute lessons, 4 days per week

Strategies

Who delivers: Teacher

Activities and tools: Teaches, practices, recognizes, and models positive actions with curriculum and climate activities and materials

Frequency: Daily

Supplement to classroom

Parent newsletters, parent manual with PA activities, letters, strategies, and parent night

Schoolwide activities

Occasional assemblies, service projects, PA days and year-end event, principal climate program with reinforcement recognition activities

See notes at end of table.

Table 5.1. Positive Action—Continued

Panel 3: Professional development

Pre-implementation

Teachers

Content: Training on concepts and delivery of curriculum, school climate activities to reinforce positive behaviors and parent involvement

Duration: ½ day

Other

Content: Principal training and appointing committees on coordinating school climate activities with family groups

Duration: ½ day

Ongoing consultation

Teachers

Content: Group session to provide technical assistance and share experiences and challenges; visits for technical support

Duration: Up to ½ day once per year; up to ½ day visits to schools monthly

Other

Content: Meeting of principals and coordinators to provide technical assistance and share successes and challenges

Duration: 1 session of 3 hours per year

See notes at end of table.

Panel 4: Activities for SACD goals

Violence prevention and peace promotion	✓	Risk prevention and health promotion	✓
Social and emotional development	✓	Civic responsibility and community service	✓
Character education	✓	Behavior management	✓
Tolerance and diversity	✓		

See notes at end of table.

Panel 5: SACD outcomes addressed

Engagement with Learning	✓	Empathy	✓
Academic Competence and Motivation	✓	Positive School Orientation	✓
Altruistic Behavior	✓	Negative School Orientation	✓
Positive Social Behavior	✓	Student Afraid at School	✓
Problem Behavior	✓	Victimization at School	✓
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions	✓	Feelings of Safety	✓
Normative Beliefs About Aggression	✓	Student Support for Teachers	✓

NOTE: Abbreviations are

PA: *Positive Action*

✓: Activity or outcome addressed

Blank cell: Activity or outcome not addressed

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Sample and Random Assignment

The Illinois research team recruited a total of 14 public elementary schools in a single large, urban school district in Illinois. The researchers deliberately selected a sample of high-risk schools from Chicago that had low achievement scores and families with low household incomes. The 14 schools were randomly assigned to treatment and control conditions prior to the fall 2004 data collection. A two-step process was used. First, a computer-generated pairwise matching algorithm developed by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (MPR) was used to identify the best pairwise matches across the 14 schools based on variables identified by the Illinois research team. The variables used in the pairwise matching for Illinois included these: (a) school schedule, (b) percentage of White students, (c) percentage of Black (non-Hispanic) students, (d) percentage of Hispanic students, (e) percentage of Asian students, (f) achievement scores, (g) percentage of attendance, (h) percentage of truancy, (i) percentage of poverty, (j) percentage of mobility, (k) total enrollment, (l) percentage of parent participation, (m) quality of teachers, and (n) rate of crime in the community. Second, using a random number generator, 1 school in each matched pair was assigned to either the intervention or control condition. Seven schools received the PA program and 7 schools acted as control schools and continued to implement the social and character development activities that constituted their standard practice. Assignment to treatment or control condition was at the school level and therefore limited the risk of contamination between treatment and control classrooms.

The original student sample (the cohort of students in the third grade in the 14 schools in fall 2004) numbered 811 students (410 treatment and 401 control). Table 5.2 documents the change in the sample over the three spring follow-up data collection periods. Over time, new entrants to the cohort became a larger percentage of the sample, eventually making up 39 percent of the sample by the spring of Year 3. There were no statistically significant differences between the treatment and control groups in the number of new entrants. The percentage of the sample made up of the original cohort further declined as students left the schools. By Year 3, approximately 50 percent of the original sample had left. In Year 2 there was a statistically significant difference between treatment and control groups in “leavers,” with fewer in the treatment group. This difference had disappeared by the end of Year 3.

Table 5.2. Sample—PA

Characteristic	Year 1 (Fall 3rd grade)			Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control
School sample size	14	7	7	14	7	7	14	7	7	14	7	7
Student sample size	811	410	401	812	416	396	764	425	339	655	327	328
Stayers	†	†	†	737	377	360	560	302	258	403	201	202
New entrants	†	†	†	75	39	36	204	123	81	252	126	126
New entrants as a percent of spring enrollment	†	†	†	9.2	9.4	9.1	26.7	28.9	23.9	38.5	38.5	38.4
Total leavers (from original cohort)	†	†	†	74	33	41	251	108	143	408	209	199
Leavers as a percent of fall 2004 enrollment	†	†	†	9.1	8.0	10.2	30.9	26.3**	35.7	50.3	51.0	49.6
Number of students per school (mean)	58	59	57	58	59	57	55	61	49	47	47	47
Range of number of students per school	23-101	38-92	23-101	26-103	35-92	26-103	25-83	36-83	25-77	25-74	28-74	25-65

† Not applicable.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Implementation

Training

Teachers, principals, and school staff members in the intervention schools received a half-day of program implementation training prior to the beginning of the first school year (table 5.1, panel 3). The Illinois research team provided an additional half-day of training to schools via professional development days in fall 2004 and in spring 2005, which also allowed continuing teachers and staff time to share stories and concerns about program implementation. In addition, the principal and PA coordinator from each school attended an annual meeting in the winter of each year to learn more about implementing the schoolwide component of the program and to share experiences.

Data Collection

MPR's subcontractor, Decision Information Resources, Inc. (DIR) collected the child, teacher, and school data at the Illinois site. Table 5.3 shows the school year milestones and dates of implementation for the Illinois site. Data were collected in the fall and spring of the first 2 years and the spring of Year 3. The fall 2004 data collection began on October 12, 2004, and ended on October 28, 2004. The average time frame from the beginning of program implementation to the beginning of fall data collection was 2 weeks. As a result, initial data collection took place after implementation of the PA program began. Therefore, these data provide a measure of the students, teachers, and schools near the beginning of the school year, at a time when the PA program had been operating for a relatively short period of time. The spring data collection window was from May 16, 2005, to June 3, 2005. The PA program had been implemented for 33 weeks at the time of the spring data collection and for 29 weeks from the end of the fall data collection. Year 2 followed a similar pattern, with implementation occurring at the start of the school year, fall data collection occurring 5 weeks later, and spring data collection occurring 26 weeks after fall data collection (and 34 weeks after the start of implementation). In spring 2007, data collection occurred 35 weeks after the start of implementation. Data collection took from 3 to 5 weeks at each collection point.

Table 5.3. Data collection dates—PA

Data collection schedule	Year 1 (Fall 3rd grade)	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)	Year 2 (Fall 4th grade)	Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)	Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)
School sample size	14	14	14	14	14
School year dates					
First day of school	9/2/04	†	9/6/05	†	9/5/06
Start of implementation	9/27/04	†	First day	†	First day
Last day of school	†	6/17/05	†	6/16/06	6/15/07
Data collection					
Start	10/12/04	5/16/05	10/11/05	5/1/06	5/7/07
End	10/28/04	6/3/05	11/2/05	5/26/06	6/1/07
Calendar weeks from program implementation to start of fall 2004 data collection	2	†	†	†	†
Calendar weeks from start of school to start of fall data collection	6	†	5	†	†
Calendar weeks from end of fall data collection to start of spring data collection	†	29	†	26	†
Calendar weeks from program implementation to start of spring data collection	†	33	†	34	35

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Consent Rates, Completion Rates, and Percentage of Sample With Data

The actual number of student, primary caregiver, and teacher reports available for analysis was smaller than the number in the sample because consent and completion rates were below 100 percent. Primary caregivers had to provide consent before children could complete the Child Report, before their child's teacher could complete the Teacher Report on Student, and before they themselves completed the Primary Caregiver Report. Teachers also had to provide consent before completing the Teacher Report on Classroom and School. Of those with consent, not all completed their respective reports. Table 5.4 shows the consent rates, completion rates, and percentages of sample with data for each of the four reports over the 3 years. For the Child Report and two teacher reports, completion rates ranged from 78 percent to 100 percent, with no statistically significant differences between treatment and control groups in consent rates for any of these reports. For the Teacher Report on Student, completion rates ranged from 92 percent to 100 percent, with a statistically significant difference between treatment and control groups at two time points: in the fall of 2004 and the spring of 2005 the treatment group teachers completed fewer reports than the control teachers. For the Primary Caregiver Report, the completion rates dropped over time from 92 percent to 64 percent. There were no statistically significant differences between treatment and control groups for these reports.

The percentages of the sample with Child Report data ranged from 66 percent to 78 percent over the 3 years. The percentages of students with information from the Teacher Report on Student ranged from 71 percent to 80 percent. The percentages of students with data from the Primary Caregiver Report ranged from 49 percent to 73 percent and declined over time. The percentages of teachers with data from the Teacher Report on Classroom and School ranged from 78 percent to 91 percent. There were no statistically significant differences between treatment and control conditions in percentages of students with data for any of the four reports.

Table 5.4. Consent rates, completion rates, and percentage of sample with data from each report—PA

Report	Year 1 (Fall 3rd grade)			Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Treat- ment			Treat- ment			Treat- ment			Treat- ment		
	Total		Control	Total		Control	Total		Control	Total		Control
Student sample size	811	410	401	812	416	396	764	425	339	655	327	328
Child Report (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate	78.5	79.0	78.1	76.7	76.4	77.0	72.4	71.1	74.0	79.2	80.1	78.4
Student completion rate	94.7	93.5	95.8	92.8	93.7	91.8	92.0	94.0	89.6	96.5	97.7	95.3
Students with data ¹	74.4	73.9	74.8	71.2	71.6	70.7	66.6	66.8	66.4	76.5	78.3	74.7
Primary Caregiver Report (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate	78.3	79.0	77.6	76.7	76.4	77.0	70.9	69.6	72.6	78.3	79.5	77.1
Primary caregiver completion rate	92.3	92.0	92.6	76.7	77.0	76.4	73.6	72.6	74.8	64.5	65.0	64.0
Primary caregivers with data ¹	72.3	72.7	71.8	58.9	58.9	58.8	52.2	50.6	54.3	50.5	51.7	49.4
Teacher Report on Student (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate ²	78.5	79.0	78.1	76.7	76.4	77.0	72.4	71.1	74.0	79.2	80.1	78.4
Teacher completion rate	95.0	92.3***	97.8	97.4	95.9*	99.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.8	99.2	98.4
Students with data ¹	74.6	72.9	76.3	74.8	73.3	76.3	72.4	71.1	74.0	78.3	79.5	77.1
Teacher Report on Classroom and School (3rd- to 5th-grade teachers) (percent)												
Teacher consent rate	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.1	98.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Teacher completion rate	89.5	90.0	88.9	83.3	83.3	83.3	86.3	86.0	86.7	83.7	78.0	90.5
Teachers with data ¹	89.5	90.0	88.9	82.6	82.0	83.3	86.3	86.0	86.7	83.7	78.0	90.5

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

*** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .001 level.

¹ Calculated as consent rate x completion rate.

² The primary caregiver consent rates for the Child Report and the Teacher Report on Student are identical, as the primary caregiver gave consent to both together.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Chapter 5. Positive Action

Responses from students in the original cohort (stayers) and new entrants in the PA sample were examined to investigate possible differences between the two groups in consent rates, completion rates, and the percentages of the sample with data that might affect outcome data (table 5.5). In Year 2, new entrants had significantly higher consent rates and percentages of sample with data than stayers on all three reports (by 12 to 17 percentage points). In Year 3, new entrants had significantly higher completion rates (by 10 percentage points) and percentages of sample with data (by 12 percentage points) than stayers for the Primary Caregiver Report.

Table 5.5. Consent rates, completion rates, and percentage of sample with data: Stayers versus new entrants—PA

Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Total	Stayers	Entrants	Total	Stayers	Entrants	Total	Stayers	Entrants
Student sample size	812	737	75	764	560	204	655	403	252
Child Report (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate	76.7	77.3	70.7	72.4	68.9***	81.9	79.2	77.7	81.7
Student completion rate	92.8	92.5	96.2	92.0	90.2*	96.4	96.5	96.5	96.6
Students with data ¹	71.2	71.5	68.0	66.6	62.1***	78.9	76.5	74.9	79.0
Primary Caregiver Report (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate	76.7	77.3	70.7	70.9	67.0***	81.9	78.3	76.2	81.7
Primary caregiver completion rate	76.7	76.1	83.0	73.6	73.1	74.9	64.9	60.9*	70.9
Primary caregivers with data ¹	58.9	58.9	58.7	52.2	48.9**	61.3	50.8	46.4**	57.9
Teacher Report on Student (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate ²	76.7	77.3	70.7	72.4	68.9***	81.9	79.2	77.7	81.7
Teacher completion rate	97.4	97.7	94.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.8	98.7	99.0
Students with data ¹	74.8	75.6	66.7	72.4	68.9***	81.9	78.3	76.7	81.0

* Stayers significantly different from new entrants at the .05 level.

** Stayers significantly different from new entrants at the .01 level.

*** Stayers significantly different from new entrants at the .001 level.

¹ Calculated as consent rate x completion rate.

² The primary caregiver consent rates for the Child Report and the Teacher Report on Student are identical, as the primary caregiver gave consent to both together.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Fidelity of Implementation

Each year, PA's seven treatment schools were independently rated for quantity and quality of program implementation by two raters from the research team. The global measure of fidelity for the multisite study was used; inter-rater reliability was measured using Cronbach's alpha (0.85 in Year 1, 0.74 in Year 2, and 0.98 in Year 3). The ratings were combined into a single consensus rating and used to identify schools with high implementation fidelity. In Years 1 and 2, four treatment schools were identified as having high fidelity, and in Year 3, three treatment schools were identified as having high fidelity. Cohen's kappa was used as the measure of agreement when identifying schools as high fidelity, and it equaled 0.72 in Year 1, 0.46 in Year 2, and 1.00 in Year 3.

Initial Characteristics

This section describes the initial characteristics of the students, teachers, and schools participating in the evaluation of the PA program. These characteristics were collected from students who were enrolled in the third grade at the study schools in fall 2004, as well as from their primary caregivers and third-grade teachers. In addition, third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers and principals in the study schools provided information about activities related to social and character development in these schools. Documenting the characteristics of students, teachers, and schools and initial measures of key outcomes at a point before the interventions had been operating for an extended period helps to determine whether the random assignment of schools to treatment and control status produced treatment and control groups with similar distributions of observed characteristics. As noted in the following discussion, 3 significant differences (out of 62 comparisons, with 3 expected to be significant by chance) were found between the observed characteristics of the treatment and control students, teachers, and schools; all 3 reflected the use of SCD activities in the classroom and school.

Characteristics of Children, Their Families, and Communities

There were no significant differences between the treatment and control groups in the observed student, caregiver, and community characteristics (table 5.6). For students, the mean age was 8.3 years. The sample contained roughly equal percentages of girls (54%) and boys (46%). The sample was ethnically diverse, with Black non-Hispanic students making up the majority of the sample (51%). White non-Hispanic students made up 6 percent of the sample and Hispanic students made up 37 percent of the sample.

The sample was diverse in its levels of family income, education levels of primary caregivers of the children in the sample, and family situation. For the total sample, 66 percent of the children lived in a household where the income was 135 percent of the federal poverty level or lower, which is the income threshold for eligibility for free school meals. More than one-quarter (27%) of primary caregivers had not completed high school. Fewer than half of the children (47%) lived with both their mother and their father. There were no significant differences between the treatment and control groups in these characteristics.

The mean values of the outcomes for children's behavior and attitudes as reported by the primary caregiver, child, and teacher at initial data collection in fall 2004 are shown in table 5.7. There were no significant differences between the treatment and control groups in these scores.

Table 5.6. Initial characteristics of children, their families, and communities—PA

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Student sample size	586	298	288
Student demographics			
Gender (percent)			
Male	46.3	47.8	44.7
Female	53.7	52.2	55.3
Race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	6.0	5.0	7.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	51.1	51.9	50.2
Hispanic	37.4	39.2	35.5
Other	5.5	3.8	7.3
Age (in years) (mean)	8.3	8.3	8.3
Primary caregiver and family characteristics			
Primary caregiver's age (in years) (mean)	35.8	35.3	36.3
Primary caregiver's race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	8.2	7.3	9.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	51.2	52.2	50.2
Hispanic	35.5	36.9	34.0
Other	5.2	3.6	6.7
Primary caregiver's education (percent)			
Did not complete high school	27.4	26.3	28.5
Completed high school or equivalent	30.9	27.1	34.7
Some college	35.7	38.5	32.9
Bachelor's or higher degree	6.1	8.1	4.0
Primary caregiver's employment (percent)			
Full-time	45.4	44.1	46.7
Other	54.6	55.9	53.3
Primary caregiver's marital status (percent)			
Married	41.4	40.6	42.2
Other	58.6	59.4	57.8
Students who live in one household (percent)	92.7	93.5	92.0
Number of individuals in household (mean)	5.1	4.9	5.3
Primary caregiver's relationship to child (percent)			
Mother (stepmother)	83.2	84.3	82.1
Father (stepfather)	10.2	8.7	11.6
Other relative/nonrelative	6.6	7.0	6.3

See notes at end of table.

Table 5.6. Initial characteristics of children, their families, and communities—PA—Continued

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Student lives with (percent)			
Mother (stepmother) and father (stepfather)	46.6	44.1	49.1
Mother (stepmother) only; father (stepfather) not present	45.3	47.7	42.8
Father (stepfather) only; mother (stepmother) not present	3.0	2.7	3.4
Other relative/nonrelative, parents not present	5.1	5.5	4.8
Highest education of anyone in household (percent)			
Did not complete high school	18.8	17.1	20.5
Completed high school or equivalent	31.1	29.7	32.5
Some college	39.7	42.3	37.1
Bachelor's or higher degree	10.4	11.0	9.9
Total household income (percent)			
Less than \$20,000	55.4	53.6	57.2
\$20,000 to \$39,999	28.1	29.4	26.7
\$40,000 to \$59,999	10.2	10.7	9.8
\$60,000 or more	6.3	6.3	6.4
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio—Below 135 percent (percent)	65.7	60.6	70.7
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio—135 to 185 percent (percent)	18.5	20.8	16.3
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio—Above 185 percent (percent)	15.8	18.6	12.9
Alabama Parenting Questionnaire—Poor Monitoring and Supervision Subscale (mean)	1.2	1.2	1.2
Alabama Parenting Questionnaire—Positive Parenting Subscale (mean)	3.5	3.5	3.5
Confusion, Hubbub, and Order Scale (mean)	2.2	2.1	2.2
Community characteristics (mean)			
Community Risks Scale	1.9	1.8	1.9
Community Resources Scale	2.7	2.7	2.6
Child-Centered Social Control Scale	2.8	2.8	2.8

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 5.7. Mean scores and standard deviations for initial outcome measures of sample—PA

Outcome measure—Report	Range	Total		Treatment		Control	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Social and Emotional Competence Domain							
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interaction—CR	1-4	2.8	0.6	2.9	0.7	2.8	0.6
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR	1-4	1.3	0.4	1.3	0.5	1.2	0.4
Empathy—CR	1-3	2.4	0.4	2.4	0.4	2.4	0.4
Behavior Domain							
Altruistic Behavior—CR	0-3	1.6	0.8	1.6	0.8	1.7	0.7
Altruistic Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.4	0.5	1.5	0.6	1.3	0.4
Altruistic Behavior—PCR	1-4	2.4	0.7	2.4	0.7	2.5	0.8
Positive Social Behavior—TRS	1-4	2.9	0.7	2.9	0.7	2.9	0.7
Positive Social Behavior—PCR	1-4	2.9	0.5	2.9	0.5	2.9	0.5
Problem Behavior—CR	0-3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4
Problem Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.4	0.5	1.4	0.4	1.5	0.5
Problem Behavior—PCR	1-4	1.6	0.4	1.5	0.3	1.6	0.4
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.7	0.6	1.7	0.6	1.8	0.6
Academics Domain							
Academic Competence and Motivation—TRS	1-5	2.7	0.9	2.7	0.9	2.7	0.9
Engagement with Learning—CR	1-4	3.5	0.7	3.5	0.7	3.5	0.8
Perceptions of School Climate Domain							
Positive School Orientation—CR	1-4	3.1	0.7	3.1	0.7	3.1	0.7
Negative School Orientation—CR	1-4	2.1	0.7	2.2	0.6	2.1	0.7
Student Afraid at School—CR	1-4	2.6	0.9	2.6	0.9	2.6	0.9
Victimization at School—CR	0-3	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8
Student sample size—PCR		586		298		288	
Student sample size—CR		603		303		300	
Student sample size—TRS		605		299		306	

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

SD: Standard deviation

No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Characteristics of Teachers and Schools

Table 5.8 describes the third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers at the study schools. Slightly fewer than half were White non-Hispanic (49%). Most of the teachers were female (85%) and had an average of 15 years of total teaching experience. Slightly fewer than half (47%) held an advanced or specialist degree. There were no statistically significant differences between the treatment and control groups of teachers.

Data regarding school characteristics were drawn from the Common Core of Data in order to compare treatment and control schools. There were no significant differences between the two groups of schools in terms of student composition (race/ethnicity and school lunch eligibility), number of students enrolled, number of full-time teachers, Title 1 status, or number of years the principal had been at the school (table 5.9). In addition, there were no significant differences between treatment and control schools in terms of location (urban, suburban, or rural) or lowest and highest grade offered (these data are not shown in a table).

Table 5.8. Initial characteristics of teachers in sample—PA

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Teacher sample size	102	54	48
Gender (percent)			
Male	14.9	22.2	7.5
Female	85.1	77.8	92.5
Race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	49.1	40.5	57.7
Other	50.9	59.5	42.3
Number of years teaching experience (mean)	15.0	15.7	14.3
Number of years teaching experience in this school (mean)	9.0	10.0	8.1
Type of teaching certificate (percent)			
Regular state certificate or advanced professional certificate	90.5	92.9	88.1
Other	9.5	7.1	11.9
Education (percent)			
Bachelor's degree	53.1	57.1	49.1
Advanced degree/other	46.9	42.9	50.9

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 5.9. Initial characteristics of schools in sample—PA

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
School sample size	14	7	7
Student race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	9.2	9.1	9.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	55.1	53.6	56.5
Hispanic	31.9	32.8	31.0
Other	3.8	4.5	3.1
Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (percent)	90.6	92.6	88.7
Number of students enrolled (mean)	532.0	521.1	542.9
Number of full-time teachers (mean)	30.0	28.5	331.5
Title I status (percent)			
Title I eligible school	100.0	100.0	100.0
Schoolwide Title I	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of years principal has been at this school (mean)	5.9	5.9	5.9

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: NCES Common Core of Data (2003-04), the Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

In the Teacher Report on Classroom and School, teachers reported on nine dimensions of school environment (these data are not shown in a table): feelings of safety, adequacy of resources, student support, freedom to teach as desired, affiliation with and ties to colleagues, innovation regarding new approaches to teaching, professional interest, participatory decisionmaking, and work pressure. There were no statistically significant differences between treatment and control schools in these reports.

The Level of SACD in the Schools Near the Beginning of the Study

During the initial data collection, principals and teachers reported on the SACD activities used in the schools and classrooms, the availability of SACD materials, and the professional development provided on SACD. Table 5.10 shows that the majority of the principals reported activities to promote six social and character development goals: violence prevention and peace promotion (100%), social and emotional development (93%), character education (93%), tolerance and diversity (93%), risk prevention and health promotion (93%), and civic responsibility and community service (100%). In addition, 86 percent of the principals reported the use of activities directed toward behavior management. There were no statistically significant differences between the treatment group and the control group in the percentages on principal reports, although this may be due to the small principal sample size. The percentages of teachers reporting the use of these activities in their classrooms ranged from 45 percent to 81 percent, and there were no significant differences between treatment and control teachers. With respect to the use of schoolwide activities, 52 percent to 76 percent of teachers reported that their schools used such activities. There was a significant difference between treatment and control teachers on reports of their use of unspecified schoolwide SACD activities (one out of six comparisons), with treatment teachers reporting fewer “other activities” than control teachers (values suppressed to protect confidentiality).

Table 5.10. Principal and teacher initial reports on use of SACD programs or activities in sample—PA

SACD program or activity	Total	Treatment	Control
Principal sample size	14	7	7
Teacher sample size	102	54	48
Principals reporting that school had programs or activities to promote the following SACD goals (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	100.0	100.0	100.0
Social and emotional development	92.9	100.0	85.7
Character education	92.9	85.7	100.0
Tolerance and diversity	92.9	100.0	85.7
Risk prevention and health promotion	92.9	85.7	100.0
Civic responsibility and community service	100.0	100.0	100.0
Behavior management	85.7	100.0	71.4
None of the above	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teachers reporting on using programs or activities in their class to promote the following SACD goals (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	63.0	60.2	65.8
Social and emotional development	70.8	70.2	71.3
Character education	81.0	79.4	82.5
Tolerance and diversity	57.7	60.7	54.8
Risk prevention and health promotion	54.6	58.8	50.4
Civic responsibility and community service	44.6	45.8	43.4
Behavior management	77.5	76.1	79.0
None of the above	6.9	6.0	7.7
Teachers reporting schoolwide use of the following activities to promote SACD (percent)			
Morning announcements or videos	60.8	62.0	59.6
School assemblies	75.7	70.4	81.0
School newspapers or bulletins	67.1	61.8	72.4
Special school days	52.3	52.9	51.7
Special events	67.0	65.5	68.4
Other activities	11.8	‡*	‡

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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Teachers reported using a broad range of teaching materials to support SACD activities (table 5.11), including teacher guides (70%), student materials (68%), instructional aids (38%), giveaways (52%), and children's literature (40%). There were no statistically significant differences between treatment and control teachers in their use of these materials.

Teachers also reported using a wide variety of teaching strategies (table 5.11). Nearly all teachers (99%) reported using any of the 20 strategies asked about, and teachers used an average of 12.1 of the strategies. There were significant differences between treatment and control teacher reports on the use of 2 of the 20 strategies. One was a significant difference in peer mediation, with treatment teachers using this strategy more often than control teachers (54% versus 35%). The other was a significant difference in the use of time out for negative behavior, with treatment teachers using this strategy less often than control teachers (72% versus 87%).

Table 5.11. Teacher initial reports on use of SACD materials and classroom strategies in sample—PA

SACD material and classroom strategy	Total	Treatment	Control
Teacher sample size	102	54	48
Teachers using the following materials in conjunction with social and character development activities (percent)			
Teacher guides (manuals, curricula)	69.7	76.2	63.2
Student materials (workbooks, worksheets)	67.5	76.3	58.6
Instructional aids (games, software, videos)	37.6	36.8	38.5
Giveaways (bookmarks, stickers)	52.4	56.3	48.4
Children's literature	39.8	36.3	43.2
Other types of materials	14.1	5.7	22.5
Do not use any of the materials listed above	8.2	9.6	6.8
Teachers using any of the strategies listed below to promote social and character development in the classroom (percent)			
	99.2	98.4	100.0
Number of strategies (listed below) used by teachers to promote social and character development in the classroom (mean)			
	12.1	12.3	12.0
Teachers using each of the following strategies to promote social and character development (percent)			
Role-playing	71.6	71.3	71.9
Cooperative learning	98.3	98.4	98.2
Peer group discussions	86.6	89.2	84.0
Direct instruction of social and character development	83.4	86.3	80.5
Skill training	41.2	40.0	42.5
Incorporating social and character development into academic curriculum	78.6	81.4	75.9
Parent training	3.2	0.0	6.4
Parent/community involvement in program development or delivery	16.3	17.4	15.2
Mentoring	36.3	27.5	45.1
Good behavior notes sent home daily or weekly	66.6	67.0	66.1
Presenting role models	60.6	53.5	67.7
Targeted story reading or writing on SACD themes	84.2	85.9	82.6
Peer mediation	44.7	54.4*	35.1
Honor roll for positive behavior	64.3	64.5	64.1
Pledges or recitations on social and character development themes	47.1	50.7	43.6
Guided visualization	54.8	57.5	52.1
Student-led/student-assisted instruction	50.8	55.5	46.2
Journaling	82.4	82.0	82.9
Time out for negative behavior	79.7	72.1*	87.4
Daily or weekly rewards for positive behavior	93.8	91.2	96.4

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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Principals and teachers reported on participation in and amount of SCD training and staff development provided over the previous 12 months (table 5.12). Principals reported higher participation rates (93% versus 68%) than did teachers, although principals and teachers reported virtually the same number of training hours (5.0 versus 5.2). There were no significant differences between treatment and control principals or teachers on any of these measures.

Table 5.12. Principal and teacher initial reports on SCD professional development in sample—PA

SACD professional development	Total	Treatment	Control
Principal sample size	14	7	7
Teacher sample size	102	54	48
Principals reporting that staff participated in social and character development training within the past year (percent)	92.9	100.0	85.7
Teachers reporting participation in social and character development training within the past 12 months (percent)	67.5	72.4	62.6
Number of hours of social and character development training principals report were provided to each staff person last year (mean)	5.0	6.2	4.1
Number of hours of social and character development training teachers report receiving during the past 12 months (mean)	5.2	5.6	4.9
Teachers reporting receiving training in the past 12 months in the following areas (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	17.1	16.0	18.2
Social and emotional development	22.3	28.9	15.7
Character education	35.6	41.0	30.2
Tolerance and diversity	15.5	16.0	14.9
Risk prevention and health promotion	6.7	‡	‡
Civic responsibility and community service	7.3	8.6	6.0
Behavior management	37.2	33.3	41.2

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SCD) Research Program.

The data on the initial level of SCD activity emphasize that the control condition was a “standard practice” control. Standard practice at the control schools included using SCD activities, materials, and practices, along with professional development for staff, at rates and in types and amounts similar to the treatment schools. For example, the percentages of teachers who reported using programs or activities to promote specific SCD goals ranged from 46 percent to 79 percent in the treatment schools and from 43 percent to 83 percent in the control schools. The 3 significant differences between the treatment and control conditions in the use of SCD activities was the number expected by chance (3 out of 62 comparisons); 2 of these differences favored the control group and 1 favored the treatment group.

Impacts on Use of SACD Activities

The introduction of the formal PA program would be expected to increase the use of SACD activities in the treatment schools in comparison to the control schools. The analysis of this impact is based on the Teacher Report on Classroom and School (TRCS). Every spring, third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers provided information through the TRCS about the social and character development activities they used in their classrooms. Specifically, information from the TRCS was used to determine difference between treatment and control teachers in several areas:

1. the use of SACD activities in their classrooms overall and by SACD goal;
2. the use of materials and strategies to implement the SACD activities within classrooms and within the entire school;
3. the use of staff development to support the teachers; and
4. teacher support for SACD efforts in the school and the use of practices conducive to the social and character development of students.

TRCS consent and completion rates (table 5.4) led to 78 percent to 91 percent of all teachers having data for the 3 years. To estimate intervention impacts for each of the outcomes, testing of the statistical significance of the differences in means was used. Preliminary analysis indicated little or no gains in precision from using covariates. Before testing the mean differences, the data were weighted such that each school received equal weight. Standard errors of the impact estimates account for the clustering of teachers within schools. In addition, a set of heuristics (described in chapter 1) was applied to determine whether each outcome domain was statistically significant after adjustments were made for the multiple tests conducted.

Use of Activities

The percentages of control teachers reporting using any SACD activities in their classroom ranged from 83 percent to 95 percent over the 3 years (table 5.13, panel 1). For the six individual SACD goals, the range varied from 38 percent to 71 percent in Year 1, 52 percent to 77 percent in Year 2, and 53 percent to 65 percent in Year 3. Control teachers' use of behavior management activities ranged from 76 percent to 82 percent over this period. The percentages of control teachers who reported using any SACD activities in their classrooms for at least 1 hour per week (panel 2) ranged from 36 percent to 77 percent over the 3 years. For the six individual SACD goals, the ranges varied from 13 percent to 26 percent in Year 1, 23 percent to 44 percent in Year 2, and 19 percent to 31 percent in Year 3. Their use of behavior management activities ranged from 42 percent to 69 percent over this period. These findings show that the control schools were using these activities as part of their standard practice related to social and character development.

For teachers' reported use of any SACD activity, 48 comparisons were made, with 2 expected to be significant by chance. There were 3 significant impacts in use of specific SACD activities (panels 1 and 2). In Years 2 and 3, more treatment teachers than control teachers reported using social and emotional development activities (impact = 26 and 30 percentage points), and in Year 3 more treatment teachers reported using character education activities (impact = 32 percentage points). More treatment teachers than control teachers reported using any activity for at least 1 hour per week in Year 1 (impact = 41 percentage points). More treatment teachers also reported using specific activities for at least 1 hour per week: violence prevention and peace promotion in Years 1 and 3 (impact = 27 and 26 percentage points), social and emotional development in all years (impact = 37, 29, and 44 percentage points), character education in Years 1 and 3 (impact = 41 and 58 percentage points), and tolerance and diversity in Year 3 (impact = 27 percentage points). After the heuristics were applied, the domain for engagement in SACD activities showed that the PA program had statistically significant impacts in Years 1 and 3.

For teachers' reported use of any named SACD activity (panels 3 and 4), 42 comparisons were made, with 2 expected to be significant by chance. Six of the 12 impact estimates in Year 1, 8 of the 12 in Year 2, and 8 of

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the 12 in Year 3 were statistically significant. In Year 1, impacts occurred on social and emotional development (impact = 39 percentage points, and impact = 35 percentage points for at least 1 hour per week), character education (impact = 47 percentage points, and impact = 44 percentage points for at least 1 hour per week), and any named activity (impact = 47 percentage points, and impact = 47 percentage points for at least 1 hour per week). In Year 2, impacts were seen for social and emotional development (impact = 41 percentage points, and impact = 37 percentage points for at least 1 hour per week), character education (impact = 45 percentage points), tolerance and diversity (impact = 32 percentage points), risk prevention and health promotion (impact = 35 percentage points, and impact = 30 percentage points for at least 1 hour per week), civic responsibility and community service (impact = 19 percentage points), and any named activity for at least 1 hour per week (impact = 36 percentage points). In Year 3, there were significant impacts on the use of named violence prevention and peace promotion activities (impact = 28 percentage points) for at least 1 hour per week, social and emotional activities (impact = 37 percentage points, impact = 34 percentage points at least 1 hour per week), character education (impact = 49 percentage points, impact = 46 percentage points for at least 1 hour per week), tolerance and diversity (impact = 38 percentage points, impact = 31 percentage points for at least 1 hour per week), and risk prevention and health promotion (impact = 26 percentage points). The overall impact of the PA program on the domain for engagement in named SACD activities was significant in all 3 years.

Table 5.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—PAPanel 1: Engagement in any activities to promote SACD goals¹

SACD activity	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	60	54			43	39			39	38		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	66.1	58.5	7.6	0.523	71.6	77.4	-5.8	0.594	68.2	60.7	7.5	0.590
Social and emotion development (percent)	67.7	54.7	13.0	0.259	88.7*	62.6	26.1	0.013	83.9*	53.6	30.3	0.019
Character education (percent)	88.9^	70.9	18.0	0.086	91.1^	75.2	15.9	0.071	94.4*	62.4	32.0	0.017
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	59.1^	37.7	21.5	0.086	66.1	64.1	2.0	0.893	77.1	53.1	24.1	0.165
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	62.0	47.5	14.5	0.128	66.8	70.9	-4.1	0.769	67.1	61.6	5.6	0.748
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	43.7	46.2	-2.4	0.815	55.4	51.7	3.6	0.818	53.5	65.1	-11.6	0.325
Any SACD goal (percent)	91.8	82.6	9.1	0.334	91.1	94.8	-3.6	0.494	96.4	88.8	7.6	0.325
Behavior management (percent)	80.9	81.6	-0.8	0.937	91.7	76.3	15.3	0.139	81.2	81.1	0.1	0.995

See note at end of table.

Table 5.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—PA—Continued

Panel 2: Engagement in any activities to promote SACD goals for at least 1 hour per week

SACD activity	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	60	54			43	39			39	38		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	43.6*	17.1	26.5	0.021	46.4	31.4	14.9	0.209	48.1*	22.1	26.0	0.028
Social and emotional development (percent)	51.3*	14.7	36.7	0.011	57.2*	28.2	29.0	0.024	64.9*	21.4	43.6	0.007
Character education (percent)	66.9*	26.3	40.6	0.001	64.1	43.5	20.6	0.129	86.4*	28.8	57.6	0.002
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	37.8^	13.9	23.9	0.081	38.6	28.2	10.4	0.249	46.2*	19.2	27.1	0.006
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	29.4	13.2	16.2	0.134	43.6^	25.0	18.6	0.087	37.0	31.0	6.0	0.546
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	13.5	12.5	1.1	0.844	26.9	22.7	4.2	0.687	26.5	27.6	-1.1	0.930
Any SACD goal (percent)	76.3*	35.5	40.7	0.002	84.1	76.6	7.6	0.323	80.3	76.4	3.9	0.724
Behavior management (percent)	59.3	68.5	-9.2	0.525	72.6^	42.1	30.6	0.066	58.4	65.7	-7.3	0.609

See note at end of table.

Table 5.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—PA—ContinuedPanel 3: Engagement in activities to promote SACD goals linked to named SACD programs²

SACD activity	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	60	54			43	39			39	38		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	36.9	23.4	13.5	0.152	36.2	22.5	13.7	0.215	47.1^	16.7	30.5	0.066
Social and emotional development (percent)	47.3*	8.3	39.0	0.007	48.4*	7.3	41.1	0.001	49.0*	11.9	37.1	0.019
Character education (percent)	59.2*	11.8	47.4	0.001	‡*	‡	45.4	0.001	60.4*	11.6	48.9	0.001
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	31.2	0.0	31.2	†	‡*	‡	32.2	0.014	45.3*	7.1	38.2	0.002
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	37.9	19.4	18.4	0.110	48.6*	14.0	34.6	0.002	44.6*	18.4	26.2	0.030
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	5.3	0.0	5.3	†	‡*	‡	19.1	0.033	23.0	9.5	13.5	0.248
Any named activity (percent)	77.3*	30.7	46.6	0.002	59.1	46.2	12.9	0.260	69.2	42.2	27.0	0.121

See note at end of table.

Table 5.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—PA—Continued

Panel 4: Engagement in activities to promote SACD goals linked to named SACD programs for at least 1 hour per week

SACD activity	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
	60	54			43	39			39	38		
Teacher sample size												
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	31.9 [^]	14.1	17.8	0.051	26.6	12.5	14.1	0.211	40.4 [*]	12.2	28.2	0.050
Social and emotional development (percent)	40.3 [*]	4.8	35.4	0.027	‡ [*]	‡	36.9	0.004	43.7 [*]	10.0	33.7	0.014
Character education (percent)	49.2 [*]	5.3	43.8	0.002	43.3	0.0	43.3	†	53.4 [*]	7.5	46.0	0.005
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	28.0	0.0	28.0	†	27.4	0.0	27.4	†	39.0 [*]	7.6	31.4	0.002
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	26.8 [^]	10.0	16.8	0.099	37.4 [*]	7.8	29.5	0.031	30.2 [^]	9.6	20.6	0.060
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	5.3	0.0	5.3	†	18.7	0.0	18.7	†	17.3	7.9	9.4	0.441
Any named activity (percent)	64.1 [*]	17.0	47.1	0.000	52.4 [*]	16.5	35.9	0.018	51.5	30.6	20.8	0.242

† Not applicable.

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

[^] Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.¹ In Year 1, the omnibus impact for all the outcomes measured together was positive and statistically significant on the basis of a multivariate statistical test. In Years 1 and 3, at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts.² In Years 1 and 2, at least half of the impacts were positive and statistically significant and no impact was negative and statistically significant on the basis of univariate statistical tests. In all 3 years, at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Use of Materials and Strategies

For use of materials and strategies to support SCD goals, 87 comparisons were made, with 4 expected to be significant by chance. Eleven significant impacts were found on treatment teachers' use of materials and strategies in all 3 years. In Year 1, more treatment teachers used teacher guides (impact = 32 percentage points), student materials such as workbooks or worksheets (impact = 33 percentage points), giveaways (impact = 37 percentage points), and student-led/student-assisted instruction (impact = 19 percentage points) (table 5.14). In Year 2, more treatment teachers continued to use teacher guides (impact = 26 percentage points), skill training (impact = 28 percentage points), parent/community involvement (impact = 25 percentage points), targeted story reading or writing on SCD themes (impact = 19 percentage points), and time-out for negative behavior (impact = 16 percentage points). On average, treatment teachers also used more strategies than control teachers (by 1.5 strategies). In Year 3, a significant impact was seen for treatment teachers' use of giveaways (impact = 23 percentage points). The impact on the domain of materials and strategies was statistically significant in Year 1.

Table 5.14. Impacts on use of SACD classroom materials and teaching strategies—PA

SACD material and teaching strategy ¹	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	(Spring 3rd grade)				(Spring 4th grade)				(Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	60	54			43	39			39	38		
Use of SACD materials (percent)												
Teacher guides (manuals, curricula)	86.7*	54.5	32.1	0.017	86.1*	60.5	25.6	0.012	90.5	66.8	23.7	0.178
Student materials (workbooks or sheets)	84.8*	51.8	32.9	0.007	72.2	58.3	13.9	0.243	85.1^	66.8	18.3	0.076
Instructional aids (games, software, videos)	29.7	34.5	-4.7	0.733	38.4	33.8	4.6	0.630	45.1	55.5	-10.4	0.340
Giveaways (bookmarks, stickers)	76.7*	39.6	37.1	0.004	68.7	55.6	13.1	0.314	79.0*	56.3	22.8	0.019
Children's literature	33.9	36.4	-2.5	0.823	36.0	49.4	-13.5	0.341	34.2	26.4	7.8	0.557
Other types of materials	6.9	15.2	-8.4	0.230	19.7	16.2	3.5	0.686	‡	‡	-5.4	0.265
Did not use any of these materials	‡^	‡	-20.5	0.069	‡	‡	-5.7	0.299	‡	‡	-3.3	0.630
Use of teaching strategies (percent)												
Role-playing	80.1	68.5	11.6	0.191	80.1	72.4	7.7	0.508	83.2	88.9	-5.7	0.542
Cooperative learning	97.6	96.3	1.3	0.706	100.0	97.1	2.9	†	100.0	100.0	0.0	†
Peer group discussions	93.1	81.4	11.7	0.113	90.9	88.6	2.3	0.729	97.0	100.0	-3.0	†
Direct instruction of SACD	86.9	77.6	9.2	0.367	94.4	83.7	10.8	0.073	100.0	92.8	7.2	†
Skill training	59.7	46.7	13.1	0.187	64.7*	36.7	28.0	0.015	81.1	86.1	-5.0	0.563
Incorporating SACD into academic curriculum	86.0	75.8	10.2	0.149	80.0	68.7	11.3	0.260	100.0	97.9	2.1	†
Parent training	‡	‡	-10.2	0.118	‡	‡	13.4	0.116	51.3^	27.0	24.3	0.077
Parent/community involvement	7.8	15.0	-7.2	0.322	32.7*	7.6	25.1	0.011	60.1	39.4	20.7	0.100
Mentoring	45.8	37.0	8.8	0.445	41.2	41.2	0.0	1.000	76.2	51.4	24.8	0.137
Good behavior notes sent home daily or weekly	60.9	51.8	9.1	0.390	74.9	59.8	15.2	0.157	83.1	87.9	-4.8	0.526
Presenting role models	68.9	58.8	10.1	0.197	65.4	64.4	1.0	0.925	85.5	74.9	10.6	0.255

See notes at end of table.

Table 5.14. Impacts on use of SACD classroom materials and teaching strategies—PA—Continued

SACD material and teaching strategy ¹	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Use of teaching strategies (percent)— Continued												
Targeted story reading or writing on social and character development themes	94.8 [^]	80.9	13.9	0.083	98.5*	79.6	18.9	0.015	97.6	97.9	-0.2	0.939
Peer mediation	59.7	56.0	3.8	0.619	61.3	62.1	-0.9	0.917	92.0	80.2	11.9	0.174
Honor roll for positive behavior	67.3	69.1	-1.7	0.854	58.6	75.4	-16.7	0.108	81.5	89.5	-8.0	0.375
Pledges or recitations on social and character development themes	48.9	54.0	-5.0	0.664	57.2	55.9	1.4	0.934	75.6	72.0	3.7	0.774
Guided visualization	62.5	53.4	9.0	0.492	69.6	60.7	9.0	0.485	77.1	76.8	0.3	0.977
Student-led/student-assisted instruction	65.1*	45.9	19.2	0.039	59.6	48.8	10.8	0.265	90.6	79.1	11.5	0.115
Journaling	81.8	80.3	1.5	0.880	77.6	87.8	-10.2	0.411	95.2	97.6	-2.3	0.631
Time out for negative behavior	84.3	88.9	-4.6	0.562	93.8*	77.6	16.2	0.031	100.0	97.6	2.4	†
Daily or weekly rewards for positive behavior	91.8	89.9	1.9	0.696	97.6	92.7	4.9	0.344	98.0	97.9	0.1	0.986
Any strategy	100.0	100.0	0.0	†	100.0	100.0	0.0	†	100.0	100.0	0.0	†
Number of strategies (mean)	13.3	12.4	1.0	0.202	14.0*	12.5	1.5	0.042	16.9	16.0	0.9	0.170

† Not applicable.

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

[^] Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.¹ In Year 1, at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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Regarding the use of schoolwide strategies, 18 comparisons were made between treatment and control teacher reports, with 1 expected to be significant by chance. There were 2 statistically significant differences between treatment and control teachers' reported use of schoolwide strategies (these data are not shown in a table), with treatment teachers reporting more use of unspecified schoolwide activities than control teachers (impact = 13 percentage points) in Year 2, and more use of morning announcements or videos (impact = 36 percentage points) in Year 3. The overall impact of the PA program on the domain for use of schoolwide strategies in named SACD activities was not significant in any year.

Participation in Professional Development

Regarding reported participation in professional development, 27 comparisons were made over 3 years, with 1 expected to be significant by chance. The intervention had a statistically significant effect on treatment teachers' participation in professional development, with more treatment teachers than control teachers reporting SACD training in the past 12 months (impact = 35 percentage points) and more hours of training (by 4.9 hours on average) in Year 1. In Years 1 and 2, there were significant impacts on training for character education (impact = 29 and 28 percentage points). No significant impacts were found on the domain in any of the 3 years.

Table 5.15. Impacts on teacher-reported SCD professional development—PA

	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
SACD professional development												
Teacher sample size	60	54			43	39			39	38		
SACD training in past 12 months (percent)	89.3*	54.1	35.3	0.015	73.0	68.5	4.5	0.623	62.9	58.0	5.0	0.682
Hours of SACD training (mean)	8.0*	3.1	4.9	0.011	4.2	4.3	-0.1	0.944	4.0	4.5	-0.5	0.737
Training by goal (percent)												
Violence prevention and peace promotion	21.2	13.1	8.1	0.447	18.5	24.7	-6.2	0.528	13.0	8.8	4.2	0.543
Social and emotional development	31.4	21.2	10.2	0.434	24.6	30.4	-5.8	0.654	30.7	13.6	17.1	0.122
Character education	63.1*	34.2	29.0	0.040	45.8*	18.2	27.6	0.025	35.5^	13.6	21.9	0.086
Tolerance and diversity	29.1	10.3	18.8	0.125	16.6	16.4	0.2	0.984	11.8	25.0	-13.2	0.208
Risk prevention and health promotion	11.2	9.0	2.1	0.778	9.6	15.2	-5.6	0.491	20.2	17.7	2.5	0.822
Civic responsibility and community service	‡	‡	8.2	0.179	7.3	7.5	-0.2	0.974	0.0	6.8	-6.8	†
Behavior management	42.0	24.8	17.2	0.238	37.0	46.3	-9.3	0.447	38.4	24.8	13.5	0.369

† Not applicable.

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

^ Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SCD) Research Program.

Attitudes and Practices

Teachers reported on their enthusiasm for SCD efforts in their schools (these data are not shown in a table) by indicating enthusiasm, cooperation, or open dislike. They also reported on the SCD practices of teachers and staff members in their schools (these data are not shown in a table). These practices included modeling positive character and behavior traits with students and fellow teachers, involving students in making decisions, giving students a voice in school governance, the school encouraging parent involvement in children's social and character development, and using developmentally appropriate discipline strategies rather than punishment for misbehavior. Twenty-seven comparisons were made over 3 years, with 1 expected to be significant by chance. In Year 1, there was a statistically significant impact on teachers' enthusiasm for SCD efforts in their schools (out of 9 comparisons made), with more treatment teachers reporting enthusiasm than control teachers (impact = 4 percentage points). There were no significant differences in treatment and control teacher reports of the overall use of practices conducive to students' social and character development for any of the years. There was a significant positive impact on the domain in Year 1.

Year-by-Year Impacts on Students and Perceptions of School Climate

The primary research question for the PA evaluation was this:

What is the effect of the PA program on children's social and emotional competence, behavior, academics, and perceptions of school climate?

The first approach to answering this question was to examine the year-by-year impacts of the PA program on these student and school climate outcomes over the 3 years as the students progressed from third through fifth grades.

Equation (2) (described in chapter 1) was estimated to provide the impacts of the PA program on the 20 outcomes using data from the 14 treatment and control schools. For the PA evaluation, equation (2) excluded the program fixed effects (θ_p) and included program-specific covariates and random school effects covariates. Table 5.16 lists the covariates used with outcomes from each report in the PA analysis.

Table 5.16. Covariates used with outcomes from each report for analysis—PA

Potential covariate	CR outcome	PCR outcome	TRS outcome	TRCS outcome
Total number	20	26	22	7
Child-reported				
Female	✓	✓	✓	
Hispanic	✓	✓	✓	
Black (non-Hispanic)	✓	✓	✓	
Other ethnicity	✓	✓	✓	
Age in years	✓	✓	✓	
Scales				
Afraid at School				
Altruistic Behavior	✓			
Empathy				
Engagement with Learning		✓		
Negative School Orientation			✓	
Normative Beliefs About Aggression	✓	✓	✓	
Sense of School as a Community				
Problem Behavior	✓	✓	✓	
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions			✓	
Victimization at School	✓	✓		
Primary caregiver-reported				
Age in years		✓	✓	
Completed high school or equivalent	✓	✓	✓	
Some college	✓	✓	✓	
Bachelor's or higher degree	✓	✓	✓	
Highest level of education in household				
Completed high school or equivalent	✓			
Some college	✓			
Bachelor's or higher degree	✓			
Mother present in home life				
Mother and father present		✓	✓	
Respondent someone other than mother or father		✓	✓	
Number of people in household	✓	✓	✓	
Household income: \$20,000 to \$40,000				
Household income: \$40,000 to \$60,000				
Household income: More than \$60,000				
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio: Below 135 percent	✓	✓		
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio: 135 to 185 percent	✓	✓		
Full-time employment		✓	✓	
Part-time employment		✓	✓	

See notes at end of table.

Table 5.16. Covariates used with outcomes from each report for analysis—PA—Continued

Potential covariate	CR outcome	PCR outcome	TRS outcome	TRCS outcome
Parental scales				
APQ-Poor Monitoring and Supervision Subscale		✓		
APQ-Positive Parenting Subscale				
Child-Centered Social Control				
Confusion, Hubbub, and Order	✓	✓	✓	
Community Resources				
Community Risk		✓		
Parent and Teacher Involvement				
Child scales				
Altruistic Behavior				
Positive Social Behavior			✓	
Problem Behavior				
Teacher-reported				
Female				✓
Hispanic				✓
Black (non-Hispanic)				✓
Other ethnicity				✓
Total teaching experience				✓
Total experience in current school				
Regular certificate				✓
Other certificate				✓
Highest degree—bachelor's				
Child scales				
Academic Competence and Motivation				
ADHD-Related Behavior	✓	✓		
Altruistic Behavior		✓	✓	
Positive Social Behavior			✓	
Problem Behavior		✓		
Parent and Teacher Involvement				

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

APQ: Alabama Parenting Questionnaire

✓: Covariate used

Blank cell: Covariate not used

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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To assess the statistical power of the program-level impact estimates, minimum detectable impacts in effect size units (MDES) for each outcome measure were calculated for the PA evaluation (table 5.17). MDES represent the smallest impacts in effect size (standard deviation) units that can be detected with a high probability (80%). MDES are primarily a function of study sample sizes, the degrees of freedom available for statistical tests, and design effects due to clustering (Schochet 2005). For the PA evaluation, the MDES range from 0.096 to 0.953 for the child-level outcomes based on the Child, Caregiver, and Teacher Report on Student and from 0.321 to 0.742 for the school climate outcomes based on the Teacher Report on Classroom and School. In general, the MDES for the school climate outcomes were larger than those for the child-level outcomes.

Table 5.17. Adjusted minimum detectable effect sizes for impact evaluation—PA

Outcome measure—Report	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Social and Emotional Competence Domain			
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interaction—CR	0.203	0.141	0.168
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR	0.241	0.350	0.203
Empathy—CR	0.256	0.296	0.178
Behavior Domain			
Altruistic Behavior—CR	0.096	0.278	0.103
Altruistic Behavior—PCR	0.132	0.162	0.162
Altruistic Behavior—TRS	0.631	0.953	0.784
Positive Social Behavior—PCR	0.106	0.165	0.199
Positive Social Behavior—TRS	0.310	0.392	0.285
Problem Behavior—CR	0.231	0.291	0.233
Problem Behavior—PCR	0.159	0.150	0.130
Problem Behavior—TRS	0.268	0.206	0.244
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS	0.204	0.198	0.285
Academics Domain			
Engagement with Learning—CR	0.096	0.154	0.223
Academic Competence and Motivation—TRS	0.145	0.174	0.263
Perceptions of School Climate Domain			
Positive School Orientation—CR	0.333	0.350	0.373
Negative School Orientation—CR	0.096	0.259	0.335
Student Afraid at School—CR	0.117	0.183	0.186
Victimization at School—CR	0.097	0.393	0.175
Feelings of Safety—TRCS	0.489	0.384	0.742
Student Support for Teachers—TRCS	0.468	0.321	0.602

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The minimum detectable effect (MDE) formula used in the calculations is as follows:

$$MDE = factor(df) * \sqrt{\rho_1 \left(\frac{1}{s_T} + \frac{1}{s_C} \right) + (1 - \rho_1) \left(\frac{1}{s_T n_T} + \frac{1}{s_C n_C} \right)}$$

where s_T and s_C are the number of treatment and comparison schools; n_T and n_C are the average number of students per classroom; ρ_1 is the intraclass correlation (ICC) at the school level; and $factor(df)$ is a constant that depends on the number of degrees of freedom (df) available for analysis (and is 2.802 for the pooled analysis).

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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Table 5.18 provides the estimates of the PA program's impacts on each of the 20 outcomes over each of the 3 years (60 impacts in total, with 3 expected to be statistically significant by chance). Of the 60 results, 3 were statistically significant (2 beneficial and 1 detrimental). In Year 1, the PA program had a detrimental impact on Engagement with Learning (Child Report, effect size [ES] = -0.25) and a substantively important but nonsignificant beneficial impact on Altruistic Behavior (Teacher Report on Student, ES = 0.27). In Year 2, beneficial impacts were found for Positive Social Behavior (Primary Caregiver Report, ES = 0.24) and Problem Behavior (Teacher Report on Student, ES = -0.24). Substantively important but nonsignificant beneficial impact was found in Years 2 and 3 on Student Support for Teachers (Teacher Report on Classroom and School, ES = 0.28 and 0.27). Application of the heuristic to adjust for multiple comparisons within each outcome domain indicates that PA had a statistically significant detrimental impact on Academics in Year 1.

Table 5.18. Impacts on child and school outcomes—PA

Scale–Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value
Social and Emotional Competence Domain												
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions–CR (+)	2.99 [^]	3.13	-0.24	0.090	3.15	3.22	-0.12	0.258	3.20	3.18	0.03	0.823
Normative Beliefs About Aggression–CR (-)	1.34	1.42	-0.13	0.388	1.48	1.65	-0.21	0.303	1.50	1.60	-0.16	0.264
Empathy–CR (+)	2.28	2.18	0.21	0.176	2.14	2.07	0.14	0.422	2.05	1.99	0.16	0.255
Behavior Domain												
Altruistic Behavior–CR (+)	1.37	1.45	-0.09	0.289	1.25	1.25	0.00	0.998	1.25	1.16	0.14	0.198
Altruistic Behavior–PCR (+)	2.42	2.42	0.01	0.927	2.49	2.34	0.19	0.139	2.49	2.38	0.16	0.281
Altruistic Behavior–TRS (+)	1.59	1.45	0.27 ^o	0.480	1.62	1.50	0.21	0.728	1.40	1.38	0.03	0.958
Positive Social Behavior–PCR (+)	2.99	2.95	0.07	0.342	3.03 [*]	2.89	0.24	0.039	3.03	2.96	0.14	0.360
Positive Social Behavior–TRS (+)	2.95	2.92	0.04	0.740	3.00	2.86	0.19	0.365	2.98	2.83	0.20	0.238
Problem Behavior–CR (-)	0.51	0.47	0.07	0.632	0.59	0.58	0.01	0.948	0.67	0.74	-0.10	0.494
Problem Behavior–PCR (-)	1.55	1.60	-0.10	0.261	1.57	1.53	0.11	0.320	1.52	1.55	-0.08	0.485
Problem Behavior–TRS (-)	1.53	1.58	-0.08	0.486	1.48 [*]	1.61	-0.24	0.048	1.51	1.62	-0.16	0.222
ADHD-Related Behavior–TRS (-)	1.72	1.77	-0.08	0.415	1.69	1.75	-0.11	0.357	1.71	1.78	-0.10	0.533
Academics Domain ¹												
Engagement with Learning–CR (+)	3.56 [*]	3.69	-0.25	0.017	3.58	3.64	-0.11	0.390	3.56	3.54	0.03	0.862
Academic Competence and Motivation– TRS (+)	2.78	2.80	-0.02	0.783	2.80	2.79	0.01	0.933	2.67	2.70	-0.03	0.818

See notes at end of table.

Table 5.18. Impacts on child and school outcomes—PA—Continued

Scale–Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value
Perceptions of School Climate Domain												
Positive School Orientation–CR (+)	2.73	2.65	0.11	0.576	2.44	2.47	-0.04	0.833	2.41	2.32	0.14	0.565
Negative School Orientation–CR (-)	2.14	2.15	-0.02	0.837	2.17	2.22	-0.08	0.628	2.24	2.30	-0.12	0.558
Student Afraid at School–CR (-)	2.53	2.55	-0.02	0.788	2.41	2.42	-0.02	0.892	2.35	2.39	-0.05	0.716
Victimization at School–CR (-)	0.90	0.82	0.10	0.228	0.77	0.67	0.13	0.578	0.95	0.83	0.16	0.244
Feelings of Safety–TRCS (+)	3.25	3.09	0.15	0.473	3.19	3.31	-0.13	0.494	3.07	3.23	-0.18	0.618
Student Support for Teachers–TRCS (+)	3.05	2.92	0.13	0.418	3.27	2.99	0.28 ^o	0.113	3.12	2.91	0.27 ^o	0.419

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

[^] Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

^o Substantive (but nonsignificant at .05 level) effect size of $\geq .25$ or $\leq -.25$.

¹ In Year 1, at least half of the impacts were positive and statistically significant and no impact was negative and statistically significant based on univariate statistical tests, and at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts. The number of results found significant was no more than expected by chance.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using regression models where each program and school within a program was weighted equally. The standard errors of all estimates account for design effects due to unequal weighting and the clustering of students within schools. See table 1.5 for information about the measures used to create the outcome variables. The effect size was calculated by dividing the estimated impact by the standard deviation of the outcome measure for the control group.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Impacts on Child Outcomes Over Time

PA impacts on the child outcomes over time were estimated using growth curve models by examining treatment and control group differences in the trajectories of student outcomes during the follow-up period while accounting for clustering at the school level. The growth curve models are estimated using a three-level hierarchical linear model, where Level 1 corresponds to time, Level 2 to students, and Level 3 to schools (described in chapter 1).

Table 5.19 provides the estimates of the PA program's impacts on the growth in student outcomes over the 3 years. The estimated impacts ranged in effect size units (absolute value) from 0.00 to 0.09. None of the 18 estimated PA intervention impacts on the trajectories of child outcomes was statistically significant (1 in 18 is expected to be significant by chance).

Table 5.19. Impacts on growth of child outcomes—PA

Scale–Report	Mean score at implementation ²	Average growth in the score per year ¹					
		Treatment	Control	Impact on growth ³	Effect size ⁴	Standard error of impact	p-value of impact
Social and Emotional Competence Domain							
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions–CR (+)	2.92	0.14	0.13	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.756
Normative Beliefs About Aggression–CR (-)	1.28	0.14	0.13	0.01	0.01	0.05	0.911
Empathy–CR (+)	2.37	-0.15	-0.15	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.925
Behavior Domain							
Altruistic Behavior–CR (+)	1.59	-0.14	-0.19	0.05	0.06	0.03	0.150
Altruistic Behavior–PCR (+)	2.43	0.01	-0.07	0.08	0.09	0.05	0.100
Altruistic Behavior–TRS (+)	1.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.09	0.965
Positive Social Behavior–PCR (+)	2.92	0.03	-0.01	0.04	0.07	0.03	0.119
Positive Social Behavior–TRS (+)	2.85	0.02	-0.05	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.310
Problem Behavior–CR (-)	0.33	0.17	0.13	0.04	0.08	0.05	0.506
Problem Behavior–PCR (-)	1.59	-0.01	0.01	-0.01	-0.03	0.02	0.392
Problem Behavior–TRS (-)	1.48	0.05	0.09	-0.04	-0.06	0.03	0.245
ADHD-Related Behavior–TRS (-)	1.77	0.01	0.03	-0.01	-0.01	0.05	0.796
Academics Domain							
Engagement with Learning–CR (+)	3.60	0.00	0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.04	0.834
Academic Competence and Motivation–TRS (+)	2.71	-0.05	-0.02	-0.03	-0.02	0.05	0.609

See notes at end of table.

Table 5.19. Impacts on growth of child outcomes—PA—Continued

Scale–Report	Mean score at implementation ²	Average growth in the score per year ¹					<i>p</i> -value of impact
		Treatment	Control	Impact on growth ³	Effect size ⁴	Standard error of impact	
Perceptions of School Climate Domain							
Positive School Orientation–CR (+)	2.93	-0.24	-0.24	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.977
Negative School Orientation–CR (-)	2.10	0.05	0.08	-0.03	-0.04	0.03	0.338
Student Afraid at School–CR (-)	2.59	-0.05	-0.13	0.07	0.09	0.05	0.156
Victimization at School–CR (-)	0.87	-0.04	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	0.05	0.639

¹ Pertains to the estimated slope of the outcome for the treatment or control groups.

² The average score at implementation is calculated across treatment and control groups, using regression models for adjustment on covariates.

³ Estimated difference between the slope of the treatment and control groups.

⁴ Effect size: the slope of the treatment group minus the slope of the control group divided by the standard deviation of the outcome for the program's control group (the standard deviation is calculated without accounting for school-level clustering or regression adjustments).

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

No findings were found statistically significant at or below the .05 level. The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using HLM 6.06. Sample weights were used in all analyses to give (1) each school equal weight in each program (within each time period) and (2) each time period equal weight within the analysis. See table 1.5 for information about the measures used to create the outcome variables.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Summary

As part of the Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program, researchers at the Illinois site implemented and evaluated the PA program. This program focused on teaching children about the benefits of physical, intellectual, social, and emotional positive actions with a curriculum designed to enhance children's self-concept and self-regulatory skills through the identification of positive thoughts, feelings, and actions. Fourteen public schools in a single large, urban school district in Illinois were recruited by the Illinois research team and randomly assigned to treatment and control conditions to determine the impact of the PA program on social and character development activities in the schools and on the child outcome domains of Social and Emotional Competence, Behavior, Academics, and Perceptions of School Climate.

Analyses of the initial characteristics of the sample (students, caregivers, communities, teachers, and schools) indicated that randomization to treatment and control status produced groups that were similar on the observed characteristics at the start of the study. Documentation of the initial level of social and character development activities in the schools revealed few differences (3, the number that would be expected by chance out of 62 comparisons) between the treatment and control teachers and classrooms. This is important for two reasons: one, it indicates that randomization created comparable groups near the start of the study, and two, it shows that treatment and control schools both had high levels of SACD activities near the start of the study, indicating that social and character development activities are part of the "standard practice" of these schools in Illinois. Standard practice at all of the schools included reports of 45 percent to 81 percent of teachers using SACD activities, 92 percent of teachers using specific materials in conjunction with these activities, 99 percent of teachers using at least one of the specified instructional strategies, and 68 percent of teachers participating in SACD training over the past 12 months.

Analyses of the impacts of the PA program on the use of SACD activities in the schools revealed impacts on the use of such activities (33 out of 90) and related materials and strategies (13 out of 87) across the 3 years, and use of more professional development activities for treatment teachers in all years (4 out of 27).

Of the 20 child-level outcomes representing the four domains of Social and Emotional Competence, Behavior, Academics, and Perceptions of School Climate assessed in each of the 3 years of the study (a total of 60 results), 3 were statistically significant (2 beneficial and 1 detrimental). A growth curve analysis was used to analyze the change over time in these same outcomes between initial data collection and the final outcome data collection at the end of the study. None of the 18 child-level outcomes assessed showed that PA had a significant impact.

The SACD evaluation did not find evidence to support the hypothesis that PA had beneficial impacts on students' social and character development. Such results could be caused by the inability of the program to cause such change, possibly because the theory of action for the program is incomplete or the activities to carry out that theory are not effective.

However, these results may also be due to the inability of the evaluation to observe such a change due to the control condition, the level of nonparticipation, or the sample size. The control schools continued using their standard SACD activities, and these turned out to be high in quantity and broad in scope. In 2004 Illinois passed the Illinois Children's Mental Health Act (Public Act 93-0495), Section 15(a), which calls on the Illinois State Board of Education to "develop and implement a plan to incorporate social and emotional development standards as part of the Illinois Learning Standards." This state-level change may have led control schools to implement increasing amounts of SACD activities during the course of this study. While the PA program had a significant positive impact on the amount and type of SACD activities, the resulting difference between the treatment and control schools in the amount of SACD activities may not have been large enough to cause significant differences in the student outcomes.

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Second, about one-quarter to one-third of the students in the sample universe did not take part (depending on year) because of nonconsent or noncompletion of the surveys. As a determination could not be made as to whether the students not taking part significantly differed from those who did take part, the evaluation's results are valid only for the students who took part. If the students not taking part were different, and if they would have responded better to PA than to the SADC activities occurring in the control schools, then the evaluation could have underestimated the program's impact. Third, the sample size of 14 schools and the resulting higher MDES compared to those for the multiprogram evaluation may have reduced the likelihood of detecting statistically significant effects. However, it should be noted that 57 percent of the MDES for the 60 outcomes used in the year-by-year analysis were below 0.25 (42% were below 0.20).

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Chapter 6. Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS)

The Children's Institute (New York/Minnesota site)

Intervention

Researchers at the Children's Institute in Rochester (New York/Minnesota site) evaluated the *Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies* (PATHS) program (Kusche and Greenberg 1994). PATHS is designed to enhance social and emotional competence and understanding in children and to develop a caring, prosocial context that facilitates educational processes in the classroom. Table 6.1 describes PATHS' general characteristics (panel 1), the types of instruction and strategies used (panel 2), the professional development provided for those implementing the program (panel 3), and the social and character development activities (panel 4) and outcomes (panel 5) addressed by the program. The program includes the following components:

- The PATHS classroom curriculum is designed to facilitate the development of self-control, emotional understanding, positive self-esteem, relationships, and interpersonal problem-solving skills in children. For 20 to 30 minutes a day, 3 to 5 days per week, teachers engage students in lessons that involve discussion, role-playing, storytelling, and worksheets. Teachers are also encouraged to model and reinforce social skills throughout the day.
- Schoolwide activities include a PATHS party at the end of the year and visual artifacts that illustrate aspects of social and emotional competence.
- Parents are engaged in the program through parent newsletters and homework assignments that are to be completed with their children.
- Teachers, principals, and mental health staff participate in an initial 2-day training that presents the concepts of program implementation, lessons on integrating PATHS activities with traditional instruction, and methods for applying and transferring social skills to children over the entire school day and in the home. Program consultants provide weekly technical assistance on program implementation to teachers, a recommended practice in the PATHS program. Consultants hold biweekly calls with teachers to discuss implementation and challenges. In addition, a national PATHS-certified trainer is available to each intervention school 1 day in the fall and spring. A 1-day summer meeting for principals, teachers, and school staff after the first year of implementation provides additional technical assistance, addresses feedback on program implementation, and engages school staff in planning for the following year.

Table 6.1. Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies

Panel 1: General characteristics

Target population

Universal

Program components

Peer: In class

Parent: Contact and involvement

Classroom: Lessons

Schoolwide: Planned events and program artifacts

Community: None or not major focus

Training: Pretraining and ongoing

Level of integration

Add-on curriculum and schoolwide activities

Flexibility

Manualized: Scripted curriculum and guidebook

Adaptability: Less adaptable

See notes at end of table.

Panel 2: Description of instruction and strategies

Classroom

Lessons

Who delivers: Teacher

Activities and tools: Direct instruction, storytelling, discussion, role-playing, utilization of artifacts (e.g., posters, turtle puppet), worksheets

Content: Emotion understanding and control, behavior regulation, problem solving, making friends

Frequency: 20 to 30 minutes per day, 3 to 5 days per week

Strategies

Who delivers: Teacher

Activities and tools: Modeling of skills

Frequency: Daily

Supplement to classroom

Parent newsletter and engagement in homework

Schoolwide activities

End-of-year PATHS party and program artifacts

See notes at end of table.

Table 6.1. Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies—Continued**Panel 3: Professional development****Pre-implementation****Teachers***Content:* Training on concepts, curriculum implementation, how to integrate activities with traditional instruction*Duration:* 2 days**Other***Content:* Principal and school mental health staff, same as teacher training*Duration:* 2 days**Ongoing consultation****Teachers***Content:* Technical assistance/consultation on implementation; individual meetings with each teacher; attendance at grade-level meetings; planning for following year*Duration:* Weekly consultations; 2-day summer meeting**Other***Content:* Principal and school staff; model lessons, team teaching, general feedback; planning for following year*Duration:* Biweekly calls; 2-day summer meeting

See notes at end of table.

Panel 4: Activities for SACD goals

Violence prevention and peace promotion	✓	Risk prevention and health promotion	✓
Social and emotional development	✓	Civic responsibility and community service	✓
Character education	✓	Behavior management	✓
Tolerance and diversity	✓		

See notes at end of table.

Panel 5: SACD outcomes addressed

Engagement with Learning	✓	Empathy	✓
Academic Competence and Motivation	✓	Positive School Orientation	✓
Altruistic Behavior	✓	Negative School Orientation	✓
Positive Social Behavior	✓	Student Afraid at School	
Problem Behavior	✓	Victimization at School	
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions	✓	Feelings of Safety	✓
Normative Beliefs About Aggression	✓	Student Support for Teachers	

NOTE: Abbreviations are

✓: Activity or outcome addressed

Blank cell: Activity or outcome not addressed

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Sample and Random Assignment

The Children's Institute research team recruited a total of 10 public elementary schools, representing 1 school district in Minnesota (2 schools) and 2 school districts in New York (8 schools). The 10 schools were randomly assigned to treatment and control conditions prior to the fall 2004 data collection.⁵⁰ A two-step process was used, stratified by the three participating school districts. First, a computer-generated pairwise matching algorithm developed by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (MPR) was used to identify the best pairwise matches across the 10 schools based on variables identified by the Children's Institute research team. The variables used in the pairwise matching for the 8 New York schools were as follows: (a) enrollment; (b) percentage of White students; (c) percentage of limited-English-proficient students; (d) student-teacher ratio; (e) percentage of students eligible for free lunch; (f) percentage of students eligible for reduced-price lunch; (g) percentage of students passing English language arts; and (h) percentage of students passing math. For the 2 Minnesota schools, the following variables were used: (a) enrollment; (b) percentage of White students; (c) number of suspensions per 100 students; (d) percentage of limited-English-proficient students; (e) percentage of students eligible for free lunch; (f) percentage of students eligible for reduced-price lunch; (g) stability; (h) language test scores; and (i) math test scores. Second, using the flip of a coin, 1 school in each matched pair was assigned to either the intervention or control condition. Five schools received the PATHS program and 5 schools acted as control schools and continued to implement the social and character development activities that constituted their standard practice. Assignment to treatment or control condition was at the school level and therefore limited the risk of contamination between treatment and control classrooms.

The original student sample (the cohort of students in the third grade in the 10 schools in fall 2004) numbered 786 students (377 treatment and 409 control). Table 6.2 documents the change in the sample over the three spring follow-up data collection periods. Over time, new entrants to the cohort became a larger percentage of the sample, eventually making up 30 percent of the sample by the spring of Year 3. There were no statistically significant differences between the treatment and control groups in the number of new entrants. The percentage of the sample made up of the original cohort further declined as students left the schools. By Year 3, approximately 31 percent of the original sample had left.

⁵⁰ In Year 2 (fall 2005), the Children's Institute research team recruited four more schools, two assigned to treatment and two assigned to control, which were followed to the end of the study (spring 2007). A description of this second cohort and all relevant findings can be found in appendix A. The data from this second cohort are not included in the analyses and results reported in this chapter.

Table 6.2. Sample—PATHS

Characteristic	Year 1 (Fall 3rd grade)			Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control
School sample size	10	5	5	10	5	5	10	5	5	10	5	5
Student sample size	786	377	409	783	374	409	778	373	405	778	378	400
Stayers	†	†	†	747	356	391	636	311	325	543	263	280
New entrants	†	†	†	36	18	18	142	62	80	235	115	120
New entrants as a percent of spring enrollment	†	†	†	4.6	4.8	4.4	18.3	16.6	19.8	30.2	30.4	30.0
Total leavers (from original cohort)	†	†	†	39	21	18	150	66	84	243	114	129
Leavers as percent of fall 2004 enrollment	†	†	†	5.0	5.6	4.4	19.1	17.5	20.5	30.9	30.2	31.5
Number of students per school (mean)	79	75	82	78	75	82	78	75	81	78	76	80
Range of number of students per school	64-108	64-83	65-108	63-105	63-82	64-105	56-102	68-85	56-102	49-97	66-90	49-97

† Not applicable.

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Implementation

Training

The intervention teachers received 2 days of program implementation training by PATHS-certified trainers prior to the beginning of the school year (table 6.1, panel 3). Teachers had access to ongoing program implementation support throughout the school year. Three program consultants went to schools at least once a week to visit classrooms, teach lessons, team teach, provide feedback to teachers, answer questions, and help with implementation as needed. These consultants were trained by the program developers. Each consultant was selected because of prior teaching experience and an ability to form close working relationships with teachers, students, and administrators at the schools. One consultant had extensive classroom experience, a second had both classroom and administrative experience, and the third had classroom experience as well as experience as a volunteer working in an urban community. In addition, a program trainer was made available to each intervention school during the initial 2-day training and during the 1-day summer meeting to answer questions, demonstrate lessons, provide feedback, and help with planning for the upcoming year. In addition, the lead national PATHS trainer participated in the biweekly calls approximately 50 percent of the time and made occasional visits to the schools during each school year.

Data Collection

MPR collected the multiprogram child, teacher, and school data at the Minnesota site, and MPR's subcontractor, Decision Information Resources, Inc. (DIR), collected the multiprogram child, teacher, and school data at the New York site. Table 6.3 shows the school year milestones and dates of implementation for the New York/Minnesota site. Data were collected in the fall and spring of the first 2 years and the spring of Year 3. The fall 2004 multiprogram data collection began on October 18, 2004, and ended on October 28, 2004. The average time frame from the beginning of program implementation to the beginning of fall data collection was 6 weeks. As a result, initial data collection took place after implementation of the PATHS program began. Therefore, these data provide a measure of the students, teachers, and schools near the beginning of the school year, at a time when the PATHS program had been operating for a relatively short period of time. The spring data collection window was from March 28, 2005, to April 28, 2005. PATHS had been implemented for 29 weeks at the time of the spring data collection and for 22 weeks from the end of the fall data collection. Year 2 followed a similar pattern, with implementation occurring at the start of the school year, fall data collection occurring 5 weeks later, and spring data collection occurring 20 weeks after fall data collection (and 29 weeks after the start of implementation). In spring 2007, data collection occurred 29 weeks after the start of implementation. Data collection took between 3 to 5 weeks at each collection point.

Table 6.3. Data collection dates—PATHS

Data collection schedule	Year 1 (Fall 3rd grade)	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)	Year 2 (Fall 4th grade)	Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)	Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)
School sample size	10	10	10	10	10
School-year dates					
First day of school	9/7/04	†	9/7/05	†	9/6/06 ¹
Start of implementation	9/8/04	†	First day	†	First day
Last day of school	†	6/23/05	†	6/22/06	6/6/07; 6/21/07 ²
Data collection					
Start	10/18/04	3/28/05	10/11/05	3/20/06	3/26/07
End	10/28/04	4/28/05	10/27/05	4/11/06	4/27/07
Calendar weeks from program implementation to start of fall 2004 data collection	6	†	†	†	†
Calendar weeks from start of school to start of fall 2004 data collection	6	†	5	†	†
Calendar weeks from end of fall data collection to start of spring data collection	†	22	†	20	†
Calendar weeks from program implementation to start of spring data collection	†	29	†	29	29 ¹

† Not applicable.

¹ Schools started between 9/5/06 and 9/7/06. In calculations of time from the start of the school year to the start of spring 2007 data collection 9/6/06 was used as the first day of the school year.² Two schools ended on 6/6/07 and eight ended on 6/21/07.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Consent Rates, Completion Rates, and Percentage of Sample With Data

The actual number of student, primary caregiver, and teacher reports available for analysis was smaller than the number in the sample because consent and completion rates were below 100 percent. Primary caregivers had to provide consent before children could complete the Child Report, before their child's teacher could complete the Teacher Report on Student, and before they themselves completed the Primary Caregiver Report. In the spring of Years 1 and 3, significantly more primary caregivers in the treatment group than in the control group provided consent for their children and themselves. Teachers also had to provide consent before completing the Teacher Report on Classroom and School. In Year 1, significantly more teachers in the treatment group gave consent for both the fall and spring data collection.

Of those with consent, not all completed their respective reports. Table 6.4 shows the consent rates, completion rates, and percentages of sample with data for each of the four reports over the 3 years. For the

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Child Report and two teacher reports, completion rates ranged from 89 percent to 100 percent, with one statistically significant difference in completion rates between treatment and control groups for the Child Report in the spring of 2005. In this case, the treatment group had fewer completed reports than the control group (94% versus 98%). For the Teacher Report on Student, completion rates ranged from 96 percent to 100 percent. For the Primary Caregiver Report, the completion rates dropped over time from 95 percent to 79 percent. There was a statistically significant difference for the Primary Caregiver Report in Year 2, with more caregivers in the treatment group completing reports compared to the control group (83% versus 79%).

The percentages of the sample with Child Report data ranged from 50 percent to 60 percent over the 3 years, with a statistically significant difference in Year 3, when more students in the treatment group had data than did students in the control group (60% versus 52%). The percentages of students with information from the Teacher Report on Student ranged from 53 percent to 62 percent, with statistically significant differences between treatment and control conditions in Years 1 and 3, both favoring the treatment group (62% versus 55% and 60% versus 53%). The percentages of students with data from the Primary Caregiver Report ranged from 42 percent to 56 percent. In general, this percentage declined over time, although the highest rates were seen in the spring of 2005. In Year 2, the treatment group had significantly more Primary Caregiver Report data than did the control group (50% versus 42%). The percentages of teachers with data from the Teacher Report on Classroom and School ranged from 70 percent to 92 percent, with a statistically significant difference in Year 1, when treatment teachers had more data than control teachers in both the fall (89% versus 70%) and spring (92% versus 70%).

Table 6.4. Consent rates, completion rates, and percentage of sample with data from each report—PATHS

Report	Year 1 (Fall 3rd grade)			Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control
Student sample size	786	377	409	783	374	409	778	373	405	778	378	400
Child Report (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate	58.4	60.5	56.5	58.5	62.3*	55.0	57.6	60.9	54.6	56.6	60.3*	53.0
Student completion rate	89.3	89.9	88.7	95.9	94.0*	97.8	96.9	96.9	96.8	98.0	98.7	97.2
Students with data ¹	52.2	54.4	50.1	56.1	58.6	53.8	55.8	59.0	52.8	55.4	59.5*	51.5
Primary Caregiver Report (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate	56.6	58.9	54.5	57.3	61.2*	53.8	56.0	59.5	52.8	55.1	58.7*	51.8
Primary caregiver completion rate	94.6	95.0	94.2	84.2	86.5	81.8	81.2	83.3*	79.0	78.8	77.0	80.7
Primary caregivers with data ¹	53.6	56.0	51.3	48.3	52.9	44.0	45.5	49.6**	41.7	43.4	45.2	41.8
Teacher Report on Student (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate ²	58.4	60.5	56.5	58.5	62.3*	55.0	57.6	60.9	54.6	56.6	60.3*	53.0
Teacher completion rate	96.5	96.9	96.1	99.8	99.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.5	100.0	99.1
Students with data ¹	56.4	58.6	54.3	58.4	62.0*	55.0	57.6	60.9	54.6	56.3	60.3*	52.5
Teacher Report on Classroom and School (3rd- to 5th-grade teachers) (percent)												
Teacher consent rate	83.8	93.7**	75.3	83.8	95.2**	74.0	84.3	90.0	79.7	93.2	90.0	95.9
Teacher completion rate	93.9	94.9	92.7	95.6	96.7	94.4	99.1	100.0	98.3	89.5	90.7	88.6
Teachers with data ¹	78.7	88.9**	69.9	80.1	92.1**	69.9	83.6	90.0	78.4	83.5	81.7	84.9

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

¹ Calculated as consent rate x completion rate.

² The primary caregiver consent rates for the Child Report and the Teacher Report on Student are identical, as the primary caregiver gave consent to both together.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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Responses from students in the original cohort (stayers) and new entrants in the PATHS sample were examined to investigate possible differences between the two groups in consent rates, completion rates, and the percentages of the sample with data that might affect outcome data (table 6.5). In Years 1 and 3, consent rates for stayers were significantly higher than for new entrants (by 16 to 26 percentage points). These differences in consent rates led to similar differences between stayers and new entrants in percentages of the sample with data on all three reports (by 14 to 26 percentage points). In Year 2, stayers had a significantly higher percentage of Primary Caregiver report data than new entrants (by 10 percentage points).

Table 6.5. Consent rates, completion rates, and percentage of sample with data: Stayers versus new entrants—PATHS

Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Total	Stayers	New entrants	Total	Stayers	New entrants	Total	Stayers	New entrants
Student sample size	783	747	36	778	636	142	778	543	235
Child Report (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate	58.5	59.7**	33.3	57.6	59.1	50.7	56.6	61.7***	44.7
Student completion rate	95.9	95.7	100.0	96.9	96.3	100.0	98.0	97.9	98.1
Students with data ¹	56.1	57.2**	33.3	55.8	56.9	50.7	55.4	60.4***	43.8
Primary Caregiver Report (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate	57.3	58.5**	33.3	56.0	57.5	49.3	55.1	60.0***	43.8
Primary caregiver completion rate	84.2	84.4	75.0	81.2	82.2	75.7	79.3	79.8	77.7
Primary caregivers with data ¹	48.3	49.4**	25.0	45.5	47.3*	37.3	43.7	47.9**	34.0
Teacher Report on Student (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate ²	58.5	59.7**	33.3	57.6	59.1	50.7	56.6	61.7***	44.7
Teacher completion rate	99.8	99.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.5	99.7	99.0
Students with data ¹	58.4	59.6**	33.3	57.6	59.1	50.7	56.3	61.5***	44.3

* Stayers significantly different from new entrants at the .05 level.

** Stayers significantly different from new entrants at the .01 level.

*** Stayers significantly different from new entrants at the .001 level.

¹ Calculated as consent rate x completion rate.

² The primary caregiver consent rates for the Child Report and the Teacher Report on Student are identical, as the primary caregiver gave consent to both together.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Fidelity of Implementation

Each year, PATHS' five treatment schools were independently rated for quantity and quality of program implementation by two raters from the research team. The global measure of fidelity for the multisite study was used; inter-rater reliability was calculated using Cronbach's alpha (Year 1 = 0.78, Year 2 = 0.93, and Year 3 = 0.86). The ratings were used to generate a single consensus rating with which schools were identified as being high or low in implementation fidelity. In Year 1, three treatment schools were identified as having high fidelity, and in Years 2 and 3, two treatment schools were identified as having high fidelity. Cohen's kappa was used as the measure of agreement when identifying schools as high fidelity, and it equaled 0.55 in Year 1, 0.17 in Year 2, and 0.29 in Year 3.

Initial Characteristics

This section examines the initial characteristics of the students, teachers, and schools participating in the evaluation of the PATHS program. These characteristics were collected from students who were enrolled in the third grade at the study schools in fall 2004, as well as from their primary caregivers and third-grade teachers. Third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers and principals in the study schools also provided information about activities related to social and character development in these schools. Documenting the characteristics of students, teachers, and schools and initial measures of key outcomes at a point before the interventions had been operating for an extended period helped to determine whether the random assignment of schools to treatment and control status produced treatment and control groups with similar distributions of observed characteristics. As noted in the following discussion, there were 10 significant differences in the observed characteristics, 8 of which (out of 62 comparisons, with 3 expected to be significant by chance) reflected differences between the treatment and control students, teachers, and schools in the use of SACD activities in the classroom and school.

Characteristics of Children, Their Families, and Communities

There were no significant differences between the treatment and control groups in the observed student, caregiver, and community characteristics (table 6.6). For students, the mean age was 8.1 years. The sample contained roughly equal percentages of girls (58%) and boys (43%). The sample was ethnically diverse, with White non-Hispanic students making up 56 percent of the sample, Black non-Hispanic students making up 22 percent of the sample, and Hispanic students making up 12 percent of the sample.

The sample was also diverse in its levels of family income, education levels of primary caregivers of the children in the sample, and family situation. For the total sample, 34 percent of children lived in a household where the income was 135 percent of the federal poverty level or lower, which is the income threshold for eligibility for free school meals. Thirteen percent of primary caregivers had not completed high school. Nearly two-thirds of the children (66%) lived with both their mother and their father. There were no significant differences between the treatment and control groups in these characteristics.

The mean values of the outcome measures for children's behavior and attitudes as reported by the primary caregiver, child, and teacher at initial data collection in fall 2004 are shown in table 6.7. There was 1 significant difference between the treatment and control groups (out of 18 comparisons): children in the treatment group reported lower Self-Efficacy for Peer Interaction (2.8 versus 3.0).

Table 6.6. Initial characteristics of children, their families, and communities—PATHS

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Student sample size	421	211	210
Student demographics			
Gender (percent)			
Male	42.5	40.5	44.6
Female	57.5	59.5	55.4
Race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	56.1	52.7	59.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	22.3	23.9	20.7
Hispanic	11.5	12.3	10.7
Other	10.1	11.0	9.2
Age (in years) (mean)	8.1	8.1	8.1
Primary caregiver and family characteristics			
Primary caregiver's age (in years) (mean)	37.1	36.6	37.6
Primary caregiver's race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	63.2	60.9	65.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	20.6	22.9	18.4
Hispanic	9.9	9.7	10.2
Other	6.3	6.6	6.0
Primary caregiver's education (percent)			
Did not complete high school	12.7	13.0	12.4
Completed high school or equivalent	18.5	19.0	17.9
Some college	37.1	39.4	34.8
Bachelor's or higher degree	31.7	28.5	34.8
Primary caregiver's employment (percent)			
Full-time	51.4	56.7	46.0
Other	48.6	43.3	54.0
Primary caregiver's marital status (percent)			
Married	62.9	63.3	62.5
Other	37.1	36.7	37.5
Students who live in one household (percent)	93.7	92.8	94.5
Number of individuals in household (mean)	4.6	4.6	4.6
Primary caregiver's relationship to child (percent)			
Mother (stepmother)	86.1	86.0	86.2
Father (stepfather)	10.3	10.5	10.1
Other relative/nonrelative	3.6	3.5	3.7

See notes at end of table.

Table 6.6. Initial characteristics of children, their families, and communities—PATHS—Continued

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Student lives with (percent)			
Mother (stepmother) and father (stepfather)	66.3	65.7	66.9
Mother (stepmother) only; father (stepfather) not present	29.2	28.9	29.4
Father (stepfather) only; mother (stepmother) not present	1.6	‡	‡
Other relative/nonrelative, parents not present	2.9	3.1	2.7
Highest education of anyone in household (percent)			
Did not complete high school	8.2	8.9	7.4
Completed high school or equivalent	18.4	17.4	19.4
Some college	33.8	39.4	28.2
Bachelor's or higher degree	39.7	34.3	45.0
Total household income (percent)			
Less than \$20,000	29.1	25.9	32.2
\$20,000 to \$39,999	18.3	22.1	14.4
\$40,000 to \$59,999	17.2	23.3	11.0
\$60,000 or more	35.5	28.7	42.3
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio—Below 135 percent (percent)	33.6	31.7	35.5
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio—135 to 185 percent (percent)	14.1	16.6	11.6
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio—Above 185 percent (percent)	52.3	51.7	52.8
Alabama Parenting Questionnaire—Poor Monitoring and Supervision Subscale (mean)	1.1	1.1	1.1
Alabama Parenting Questionnaire—Positive Parenting Subscale (mean)	3.5	3.5	3.5
Confusion, Hubbub, and Order Scale (mean)	2.2	2.2	2.2
Community characteristics (mean)			
Community Risks Scale	1.4	1.3	1.5
Community Resources Scale	3.0	2.9	3.0
Child-Centered Social Control Scale	3.1	3.0	3.2

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 6.7. Mean scores and standard deviations for initial outcome measures of sample—PATHS

Outcome measure—Report	Range	Total		Treatment		Control	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Social and Emotional Competence Domain							
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interaction—CR	1-4	2.9	0.6	2.8*	0.6	3.0	0.6
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR	1-4	1.2	0.3	1.2	0.4	1.1	0.3
Empathy—CR	1-4	2.4	0.4	2.4	0.4	2.5	0.4
Behavior Domain							
Altruistic Behavior—CR	0-3	1.3	0.9	1.4	0.9	1.3	0.8
Altruistic Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.2	0.3	1.2	0.3	1.3	0.3
Altruistic Behavior—PCR	1-4	2.2	0.7	2.3	0.7	2.2	0.8
Positive Social Behavior—TRS	1-4	3.0	0.7	3.0	0.7	3.1	0.6
Positive Social Behavior—PCR	1-4	3.0	0.5	3.0	0.5	3.0	0.5
Problem Behavior—CR	0-3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3
Problem Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.3	0.5	1.4	0.5	1.3	0.4
Problem Behavior—PCR	1-4	1.6	0.3	1.6	0.3	1.6	0.3
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.8	0.7	1.8	0.7	1.7	0.7
Academics Domain							
Academic Competence and Motivation—TRS	1-5	3.0	0.9	2.9	0.9	3.2	0.9
Engagement with Learning—CR	1-4	3.8	0.5	3.7	0.5	3.8	0.4
Perceptions of School Climate Domain							
Positive School Orientation—CR	1-4	3.3	0.6	3.3	0.6	3.4	0.5
Negative School Orientation—CR	1-4	1.7	0.6	1.8	0.6	1.7	0.6
Student Afraid at School—CR	1-4	2.4	0.9	2.5	0.9	2.3	0.9
Victimization at School—CR	0-3	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8
Student sample size—PCR		421		211		210	
Student sample size—CR		410		205		205	
Student sample size—TRS		443		221		222	

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

SD: Standard deviation

Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Characteristics of Teachers and Schools

Table 6.8 describes the third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers at the study schools. The majority were White non-Hispanic (88%). Most of the teachers were female (74%), and there was a statistically significant difference in the percentages of male teachers, with fewer males in the treatment group than in the control group (17% versus 35%). Overall, the teachers had an average of 11.5 years of total teaching experience. The majority (77%) held an advanced or specialist degree.

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Data regarding school characteristics were drawn from the Common Core of Data in order to compare treatment and control schools. There were no significant differences between the two groups of schools in terms of student composition (race/ethnicity and school lunch eligibility), number of students enrolled, number of full-time teachers, Title I status, or number of years the principal had been at the school (see table 6.9). In addition, there were no significant differences between treatment and control schools in terms of location (urban, suburban, or rural) or lowest and highest grade offered (these data are not shown in a table).

Table 6.8. Initial characteristics of teachers in sample—PATHS

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Teacher sample size	107	56	51
Gender (percent)			
Male	26.1	17.4*	34.8
Female	73.9	82.6	65.2
Race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	87.7	88.7	86.8
Other	12.3	11.3	13.2
Number of years teaching experience (mean)	11.5	10.0	13.0
Number of years teaching experience in this school (mean)	7.7	6.5	8.9
Type of teaching certificate (percent)			
Regular state certificate or advanced professional certificate	81.0	82.4	79.6
Other	19.0	17.6	20.4
Education (percent)			
Bachelor's degree	23.0	19.9	26.2
Advanced degree/other	77.0	80.1	73.8

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 6.9. Initial characteristics of schools in sample—PATHS

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
School sample size	10	5	5
Student race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	46.0	48.5	43.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	35.6	31.1	40.2
Hispanic	13.1	14.4	11.8
Other	5.2	5.9	4.4
Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (percent)	56.4	53.7	59.0
Number of students enrolled (mean)	538.0	460.6	634.8
Number of full-time teachers (mean)	45.1	42.8	47.4
Title I status (percent)			
Title I eligible school	60.0	60.0	60.0
Schoolwide Title I	66.7	66.7	66.7
Number of years principal has been at this school (mean)	5.8	4.0	7.6

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: NCES Common Core of Data (2003-04), the Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

In the Teacher Report on Classroom and School, teachers reported on nine dimensions of school environment (these data are not shown in a table): feelings of safety, adequacy of resources, student support, freedom to teach as desired, affiliation with and ties to colleagues, innovation regarding new approaches to teaching, professional interest, participatory decisionmaking, and work pressure. There were no statistically significant differences between treatment and control schools in these reports.

The Level of SACD in the Schools Near the Beginning of the Study

During the initial data collection period, principals and teachers reported on the SACD activities used in the schools and classrooms, the availability of SACD materials, and the professional development provided on SACD. Table 6.10 shows that the majority of the school principals reported activities to promote six social and character development goals: violence prevention and peace promotion (90%), social and emotional development (89%), character education (90%), tolerance and diversity (78%), risk prevention and health promotion (60%), and civic responsibility and community service (80%). In addition, 90 percent of the principals reported activities directed toward behavior management. There were no statistically significant differences between the treatment group and the control group in the percentages reported by principals, although this may be due to the small principal sample size. Teachers' reports of the use of these activities in their classrooms ranged from 53 percent to 83 percent, and there were no significant differences between treatment and control teachers in their use. With respect to the use of schoolwide activities, 65 percent to 89 percent of teachers reported that their schools used such activities. There were no significant differences between treatment and control teachers in reports of their use of these specific SACD activities.

Table 6.10. Principal and teacher initial reports on use of SCD programs or activities in sample—PATHS

SACD program or activity	Total	Treatment	Control
Principal sample size	10	5	5
Teacher sample size	107	56	51
Principals reporting that school had programs or activities to promote the following SCD goals (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	90.0	100.0	80.0
Social and emotional development	88.9	100.0	75.0
Character education	90.0	100.0	80.0
Tolerance and diversity	77.8	80.0	75.0
Risk prevention and health promotion	60.0	60.0	60.0
Civic responsibility and community service	80.0	100.0	60.0
Behavior management	90.0	100.0	80.0
None of the above	‡	‡	‡
Teachers reporting on using programs or activities in their class to promote the following SCD goals (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	74.1	78.9	69.2
Social and emotional development	79.8	83.1	76.5
Character education	83.1	81.2	85.0
Tolerance and diversity	62.7	59.8	65.7
Risk prevention and health promotion	52.9	45.6	60.3
Civic responsibility and community service	70.1	65.9	74.3
Behavior management	80.4	85.6	75.2
None of the above	3.1	‡	‡
Teachers reporting schoolwide use of the following activities to promote SCD (percent)			
Morning announcements or videos	83.7	77.3	90.0
School assemblies	89.4	90.2	88.6
School newspapers or bulletins	72.1	62.0	82.2
Special school days	65.2	62.9	67.5
Special events	81.0	84.5	77.4
Other activities	16.6	13.9	19.2

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SCD) Research Program.

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Teachers reported using a broad range of teaching materials to support SACD activities (table 6.11), including teacher guides (55%), student materials (51%), instructional aids (28%), giveaways (43%), and children's literature (65%). There were statistically significant differences in the use of two types of SACD materials (out of seven comparisons made); more treatment than control teachers used teacher guides (67% versus 43%) and fewer treatment than control teachers used giveaways (33% versus 54%).

Teachers also reported using a wide variety of teaching strategies (table 6.11). All teachers reported using any of the 20 strategies asked about, and teachers used an average of 11.7 of the strategies. There was a significant difference in the use of role-playing (1 of 20 strategies), with treatment teachers using this strategy more often than control teachers (81% versus 44%).

Table 6.11. Teacher initial reports on use of SACD materials and classroom strategies in sample—PATHS

SACD material and classroom strategy	Total	Treatment	Control
Teacher sample size	107	56	51
Teachers using the following materials in conjunction with social and character development activities (percent)			
Teacher guides (manuals, curricula)	55.0	67.3*	42.8
Student materials (workbooks, worksheets)	51.1	55.6	46.7
Instructional aids (games, software, videos)	28.0	30.5	25.6
Giveaways (bookmarks, stickers)	43.4	33.0**	53.9
Children's literature	65.3	66.7	63.9
Other types of materials	15.8	6.5	25.0
Do not use any of the materials listed above	10.7	9.8	11.7
Teachers using any of the strategies listed below to promote social and character development in the classroom (percent)			
	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of strategies (listed below) used by teachers to promote social and character development in the classroom (mean)			
	11.7	12.1	11.2
Teachers using each of the following strategies to promote social and character development (percent)			
Role-playing	62.5	80.8**	44.2
Cooperative learning	94.3	95.7	93.0
Peer group discussions	90.0	93.0	87.0
Direct instruction of social and character development	82.3	91.5	73.1
Skill training	49.6	52.6	46.6
Incorporating social and character development into academic curriculum	67.6	75.2	59.9
Parent training	5.1	‡	‡
Parent/community involvement in program development or delivery	31.3	33.8	28.8
Mentoring	25.3	24.2	26.4
Good behavior notes sent home daily or weekly	78.5	79.7	77.4
Presenting role models	78.5	76.0	80.9
Targeted story reading or writing on SACD themes	73.3	78.2	68.4
Peer mediation	35.7	36.3	35.0
Honor roll for positive behavior	37.3	39.3	35.4
Pledges or recitations on social and character development themes	40.7	29.7	51.7
Guided visualization	44.0	43.8	44.2
Student-led/student-assisted instruction	51.6	59.4	43.8
Journaling	68.6	69.0	68.2
Time out for negative behavior	76.1	81.2	70.9
Daily or weekly rewards for positive behavior	93.1	92.0	94.1

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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Principals and teachers reported on participation in and amount of SCD training and staff development provided over the previous 12 months (table 6.12). Principals reported higher participation rates (89% versus 80%) and more hours of training (10.3 versus 9.5) than did teachers. There were significant differences between treatment and control principals on the number of hours of SCD training reported (15 versus 5) and between treatment and control teachers on both the percentages reporting participation in SCD training (92% versus 68%) and the number of hours of SCD training received (13 versus 6). Treatment teachers also reported more training than control teachers on two of the seven specific SCD goals: social and emotional development (64.8% versus 15.3%) and character education (53.9% versus 17.2%).

Table 6.12. Principal and teacher initial reports on use of SCD materials and classroom strategies in sample—PATHS

SACD professional development	Total	Treatment	Control
Principal sample size	10	5	5
Teacher sample size	107	56	51
Principals reporting that staff participated in social and character development training within the past year (percent)	88.9	100.0	75.0
Teachers reporting participation in social and character development training within the past 12 months (percent)	79.6	91.7*	67.5
Number of hours of social and character development training principals report were provided to each staff person last year (mean)	10.3	14.8*	4.8
Number of hours of social and character development training teachers report receiving during the past 12 months (mean)	9.5	12.7**	6.2
Teachers reporting receiving training in the past 12 months in the following areas (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	36.7	30.1	43.4
Social and emotional development	40.0	64.8**	15.3
Character education	35.5	53.9*	17.2
Tolerance and diversity	18.5	22.0	14.9
Risk prevention and health promotion	11.2	13.6	8.9
Civic responsibility and community service	8.7	4.8	12.6
Behavior management	31.4	36.2	26.5

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SCD) Research Program.

The data on the initial level of SCD activity emphasize that the control condition was a “standard practice” control. Standard practice at the control schools included using SCD activities, materials, and practices, along with professional development, at rates and in types and amounts similar to the treatment schools. For example, the percentages of teachers who reported using programs or activities to promote specific SCD goals ranged from 46 percent to 86 percent in the treatment schools and from 60 percent to 85 percent in the control schools. However, the 8 significant differences between the treatment and control conditions in the use of SCD activities was more than expected by chance (3 out of 62 comparisons), and in 7 of these cases

the differences favored the treatment group. This may reflect the fact that program implementation and program training for staff started before initial data collection.

Impacts on Use of SACD Activities

The introduction of the formal PATHS program would be expected to increase the use of SACD activities in the treatment schools in comparison to the control schools. The analysis of this impact is based on the Teacher Report on Classroom and School (TRCS). Every spring, third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers provided information through the TRCS about the social and character development activities they used in their classrooms. Specifically, information from the TRCS was used to determine the difference between treatment and control teachers in these areas:

1. the use of SACD activities in their classrooms overall and by SACD goal;
2. the use of materials and strategies to implement the SACD activities within classrooms and within the entire school;
3. the use of staff development to support the teachers; and
4. staff attitudes toward the use of SACD activities.

TRCS consent and completion rates (table 6.4) led to 70 percent to 92 percent of all teachers having data for the 3 years, with a significantly greater percentage of treatment than control teachers providing data in Year 1. To estimate intervention impacts for each of the outcome measures, testing of the statistical significance of the differences in means was used. Preliminary analysis indicated little or no gains in precision from using covariates. Before testing the mean differences, the data were weighted such that each school received equal weight. Standard errors of the impact estimates account for the clustering of teachers within schools. In addition, to estimate the impact on the individual outcome measures, a set of heuristics was applied to determine whether each outcome domain was statistically significant after adjustments were made for the multiple tests conducted.

Use of Activities

The percentages of control teachers who reported using any SACD activities in their classrooms ranged from 90 percent to 99 percent over the 3 years (table 6.13, panel 1). For the six individual SACD goals, the ranges varied from 71 percent to 86 percent in Year 1, 51 percent to 74 percent in Year 2, and 59 percent to 84 percent in Year 3. Control teachers' use of behavior management activities ranged from 89 percent to 93 percent over this period. The percentages of control teachers who reported using any SACD activities in their classroom for at least 1 hour per week (panel 2) ranged from 46 percent to 83 percent over the 3 years. For the six individual SACD goals, the ranges varied from 10 percent to 25 percent in Year 1, 11 percent to 40 percent in Year 2, and 6 percent to 37 percent in Year 3. Control teachers' use of behavior management activities ranged from 71 percent to 73 percent over this period.

For teachers' reported use of any SACD activity (panels 1 and 2), 48 comparisons were made, with 2 expected to be significant by chance. There were 14 significant impacts on teachers' reported use of specific SACD activities in all 3 years. In Year 1, PATHS had significant impacts on engagement in activities for at least 1 hour per week: violence prevention and peace promotion (impact = 32 percentage points), social and emotional development (impact = 48 percentage points), character education (impact = 28 percentage points), and tolerance and diversity (impact = 20 percentage points). In Year 2, there were significant impacts both overall and for 1 hour per week on social and emotional development (impact = 38 and 36 percentage points), character education (impact = 23 and 38 percentage points), and tolerance and diversity (impact = 33 and 27 percentage points). There was also a significant impact on violence prevention and peace promotion overall (impact = 23 percentage points). In Year 3, PATHS had an impact on social and emotional development overall (impact = 24 percentage points) and for at least 1 hour per week (impact = 27

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percentage points). Civic responsibility and community service activities for at least 1 hour per week were also significantly impacted (impact = 18 percentage points). After the heuristics were applied, the domain for engagement in SACD activities showed that PATHS had statistically significant impacts in Years 1 and 2.

For teachers' reported use of any named SACD activity (panels 3 and 4), 42 comparisons were made, with 2 expected to be significant by chance. Six of the 12 impact estimates in Year 1, 9 of the 12 in Year 2, and 9 of the 12 in Year 3 were statistically significant. In all 3 years, the use of named activities to promote violence prevention and peace promotion (impact = 41, 50, and 36 percentage points), social and emotional development (impact = 59, 64, and 53 percentage points), character education (impact = 49, 65, and 40 percentage points), tolerance and diversity (impact = 42, 31, and 34 percentage points), and any named activity (impact = 44, 37, and 33 percentage points) were significantly impacted. In Year 2, named activities to promote civic responsibility and community service were significantly impacted (impact = 13 percentage points). The use of named activities for at least 1 hour per week showed significant impacts on the use of any named activity in Year 1 (impact = 42 percentage points). In Years 2 and 3, PATHS had significant impact on activities related to social and emotional development (impact = 43 and 44 percentage points), character education (impact = 43 and 41 percentage points), and tolerance and diversity (impact = 19 and 24 percentage points). In Years 1 and 3, there were significant impacts on the use of any named activity for at least 1 hour per week (impact = 42 and 40 percentage points). PATHS had a significant impact on the domain of engagement in named SACD activities in all 3 years.

Table 6.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—PATHSPanel 1: Engagement in any activities to promote SACD goals¹

SACD activity	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	(Spring 3rd grade)				(Spring 4th grade)				(Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	60	56			55	57			50	61		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	85.0	78.9	6.1	0.554	85.9*	62.4	23.4	0.043	88.2	81.2	7.1	0.446
Social and emotional development (percent)	89.0	71.5	17.4	0.122	93.5*	55.1	38.4	0.006	98.0*	74.5	23.5	0.020
Character education (percent)	87.7	85.8	1.9	0.861	95.5*	72.2	23.3	0.015	95.9^	83.6	12.3	0.091
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	78.7	70.8	7.9	0.420	88.9*	56.2	32.7	0.025	86.5	72.3	14.2	0.142
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	68.5	70.5	-2.0	0.916	74.3	73.6	0.8	0.967	80.5	80.4	0.1	0.995
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	65.4	71.7	-6.3	0.566	67.3	51.2	16.1	0.199	66.4	59.4	7.0	0.623
Any SACD goal (percent)	94.3	93.7	0.5	0.922	97.0	90.1	6.8	0.185	100.0	98.5	1.5	†
Behavior management (percent)	88.5	93.1	-4.6	0.472	95.1	89.5	5.6	0.463	79.8	89.4	-9.6	0.193

See notes at end of table.

Table 6.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—PATHS—Continued

Panel 2: Engagement in any activities to promote SACD goals for at least 1 hour per week

SACD activity	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
	60	56			55	57			50	61		
Teacher sample size												
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	48.0*	15.9	32.0	0.020	41.6	22.5	19.1	0.121	45.8	33.2	12.6	0.343
Social and emotional development (percent)	60.0*	12.5	47.5	0.003	57.1*	21.3	35.8	0.023	59.2*	32.0	27.2	0.012
Character education (percent)	52.6*	25.1	27.5	0.036	63.9*	25.5	38.4	0.001	60.2^	37.1	23.1	0.078
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	40.9*	21.3	19.6	0.031	43.3*	16.2	27.1	0.043	32.2	25.9	6.3	0.596
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	32.8	18.5	14.3	0.288	34.5	39.9	-5.4	0.699	30.8	27.2	3.6	0.778
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	19.8	10.0	9.8	0.374	17.1	10.9	6.2	0.239	24.0*	5.6	18.4	0.039
Any SACD goal (percent)	74.7	45.6	29.1	0.053	86.7	82.8	3.9	0.663	82.4	77.0	5.4	0.599
Behavior management (percent)	68.7	72.7	-4.0	0.614	82.2	71.0	11.2	0.442	58.9	70.8	-11.9	0.305
See notes at end of table.												

Table 6.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—PATHS—ContinuedPanel 3: Engagement in activities to promote SACD goals linked to named SACD programs²

SACD activity	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	(Spring 3rd grade)				(Spring 4th grade)				(Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	60	56			55	57			50	61		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	54.4*	13.8	40.6	0.009	60.8*	11.0	49.8	0.001	65.7*	30.2	35.5	0.034
Social and emotional development (percent)	65.1*	6.0	59.1	0.003	78.1*	14.2	64.0	0.000	75.9*	22.6	53.3	0.000
Character education (percent)	54.5*	5.3	49.2	0.002	70.2*	5.1	65.2	0.000	63.8*	24.0	39.8	0.033
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	‡*	‡	42.1	0.006	41.8*	11.0	30.8	0.003	42.5*	8.4	34.1	0.016
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	25.1	16.2	8.9	0.552	23.3	30.2	-7.0	0.569	25.6	30.4	-4.8	0.698
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	6.6	0.0	6.6	†	‡*	‡	12.9	0.035	17.8	5.6	12.2	0.229
Any named activity (percent)	66.3*	22.8	43.5	0.014	83.3*	45.9	37.4	0.003	82.3*	49.0	33.3	0.021

See notes at end of table.

Table 6.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—PATHS—Continued

Panel 4: Engagement in activities to promote SACD goals linked to named SACD programs for at least 1 hour per week

SACD activity	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	60	56			55	57			50	61		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	37.5 [^]	11.7	25.8	0.100	34.5 [^]	7.7	26.8	0.062	40.8 [^]	17.2	23.6	0.094
Social and emotional development (percent)	47.3	0.0	47.3	†	‡ [*]	‡	43.4	0.003	50.6 [*]	6.9	43.7	0.000
Character education (percent)	36.4	0.0	36.4	†	‡ [*]	‡	43.4	0.004	52.4 [*]	11.7	40.7	0.015
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	29.8	0.0	29.8	†	‡ [*]	‡	19.2	0.016	‡ [*]	‡	24.2	0.015
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	16.7	7.8	8.9	0.499	10.9	21.7	-10.7	0.388	18.9	7.9	11.0	0.305
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	5.5	0.0	5.5	†	4.6	0.0	4.6	†	12.2	0.0	12.2	†
Any named activity (percent)	52.2 [*]	10.2	42.0	0.040	57.3 [^]	28.4	28.8	0.060	61.9 [*]	22.2	39.6	0.031

† Not applicable.

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

[^] Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.¹ In Year 1, the omnibus impact for all the outcomes measured together was positive and statistically significant on the basis of a multivariate statistical test. In Years 1 and 2, at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts.² In all 3 years at least half of the impacts were positive and statistically significant and no impact was negative and statistically significant on the basis of univariate statistical tests, and at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Use of Materials and Strategies

For use of materials and strategies to support SCD goals, 87 comparisons were made, with 5 expected to be significant by chance. Six significant impacts were found on treatment teachers' use of materials and strategies. In Year 1, more treatment teachers used role-playing (impact = 34 percentage points). In Year 2, more treatment teachers used instructional aids (impact = 30 percentage points), children's literature (impact = 30 percentage points), role-playing (impact = 29 percentage points), and direct instruction of SCD (impact = 20 percentage points), and these teachers also reported using a greater average number of strategies (by 1.6 strategies on average). The PATHS impact on the domain of materials and strategies was not statistically significant in any of the 3 years.

Table 6.14. Impacts on use of SACD classroom materials and teaching strategies—PATHS

SACD material and teaching strategy	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	60	56			55	57			50	61		
Use of SACD materials (percent)												
Teacher guides (manuals, curricula)	74.8	64.7	10.1	0.409	83.9	56.9	27.0	0.116	89.5	79.0	10.5	0.239
Student materials (workbooks or sheets)	64.1	66.6	-2.5	0.776	72.0	70.6	1.4	0.891	77.4	72.1	5.3	0.679
Instructional aids (games, software, videos)	50.0	49.0	1.0	0.952	61.9*	32.4	29.5	0.022	54.2^	37.2	17.0	0.088
Giveaways (bookmarks, stickers)	32.6^	57.8	-25.2	0.064	41.9	37.7	4.2	0.613	35.4	46.8	-11.4	0.344
Children's literature	73.3	63.2	10.1	0.432	75.2*	45.5	29.7	0.012	68.1	61.9	6.2	0.471
Other types of materials	10.4	5.8	4.5	0.468	5.2	7.0	-1.9	0.755	‡	‡	11.6	0.19
Did not use any of these materials	9.3	7.5	1.8	0.765	‡	‡	-9.2	0.125	‡	‡	-5.7	0.254
Use of teaching strategies (percent)												
Role-playing	91.6*	58.1	33.5	0.024	90.4*	61.0	29.4	0.002	92.2	84.6	7.6	0.282
Cooperative learning	98.8	100.0	-1.3	†	100.0	100.0	0.0	†	100.0	100.0	0.0	†
Peer group discussions	92.1	89.5	2.6	0.590	100.0	91.4	8.6	†	93.5	100.0	-6.5	†
Direct instruction of SACD	87.9	85.0	2.8	0.757	98.5*	79.0	19.5	0.021	100.0	98.1	1.9	†
Skill training	54.8	45.3	9.5	0.324	67.9^	44.1	23.8	0.058	87.8	81.0	6.8	0.360
Incorporating SACD into academic curriculum	84.5	80.6	3.9	0.572	89.5^	77.2	12.3	0.072	95.9	92.4	3.4	0.413
Parent training	5.6	9.6	-4.1	0.388	7.7	8.4	-0.8	0.902	25.7	25.2	0.5	0.963
Parent/community involvement	20.7	38.4	-17.7	0.212	19.5	37.5	-18.0	0.138	40.3	36.6	3.7	0.725
Mentoring	29.0	40.4	-11.5	0.289	24.8	24.0	0.8	0.932	54.1	54.4	-0.3	0.961
Good behavior notes sent home daily or weekly	82.0	73.9	8.1	0.344	81.3	74.5	6.9	0.642	93.1	98.1	-5.1	0.268
Presenting role models	86.6	81.2	5.4	0.363	75.7	71.6	4.0	0.663	94.1	87.8	6.3	0.184

See notes at end of table.

Table 6.14. Impacts on use of SCD classroom materials and teaching strategies—PATHS—Continued

SACD material and teaching strategy	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Use of teaching strategies (percent)— Continued												
Targeted story reading or writing on social and character development themes	88.9	84.0	4.9	0.599	90.8	84.6	6.3	0.173	98.2	93.2	5.0	0.212
Peer mediation	50.4	49.1	1.3	0.935	59.1	46.0	13.1	0.523	67.3	63.7	3.6	0.749
Honor roll for positive behavior	40.7	40.1	0.5	0.974	45.3	28.3	17.0	0.253	69.3	55.4	13.9	0.341
Pledges or recitations on social and character development themes	21.8	56.7	-34.9	0.173	47.6	55.7	-8.1	0.722	54.5	75.6	-21.0	0.265
Guided visualization	58.6	52.4	6.2	0.500	67.3	46.8	20.4	0.116	62.6	56.0	6.6	0.447
Student-led/student-assisted instruction	54.9	54.4	0.5	0.952	70.3	57.0	13.4	0.185	78.5	70.0	8.5	0.377
Journaling	75.9	77.9	-1.9	0.853	85.7	79.2	6.5	0.261	84.0	85.5	-1.5	0.778
Time out for negative behavior	86.9	73.5	13.4	0.239	82.9	75.4	7.6	0.479	89.5	80.2	9.4	0.410
Daily or weekly rewards for positive behavior	92.2	91.3	0.9	0.889	86.9	95.7	-8.8	0.273	96.6	96.7	-0.1	0.990
Any strategy	100.0	100.0	0.0	†	100.0	100.0	0.0	†	100.0	100.0	0.0	†
Number of strategies (mean)	12.9	12.7	0.2	0.715	13.9*	12.3	1.6	0.039	15.6	15.2	0.4	0.477

† Not applicable.

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

^ Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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Regarding the use of schoolwide strategies, 18 comparisons were made between treatment and control teacher reports, with 1 expected to be significant by chance. There was 1 statistically significant difference between reports from treatment and control teachers on their use of schoolwide strategies in Year 1 (these data are not shown in a table), with fewer treatment teachers reporting use of special events than control teachers (impact = -17 percentage points). The overall impact of the PATHS program on the domain for use of schoolwide strategies in named SCD activities was not significant in any year.

Participation in Professional Development

Regarding reported participation in professional development, 27 comparisons were made over 3 years, with 2 expected to be significant by chance. In Year 1, the intervention had a statistically significant effect on treatment teachers' participation in professional development, with more treatment teachers than control teachers reporting SCD training in the past 12 months (impact = 32 percentage points) and reporting more hours of training (by 10.6 hours on average). In terms of specific SCD goals, more treatment teachers reported training in violence prevention and peace promotion (impact = 24 percentage points), social and emotional development (impact = 47 percentage points), and character education (impact = 46 percentage points). In Year 2, PATHS had an impact on social and emotional development training (impact = 17 percentage points). There was a significant impact on the domain in Year 1.

Table 6.15. Impacts on teacher-reported SCD professional development—PATHS

	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
SACD professional development ¹												
Teacher sample size	60	56			55	57			50	61		
SACD training in past 12 months (percent)	91.9*	60.1	31.8	0.020	76.4	66.9	9.5	0.294	63.8	70.0	-6.2	0.461
Hours of SACD training (mean)	14.0*	3.4	10.6	0.000	5.2	4.4	0.7	0.465	7.1	5.5	1.6	0.516
Training by goal (percent)												
Violence prevention and peace promotion	44.8*	20.6	24.2	0.034	18.7	14.6	4.0	0.737	20.3	11.5	8.8	0.432
Social and emotional development	74.2*	27.5	46.7	0.005	37.6*	20.8	16.9	0.025	29.8	28.2	1.6	0.926
Character education	67.1*	21.2	45.9	0.002	45.7^	25.7	20.0	0.056	33.9	16.1	17.8	0.112
Tolerance and diversity	16.3	17.0	-0.7	0.945	31.4	41.6	-10.2	0.257	41.3	40.1	1.2	0.937
Risk prevention and health promotion	15.5	23.0	-7.5	0.524	15.5	9.4	6.1	0.536	8.5	18.1	-9.6	0.231
Civic responsibility and community service	6.5	5.4	1.1	0.829	6.1	7.1	-1.0	0.811	‡	‡	-1.6	0.727
Behavior management	40.5	32.7	7.8	0.697	30.6	27.7	2.9	0.842	22.5	30.7	-8.2	0.554

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

^ Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

¹ In Year 1, at least half of the impacts were positive and statistically significant and no impact was negative and statistically significant on the basis of univariate statistical tests, and at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Attitudes and Practices

Teachers reported on their enthusiasm for SCD efforts in their schools (these data are not shown in a table) by indicating enthusiasm, cooperation, or open dislike. They also reported on the SCD practices of teachers and staff members in their schools (these data are not shown in a table). These practices included modeling positive character and behavior traits with students and fellow teachers, involving students in making decisions, giving students a voice in school governance, the school encouraging parent involvement in children's social and character development, and using developmentally appropriate discipline strategies rather than punishment for misbehavior. Twenty-seven comparisons were made over 3 years, with 1 expected to be significant by chance. There were no statistically significant impacts on teachers' enthusiasm for SCD efforts in their schools in any of the years, nor were there significant differences in the treatment and control teachers' reports of the overall use of practices conducive to students' social and character development. PATHS had no impact on the domain in any year.

Year-by-Year Impacts on Students and Perceptions of School Climate

The primary research question for the PATHS evaluation was this:

What is the average effect of the PATHS program on children's social and emotional competence, behavior, academic achievement, and perceptions of school climate?

The first approach to answering this question was to examine the year-by-year impacts of PATHS on these student and school climate outcomes over the 3 years as the students progressed from third through fifth grades.

Equation (2) (described in chapter 1) was estimated to provide the impacts of the PATHS program on the 20 outcome measures using data from the 10 treatment and control schools. For the PATHS evaluation, equation (2) excluded the program fixed effects (θ_p) and included program-specific covariates and random school effects covariates. Table 6.16 lists the covariates used with outcomes from each report in the PATHS analysis.

Table 6.16. Covariates used with outcomes from each report for analysis—PATHS

Potential covariate	CR outcome	PCR outcome	TRS outcome	TRCS outcome
Total number	18	27	27	5
Child-reported				
Female	✓	✓	✓	
Hispanic	✓	✓	✓	
Black (non-Hispanic)	✓	✓	✓	
Other ethnicity	✓	✓	✓	
Age in years	✓	✓	✓	
Scales				
Afraid at School			✓	
Altruistic Behavior				
Empathy				
Engagement with Learning				
Negative School Orientation		✓	✓	
Normative Beliefs About Aggression				
Sense of School as a Community				
Problem Behavior		✓		
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions	✓	✓	✓	
Victimization at School			✓	
Primary caregiver-reported				
Age in years				
Completed high school or equivalent				
Some college				
Bachelor's or higher degree				
Highest level of education in household				
Completed high school or equivalent	✓	✓	✓	
Some college	✓	✓	✓	
Bachelor's or higher degree	✓	✓	✓	
Mother present in home life		✓	✓	
Mother and father present		✓		
Respondent someone other than mother or father		✓		
Number of people in household				
Household Income: \$20,000 to \$40,000	✓	✓	✓	
Household Income: \$40,000 to \$60,000	✓	✓	✓	
Household Income: More than \$60,000	✓	✓	✓	
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio: Below 135 percent		✓		
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio: 135-185 percent		✓		
Full-time employment	✓	✓	✓	
Part-time employment	✓	✓	✓	

See notes at end of table.

Table 6.16. Covariates used with outcomes from each report for analysis—PATHS—Continued

Potential covariate	CR outcome	PCR outcome	TRS outcome	TRCS outcome
Parental scales				
APQ-Poor Monitoring and Supervision Subscale	✓	✓	✓	
APQ-Positive Parenting Subscale				
Child-Centered Social Control			✓	
Confusion, Hubbub, and Order				
Community Resources			✓	
Community Risk	✓		✓	
Parent and Teacher Involvement		✓	✓	
Child scales				
Altruistic Behavior				
Positive Social Behavior			✓	
Problem Behavior		✓		
Teacher-reported				
Female				✓
Hispanic				✓
Black (non-Hispanic)				✓
Other ethnicity				✓
Total teaching experience				✓
Total experience in current school				
Regular certificate				
Other certificate				
Highest degree—bachelor's				
Child scales				
Academic Competence and Motivation				
ADHD-Related Behavior	✓		✓	
Altruistic Behavior		✓		
Positive Social Behavior				
Problem Behavior		✓	✓	
Parent and Teacher Involvement	✓	✓	✓	

NOTES: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

APQ: Alabama Parenting Questionnaire

✓: Covariate used

Blank cell: Covariate not used

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Chapter 6. Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS)

To assess the statistical power of the program-level impact estimates, minimum detectable impacts in effect size units (MDES) for each outcome measure were calculated for the PATHS evaluation (table 6.17). MDES represent the smallest impacts in effect size (standard deviation) units that can be detected with a high probability (80%). MDES are primarily a function of study sample sizes, the degrees of freedom available for statistical tests, and design effects due to clustering (Schochet 2005). For the PATHS evaluation, the MDES ranged from 0.137 to 0.709 for the child-level outcomes based on the Child, Primary Caregiver, and Teacher Report on Student and from 0.652 to 1.040 for the school climate outcomes based on the Teacher Report on Classroom and School. In general, the MDES for the school climate outcomes were larger than those for the child-level outcomes.

Table 6.17. Adjusted minimum detectable effect sizes for impact evaluation—PATHS

Outcome measure—Report	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Social and Emotional Competence Domain			
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interaction—CR	0.160	0.210	0.179
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR	0.137	0.201	0.209
Empathy—CR	0.252	0.171	0.239
Behavior Domain			
Altruistic Behavior—CR	0.230	0.159	0.228
Altruistic Behavior—PCR	0.239	0.154	0.210
Altruistic Behavior—TRS	0.423	0.282	0.573
Positive Social Behavior—PCR	0.147	0.218	0.156
Positive Social Behavior—TRS	0.188	0.467	0.395
Problem Behavior—CR	0.137	0.138	0.213
Problem Behavior—PCR	0.194	0.173	0.156
Problem Behavior—TRS	0.181	0.419	0.230
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS	0.172	0.440	0.230
Academics Domain			
Engagement with Learning—CR	0.140	0.178	0.138
Academic Competence and Motivation—TRS	0.217	0.169	0.312
Perceptions of School Climate Domain			
Positive School Orientation—CR	0.196	0.611	0.709
Negative School Orientation—CR	0.256	0.332	0.246
Student Afraid at School—CR	0.174	0.142	0.249
Victimization at School—CR	0.164	0.151	0.252
Feelings of Safety—TRCS	0.652	1.040	1.034
Student Support for Teachers—TRCS	0.792	0.937	0.913

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The minimum detectable effect (MDE) formula used in the calculations is as follows:

$$MDE = factor(df) * \sqrt{\rho_1 \left(\frac{1}{s_T} + \frac{1}{s_C} \right) + (1 - \rho_1) \left(\frac{1}{s_T n_T} + \frac{1}{s_C n_C} \right)}$$

where s_T and s_C are the number of treatment and comparison schools; n_T and n_C are the average number of students per classroom; ρ_1 is the intraclass correlation (ICC) at the school level; and $factor(df)$ is a constant that depends on the number of degrees of freedom (df) available for analysis (and is 2.802 for the pooled analysis).

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Chapter 6. Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS)

Table 6.18 provides the estimates of the PATHS program's impacts on each of the 20 outcome measures over each of the 3 years (60 impacts in total, with 3 expected to be statistically significant by chance). Of the 60 results, none were statistically significant. In Year 3, substantively important but nonsignificant detrimental impacts were found for Altruistic Behavior (Teacher Report on Student, effect size [ES] = -0.31) and Feelings of Safety (Teacher Report on Classroom and School, ES = -0.29). Application of the heuristics to adjust for multiple comparisons within each outcome domain indicates a statistically significant detrimental effect on the Social and Emotional Competence domain in Year 2 and a statistically significant detrimental effect on the Academics domain in Year 3.

Table 6.18. Impacts on child and school outcomes—PATHS

Scale–Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value
Social and Emotional Competence Domain ¹												
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions–CR (+)	3.06	3.06	0.01	0.953	3.18	3.28	-0.16	0.261	3.21	3.30	-0.16	0.238
Normative Beliefs About Aggression–CR (-)	1.21	1.23	-0.05	0.606	1.26	1.37	-0.17	0.214	1.41	1.42	-0.01	0.951
Empathy–CR (+)	2.38	2.34	0.10	0.493	2.21	2.14	0.13	0.245	2.09	2.11	-0.03	0.851
Behavior Domain												
Altruistic Behavior–CR (+)	1.25	1.13	0.15	0.320	1.00	0.96	0.06	0.635	0.98	0.98	0.00	0.991
Altruistic Behavior–PCR (+)	2.15	2.13	0.03	0.827	2.06	2.19	-0.16	0.140	2.12	2.16	-0.06	0.665
Altruistic Behavior–TRS (+)	1.26	1.25	0.02	0.932	1.22	1.18	0.17	0.395	1.27	1.37	-0.31°	0.485
Positive Social Behavior–PCR (+)	2.96	3.03	-0.13	0.159	3.05	3.06	-0.01	0.953	3.04	3.09	-0.08	0.413
Positive Social Behavior–TRS (+)	3.01	2.98	0.05	0.590	3.14	3.04	0.15	0.503	3.18	3.14	0.06	0.778
Problem Behavior–CR (-)	0.22	0.27	-0.10	0.220	0.27	0.30	-0.06	0.547	0.43	0.37	0.12	0.385
Problem Behavior–PCR (-)	1.57	1.54	0.10	0.383	1.53	1.53	0.00	0.987	1.53	1.55	-0.04	0.714
Problem Behavior–TRS (-)	1.44	1.42	0.03	0.677	1.42	1.42	0.01	0.957	1.36	1.43	-0.14	0.229
ADHD-Related Behavior–TRS (-)	1.75	1.79	-0.07	0.417	1.62	1.70	-0.13	0.574	1.55	1.69	-0.22	0.126
Academics Domain ²												
Engagement with Learning–CR (+)	3.73	3.70	0.05	0.657	3.70	3.69	0.01	0.954	3.61	3.66	-0.11	0.296
Academic Competence and Motivation– TRS (+)	3.13	3.11	0.02	0.831	2.95	3.05	-0.09	0.272	3.11	3.03	0.08	0.621

See notes at end of table.

Table 6.18. Impacts on child and school outcomes—PATHS—Continued

Scale–Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value
Perceptions of School Climate Domain												
Positive School Orientation–CR (+)	2.96	2.98	-0.03	0.826	2.79	2.67	0.15	0.640	2.66	2.66	0.00	0.997
Negative School Orientation–CR (-)	1.76	1.81	-0.08	0.587	1.87	1.90	-0.05	0.765	1.93	2.04	-0.19	0.214
Student Afraid at School–CR (-)	2.17	2.18	-0.01	0.945	2.08	2.09	-0.01	0.909	2.09	2.28	-0.22	0.180
Victimization at School–CR (-)	0.68	0.65	0.04	0.681	0.65	0.56	0.12	0.306	0.71	0.57	0.20	0.284
Feelings of Safety–TRCS (+)	3.28	3.30	-0.02	0.932	3.36	3.18	0.20	0.615	3.19	3.40	-0.29°	0.582
Student Support for Teachers–TRCS (+)	3.54	3.53	0.01	0.980	3.52	3.46	0.07	0.838	3.57	3.70	-0.20	0.631

° Substantive (but nonsignificant at .05 level) effect size of $\geq .25$ or $\leq -.25$.

¹ Impact on domain found statistically significant and detrimental in Year 2 based on the fourth heuristic in which the statistical model used to estimate impacts on the individual outcomes was re-estimated using a composite of all the outcome variables under a domain. The domain was found significant if the impact on the composite was significant. The composite was formed by standardizing each outcome variable using its standard deviation, combining the values of the outcome variables, and taking the average of the final value.

² Impact on domain found statistically significant and detrimental in Year 3 based on the fourth heuristic in which the statistical model used to estimate impacts on the individual outcomes was re-estimated using a composite of all the outcome variables under a domain. The domain was found significant if the impact on the composite was significant. The composite was formed by standardizing each outcome variable using its standard deviation, combining the values of the outcome variables, and taking the average of the final value.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

No findings were found statistically significant at or below the .05 level. The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using regression models where each program and school within a program was weighted equally. The standard errors of all estimates account for design effects due to unequal weighting and the clustering of students within schools. See table 1.5 for information about the measured used to create the outcome variables. The effect size was calculated by dividing the estimated impact by the standard deviation of the outcome measure for the control group.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Impacts on Child Outcomes Over Time

The PATHS program's impacts on the child outcomes over time were estimated using growth curve models by examining treatment and control group differences in the trajectories of student outcomes during the follow-up period while accounting for clustering at the school level. The growth curve models are estimated using a three-level hierarchical linear model, where Level 1 corresponds to time, Level 2 to students, and Level 3 to schools.

Table 6.19 provides the estimates of the PATHS program's impacts on the growth in student outcome measures over the 3 years. The estimated impacts ranged in effect size units (absolute value) from 0.01 to 0.12. One of the 18 estimated PATHS intervention impacts on the trajectories of child outcomes was statistically significant (no more than expected by chance); this was Academic Competence and Motivation (Teacher Report on Student, $ES = 0.08$).

Table 6.19. Impacts on growth of child outcomes—PATHS

Scale—Report	Mean score at implementation ²	Average growth in the score per year ¹				Standard error of impact	<i>p</i> -value of impact
		Treatment	Control	Impact on growth ³	Effect size ⁴		
Social and Emotional Competence Domain							
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions—CR (+)	2.94	0.13	0.14	-0.01	-0.02	0.03	0.693
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR (-)	1.17	0.11	0.08	0.03	0.07	0.04	0.512
Empathy—CR (+)	2.44	-0.18	-0.13	-0.05	-0.12	0.04	0.179
Behavior Domain							
Altruistic Behavior—CR (+)	1.35	-0.22	-0.13	-0.09	-0.07	0.06	0.187
Altruistic Behavior—PCR (+)	2.24	-0.05	-0.05	-0.01	-0.01	0.03	0.846
Altruistic Behavior—TRS (+)	1.19	0.03	0.05	-0.02	-0.05	0.07	0.803
Positive Social Behavior—PCR (+)	2.96	0.05	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.698
Positive Social Behavior—TRS (+)	2.99	0.07	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.07	0.642
Problem Behavior—CR (-)	0.17	0.09	0.08	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.812
Problem Behavior—PCR (-)	1.60	-0.03	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.672
Problem Behavior—TRS (-)	1.38	0.00	0.01	0.00	-0.01	0.02	0.852
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS (-)	1.81	-0.09	-0.06	-0.03	-0.03	0.04	0.535
Academics Domain							
Engagement with Learning—CR (+)	3.76	-0.06	-0.04	-0.02	-0.04	0.03	0.422
Academic Competence and Motivation—TRS (+)	2.93	0.09*	-0.02	0.11	0.08	0.05	0.048
See notes at end of table.							

See notes at end of table.

Table 6.19. Impacts on growth of child outcomes—PATHS—Continued

Scale—Report	Mean score at implementation ²	Average growth in the score per year ¹				Standard error of impact	p-value of impact
		Treatment	Control	Impact on growth ³	Effect size ⁴		
Perceptions of School Climate Domain							
Positive School Orientation—CR (+)	3.24	-0.25	-0.22	-0.04	-0.05	0.06	0.552
Negative School Orientation—CR (-)	1.70	0.13	0.08	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.258
Student Afraid at School—CR (-)	2.31	-0.07	-0.08	0.01	0.01	0.05	0.790
Victimization at School—CR (-)	0.69	-0.04	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01	0.04	0.719

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

¹ Pertains to the estimated slope of the outcome for the treatment or control groups.

² The average score at implementation is calculated across treatment and control groups, using regression models for adjustment on covariates.

³ Estimated difference between the slope of the treatment and control groups.

⁴ Effect size: the slope of the treatment group minus the slope of the control group divided by the standard deviation of the outcome for the program's control group (the standard deviation is calculated without accounting for school-level clustering or regression adjustments).

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using HLM 6.06. Sample weights were used in all analyses to give (1) each school equal weight in each program (within each time period) and (2) each time period equal weight within the analysis. See table 1.5 for information about the measures used to create the outcome variables.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Summary

As part of the Social and Character Development (SACD) initiative, researchers at the New York/Minnesota site implemented and evaluated the PATHS program. This program focused on promoting children's self-control, emotional understanding, positive self-esteem, relationships, and interpersonal problem-solving skills. Ten public schools, eight in New York and two in Minnesota, were recruited by the Children's Institute research team and randomly assigned to treatment and control conditions to determine the impact of the PATHS program on social and character development activities in the schools and on the child outcome domains of Social and Emotional Competence, Behavior, Academics, and Perceptions of School Climate.

Analyses of the initial characteristics of the sample (students, caregivers, communities, teachers, and schools) indicated that randomization to treatment and control status produced groups that were relatively similar at the start of the study (with 2 out of 84 comparisons statistically significantly different, fewer than would be expected by chance). The data on the initial level of SACD activity led to two findings. First, treatment teachers reported greater use of and training in SACD activities than control teachers, and they did so more often than would be expected by chance (8 out of 62 comparisons, with 3 expected significant by chance). There are two potential causes for this finding, and the analysis cannot be used to determine whether the reason for such a difference was that the two groups did differ on their initial use of SACD activities (i.e., that randomization did not create similar treatment and control groups) or the fact that the training of all treatment teachers and the implementation of the PATHS program began before the initial data were collected (by 6 weeks) influenced the teacher reports. Because it is likely (though unproven) that the training and implementation affected the teacher reports, these data were not considered appropriate for use as a baseline measure of SACD activities and training in the treatment schools.

Second, these data indicate that the control condition for the SACD project was not a "no treatment" control but a "standard practice" control. Because the control teachers were not affected by the implementation of the SACD programs before data collection, their reports reflected standard practice in the control schools. Standard practice at the control schools included reports of 60 percent to 85 percent of teachers using any SACD activities, 88 percent of teachers using specific materials in conjunction with these activities, 100 percent of teachers using at least one of the specified instructional strategies, and 68 percent of teachers participating in SACD training over the past 12 months.

Analyses of the impacts of the PATHS program on the level of SACD activities in the schools revealed impacts on the use of such activities (39 out of 90) and related materials and strategies (7 out of 87, 1 negative) across the 3 years, and use of more professional development activities for treatment teachers in the first 2 years (6 out of 27). These same measures in the control schools across the 3 years of the study confirmed that use of these activities in the control schools constituted their standard practice.

Of the 20 child-level outcomes representing the four domains of Social and Emotional Competence, Behavior, Academics, and Perceptions of School Climate assessed in each of the 3 years of the study (a total of 60 results), none were statistically significant. A growth curve analysis was used to analyze the change over time in these same outcomes between initial data collection and the final outcome data collection at the end of the study. One of the 18 child-level outcomes assessed showed a significant beneficial impact of the PATHS program.

The SACD evaluation did not find evidence to support the hypothesis that PATHS had beneficial impacts on students' social and character development. Such results could be caused by the inability of the program to cause such change, possibly because the theory of action for the program is incomplete or the activities to carry out that theory are not effective.

However, these results may also be due to the inability of the evaluation to observe such a change due to the control condition, the level of nonparticipation, or the sample size. The control schools continued using their standard SACD activities, and these turned out to be high in quantity and broad in scope. While PATHS had

Chapter 6. Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS)

a significant positive impact on the amount and types of SACD activities, the resulting difference in the amount of SACD activities between the treatment and control schools may not have been large enough to cause significant differences in the student outcomes. Second, nearly one-half of the students in the sample universe did not take part because of nonconsent or noncompletion of the surveys. As a determination could not be made as to whether the students not taking part significantly differed from those who did take part, the evaluation's results are valid only for the students who took part. If the students not taking part were different, and if they would have responded better to PATHS than to the SACD activities occurring in the control schools, then the evaluation could have underestimated the program's impact. In addition, when looking at the percentages of the sample with data across the 3 study years and the four data sources (table 6.4) there were 6 comparisons out of 16 in which the percentages of data were greater for the treatment reports than for the control reports (all statistically significant differences at the .05 level). How these may have affected the results is not clear, as the differences between those with data and those without cannot be determined. Third, the sample size of 10 schools and the resulting higher MDES compared to those for the multiprogram evaluation may have reduced the likelihood of detecting statistically significant effects. However, it should be noted that 67 percent of the MDES for the 60 outcomes used in the year-by-year analysis were below 0.25 (42% were below 0.20). In addition, only 2 of the 60 outcomes were found to be substantively important, and both had detrimental impacts.

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Chapter 7. The 4Rs Program (Reading, Writing, Respect, and Resolution)

New York University (New York City Site)

Intervention

Researchers at New York University and Fordham University (New York City site) evaluated *The 4Rs Program (Reading, Writing, Respect, and Resolution)* (4Rs) program as implemented by staff developers from the Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility, the community-based nonprofit organization that developed the program. The 4Rs program integrates the teaching and promotion of social and emotional skills and conflict resolution lessons into the language arts curriculum and aims to create a caring classroom community. Table 7.1 describes the 4Rs program's general characteristics (panel 1), the types of instruction and strategies used (panel 2), the professional development provided for those implementing the program (panel 3), and the social and character development activities (panel 4) and outcomes (panel 5) addressed by the program. The program includes two primary components:

- The 4Rs consists of a comprehensive, seven-unit, 21- to 35-lesson, literacy-based curriculum on conflict resolution and social-emotional learning. Lesson units focus on building community, understanding and dealing with feelings, respecting others and becoming a better listener, standing up for oneself and learning to be assertive, understanding and dealing with conflict, celebrating diversity and countering prejudice, and sustaining a caring community and making a difference. Each unit is based on a high-quality children's book, around which discussions, writing, and role-playing activities are conducted. Teachers engage students in lessons for 1 hour at least once per week over the school year. Teachers are encouraged to model and reinforce social skills throughout the day.
- Teachers receive 25 hours of intensive introductory professional development designed to (a) introduce them to the curricular units and the children's books, specific lessons, and activities tied to each unit; (b) give them an opportunity to practice conflict resolution skills at the adult level through role-play and experiential learning; and (c) inspire them to employ the ideas and skills embodied in the curriculum in their own lives both professionally and personally. This training is followed by ongoing classroom coaching to support teachers in teaching the 4Rs curriculum, with a minimum of 12 contacts in each school year. Ongoing coaching encompasses class lesson modeling and workshops led by a program staff developer, coplanning and teaching of lessons by the teacher and staff developer, and lesson observations and feedback. Staff developers also convene regular conferences with teachers in a one-on-one format or with a group of teachers from one grade.

Table 7.1. The 4Rs Program (Reading, Writing, Respect, and Resolution)

Panel 1: General characteristics

Target population

Universal

Program components

Peer: In class

Parent: Contact and involvement

Classroom: Lessons

Schoolwide: None or not major focus

Community: None or not major focus

Training: Pretraining and ongoing

Level of integration

Core curriculum

Flexibility

Manualized: Curriculum guidebook

Adaptability: Less adaptable

See notes at end of table.

Panel 2: Description of instruction and strategies

Classroom

Lessons

Who delivers: Teacher

Activities and tools: Story reading, role-playing, discussions, writing, reflections, sharing exercises, brainstorming, songs, worksheets

Content: Literacy focus; building community, feelings, listening, assertiveness, problem solving, diversity, making a difference

Frequency: 1-hour lessons at least once per week; minimum of 21 lessons

Strategies

Who delivers: Teacher

Activities and tools: Modeling and reinforcement of social skills

Frequency: Daily

Supplement to classroom

Family Connections homework and parent workshops

Schoolwide activities

None

See notes at end of table.

Table 7.1. The 4Rs Program (Reading, Writing, Respect, and Resolution)—Continued**Panel 3: Professional development****Pre-implementation****Teachers**

Content: Course to learn curriculum, improve on own skills, create a vision of community, set consistent Rules, and behavior management

Duration: 25 hours

Other

Content: None

Duration: None

Ongoing consultation**Teachers**

Content: Training and support in mediation; negotiation; role-playing; class meetings; behavior management

Duration: Individualized coaching a minimum of 12 times per year; 3-day summer institute

Other

Content: None

Duration: None

See notes at end of table.

Panel 4: Activities for SACD goals

Violence prevention and peace promotion	✓	Risk prevention and health promotion	✓
Social and emotional development	✓	Civic responsibility and community service	✓
Character education	✓	Behavior management	✓
Tolerance and diversity	✓		

See notes at end of table.

Panel 5: SACD outcomes addressed

Engagement with Learning	✓	Empathy	✓
Academic Competence and Motivation	✓	Positive School Orientation	
Altruistic Behavior		Negative School Orientation	
Positive Social Behavior	✓	Student Afraid at School	
Problem Behavior	✓	Victimization at School	✓
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions	✓	Feelings of Safety	✓
Normative Beliefs About Aggression	✓	Student Support for Teachers	

NOTE: Abbreviations are

✓: Activity or outcome addressed

Blank cell: Activity or outcome not addressed

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Sample and Random Assignment

The New York City research team recruited a total of 14 public elementary schools in eight school districts in four boroughs in New York City.⁵¹ These 14 schools were randomly assigned to treatment and control conditions prior to the fall 2004 data collection. A two-step process was used. First, a computer-generated pairwise matching algorithm developed by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (MPR) was used to identify the best pairwise matches across the 14 schools based on variables identified by the New York University research team. The variables used in the pairwise matching for the New York City site included the following: (a) average spending per student, (b) percentage of part-time special education students, (c) percentage of students at level on the English language arts standardized achievement test, (d) attendance, (e) percentage of students eligible for free school lunch, (f) percentage of students who were recent immigrants, (g) number of students, (h) percentage of Hispanic students, (i) percentage of Asian/Other students, (j) percentage of male students, (k) student stability, (l) average days teacher absent, (m) percentage of fully licensed teachers, (n) percentage of teachers with more than 2 years of teaching experience, (o) direct total classroom instruction expenditure, (p) percentage of foreign-born students, (q) Bloomberg School list, (r) No Child Left Behind improvement status school, (s) teacher organizational readiness, and (t) school organizational readiness. In early spring 2004, as part of the initial school recruitment process, organizational readiness was measured by assessing such important school dimensions as principal leadership style, openness of communication, administrative/teacher buy-in, administrative and staff stability, number and degree of other programs, demands on teacher time, and amount of professional development. Second, using a computer-based random number generator, 1 school in each matched pair was assigned to either the intervention or control condition. Seven schools received the 4Rs program and 7 schools acted as control schools and continued to implement the social and character development activities that constituted their standard practice. Assignment to treatment or control condition was at the school level and therefore limited the risk of contamination between treatment and control classrooms.

The original student sample (the cohort of students in the third grade in the 14 schools in fall 2004) numbered 1,202 students (652 treatment and 550 control). Table 7.2 documents the change in the sample over the three spring follow-up data collection periods. Over time, the percentage of new entrants to the cohort increased, eventually making up 33 percent of the sample by the spring of Year 3. There were no statistically significant differences between the treatment and control groups in the number of new entrants. The percentage of the sample made up of the original cohort further declined as students left the schools. By Year 3, approximately 41 percent of the original sample had left.

⁵¹ The New York University research team recruited 18 schools but only 14 were included in the multiprogram evaluation.

Table 7.2. Sample—4Rs

Characteristic	Year 1 (Fall 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 3 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 4 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control
School sample size	14	7	7	14	7	7	14	7	7	14	7	7
Student sample size	1,202	652	550	1,194	647	547	1,109	599	510	1,065	556	509
Stayers	†	†	†	1,116	603	513	882	469	413	710	373	337
New entrants	†	†	†	78	44	34	227	130	97	355	183	172
New entrants as a percent of spring enrollment	†	†	†	6.5	6.8	6.2	20.5	21.7	19.0	33.3	32.9	33.8
Total leavers (from original cohort)	†	†	†	86	49	37	320	183	137	492	279	213
Leavers as percent of fall 2004 enrollment	†	†	†	7.2	7.5	6.7	26.6	28.1	24.9	40.9	42.8	38.7
Number of students per school (mean)	86	93	79	85	92	78	80	86	73	76	79	73
Range of number of students per school	58-149	58-149	64-97	58-147	58-147	66-94	46-136	52-136	46-86	43-126	49-126	43-101

† Not applicable.

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Implementation

Training

The intervention teachers received 25 hours of program implementation training prior to the beginning of the school year (table 7.1, panel 3). On average, teachers received an additional 2.5 days of training during the school year. Onsite coaching occurred throughout the year, with the average school receiving about 1 day per week of staff development visits. Coaching visits typically included a classroom experience (a demonstration lesson by the staff developer, a lesson cofacilitated by the staff developer and the teacher, or a lesson taught by the teacher and observed by the staff developer) and a conference with the teacher for debriefing.

Data Collection

MPR collected the child, teacher, and school data for the New York City site. Table 7.3 shows the school year milestones and dates of implementation for the New York City site. Data were collected in the fall and spring of the first 2 years and the spring of Year 3. The fall 2004 data collection began on October 18, 2004, and ended on November 19, 2004. The average time frame from the beginning of program implementation to the beginning of fall data collection was 4 weeks. As a result, initial data collection took place after 4Rs implementation began. Therefore, these data provide a measure of the students, teachers, and schools near the beginning of the school year, at a time when the program had been operating for a relatively short period of time. The spring data collection window was from March 21, 2005, to April 15, 2005. The 4Rs program had been implemented for 26 weeks at the time of the spring data collection and for 17 weeks from the end of the fall data collection. Year 2 followed a similar pattern, with implementation occurring at the start of the school year, fall data collection occurring 5 weeks later, and spring data collection occurring 20 weeks after fall data collection (and 29 weeks after the start of implementation). In spring 2007, data collection occurred 29 weeks after the start of implementation. Data collection took from 3 to 5 weeks at each collection point.

Table 7.3. Data collection dates—4Rs

Data collection schedule	Year 1 (Fall 3rd grade)	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)	Year 2 (Fall 4th grade)	Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)	Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)
School sample size	14	14	14	14	14
School year dates					
First day of school	9/7/04	†	9/8/05	†	9/5/06
Start of implementation	9/20/04	†	First day	†	First day
Last day of school	†	6/28/05	†	6/27/06	6/27/07
Data collection					
Start	10/18/04	3/21/05	10/11/05	3/27/06	3/26/07
End	11/19/04	4/15/05	11/16/05	5/8/06	4/26/07
Calendar weeks from program implementation to start of fall 2004 data collection	4	†	†	†	†
Calendar weeks from start of school to start of fall 2004 data collection	6	†	5	†	†
Calendar weeks from end of fall data collection to start of Spring data collection	†	17	†	20	†
Calendar weeks from program implementation to start of spring data collection	†	26	†	29	29

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Consent Rates, Completion Rates, and Percentage of Sample With Data

The actual number of student, primary caregiver, and teacher reports available for analysis was smaller than the number in the sample because consent and completion rates were below 100 percent. Primary caregivers had to provide consent before children could complete the Child Report, before their child's teacher could complete the Teacher Report on Student, and before they themselves completed the Primary Caregiver Report. Teachers also had to provide consent before completing the Teacher Report on Classroom and School. There were no statistically significant differences between treatment and control groups in consent rates for any of these reports.

Of those with consent, not all completed their respective reports. Table 7.4 shows the consent rates, completion rates, and percentages of sample with data for each of the four reports over the 3 years. For the Child Report and two teacher reports, completion rates ranged from 91 percent to 100 percent, with two statistically significant differences between treatment and control groups in completion rates. In Year 3, more Child Reports and, in Year 2, more Teacher Reports on Students were completed in the treatment group compared to the control group. For the Primary Caregiver Report, the completion rates dropped over time from 85 percent to 58 percent. There were no statistically significant differences for the Primary Caregiver Report completion rates.

The percentages of the sample with Child Report data ranged from 54 percent to 64 percent over the 3 years, with a statistically significant difference in Year 1, when more students in the treatment group had data compared to the control group. The percentages of students with information from the Teacher Report on Student ranged from 52 percent to 67 percent, with a statistically significant difference between treatment and control conditions in Year 1 favoring the treatment group. The percentages of students with data from the Primary Caregiver Report ranged from 32 percent to 42 percent. In general, this percentage declined over time, although the highest rates were seen in the spring of 2005. There were no statistically significant differences between treatment and control groups for this data. The percentages of teachers with data from the Teacher Report on Classroom and School ranged from 89 percent to 98 percent, with no statistically significant difference between treatment and control teachers.

Table 7.4. Consent rates, completion rates, and percentage of sample with data from each report—4Rs

Report	Year 1 (Fall 3rd grade)			Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Treat- ment			Treat- ment			Treat- ment			Treat- ment		
	Total		Control	Total		Control	Total		Control	Total		Control
Student sample size	1202	652	550	1194	647	547	1109	599	510	1065	556	509
Child Report (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate	56.8	58.4	54.9	61.5	64.1	58.3	66.3	67.3	65.1	64.3	64.6	64.0
Student completion rate	96.6	95.8	97.7	96.2	97.1	95.0	92.4	93.3	91.3	97.1	98.3*	95.7
Students with data ¹	54.9	56.0	53.6	59.1	62.3*	55.4	61.2	62.8	59.4	62.4	63.5	61.3
Primary Caregiver Report (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate	47.8	49.4	46.0	52.8	54.9	50.5	58.3	58.8	57.8	57.1	56.3	58.0
Primary caregiver completion rate	85.7	85.4	86.2	78.9	76.3	82.2	70.3	69.6	71.2	58.1	56.9	59.3
Primary caregivers with data ¹	41.0	42.2	39.6	41.7	41.9	41.5	41.0	40.9	41.2	33.1	32.0	34.4
Teacher Report on Student (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate ²	56.8	58.4	54.9	61.5	64.1	58.3	66.3	67.3	65.1	64.3	64.6	64.0
Teacher completion rate	94.7	95.0	94.4	97.0	97.3	96.6	98.8	100.0***	97.3	99.7	99.7	99.7
Students with data ¹	53.8	55.5	51.8	59.6	62.4*	56.3	65.5	67.3	63.3	64.1	64.4	63.9
Teacher Report on Classroom and School (3rd- to 5th-grade teachers) (percent)												
Teacher consent rate	96.3	98.0	94.5	94.8	95.0	94.6	97.2	96.8	97.6	97.0	98.9	94.9
Teacher completion rate	96.2	93.9	98.8	95.6	93.7	97.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.4	98.9	100.0
Teachers with data ¹	92.7	92.0	93.4	90.6	89.0	92.4	97.2	96.8	97.6	96.4	97.8	94.9

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

*** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .001 level.

¹ Calculated as consent rate x completion rate.² The primary caregiver consent rates for the Child Report and the Teacher Report on Student are identical, as the primary caregiver gave consent to both together.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Chapter 7. The 4Rs Program (Reading, Writing, Respect, and Resolution)

Responses from students in the original cohort (stayers) and new entrants in the 4Rs sample were examined to investigate possible differences between the two groups in consent rates, completion rates, and the percentages of sample with data that might affect outcome data (table 7.5). In Years 2 and 3, consent rates for the child and the primary caregiver were significantly higher for the stayers than for the new entrants (by 17 to 23 percentage points), which resulted in significantly larger percentages of data on both the Child Report (by 15 to 21 percentage points) and the Teacher Report on Student (by 17 to 23 percentage points). In contrast, more primary caregivers in the new entrants group compared to the stayers completed the Primary Caregiver report (by 9 to 17 percentage points) in all 3 years.

Table 7.5. Consent rates, completion rates, and percentage of sample with data: Stayers versus new entrants—4Rs

Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Total	Stayers	New entrants	Total	Stayers	New entrants	Total	Stayers	New entrants
Student sample size	1,194	1,116	78	1,109	882	227	1,065	710	355
Child Report (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate	61.5	61.8	56.4	66.3	69.7***	52.9	64.3	72.1***	48.7
Student completion rate	96.2	96.1	97.7	92.4	92.2	93.3	97.1	96.5	98.8
Students with data ¹	59.1	59.4	55.1	61.2	64.3***	49.3	62.4	69.6***	48.2
Primary Caregiver Report (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate	52.8	53.0	50.0	58.3	60.3**	50.7	57.1	61.8***	47.6
Primary caregiver completion rate	78.9	77.9*	94.9	70.3	67.9**	81.7	59.4	56.9*	65.7
Primary caregivers with data ¹	41.7	41.3	47.4	41.0	40.9	41.4	33.9	35.2	31.3
Teacher Report on Student (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate ²	61.5	61.8	56.4	66.3	69.7***	52.9	64.3	72.1***	48.7
Teacher completion rate	97.0	97.0	97.7	98.8	98.9	98.3	99.7	99.6	100.0
Students with data ¹	59.6	59.9	55.1	65.5	68.9***	52.0	64.1	71.8***	48.7

* Stayers significantly different from new entrants at the .05 level.

** Stayers significantly different from new entrants at the .01 level.

*** Stayers significantly different from new entrants at the .001 level.

¹ Calculated as consent rate x completion rate.

² The primary caregiver consent rates for the Child Report and the Teacher Report on Student are identical, as the primary caregiver gave consent to both together.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Fidelity of Implementation

Each year, the seven 4Rs treatment schools were independently rated for quantity and quality of program implementation by two raters from the research team. The global measure of fidelity for the multisite study was used; inter-rater reliability was measured using Cronbach's alpha (0.84 in Year 1, 0.78 in Year 2, and 0.72 in Year 3). The ratings were combined into a single consensus rating and used to identify schools with high implementation fidelity. In Years 1 and 2, two treatment schools and, in Year 3, three treatment schools, were identified as having high fidelity. Cohen's kappa was used as the measure of agreement when identifying schools as high fidelity and it equaled 0.70 in Year 1, 0.59 in Year 2, and 0.30 in Year 3.

Initial Characteristics

This section examines the initial characteristics of the students, teachers, and schools participating in the 4Rs evaluation. These characteristics were collected from students who were enrolled in the third grade at the study schools in fall 2004, as well as from their primary caregivers and third-grade teachers. In addition, third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers and principals in the study schools provided information about activities related to social and character development in these schools. Documenting the characteristics of students, teachers, and schools and initial measures of key outcomes at a point before the intervention had been operating for an extended period helped to determine whether the random assignment of schools to treatment and control status produced treatment and control groups with similar distributions of observed characteristics. As noted in the following discussion, there were 8 significant differences in the observed characteristics, 7 of which (out of 62 comparisons, with 3 expected to be significant by chance) reflected differences between the treatment and control students, teachers, and schools in the school and classroom use of SACD activities.

Characteristics of Children, Their Families, and Communities

There were no significant differences between the treatment and control groups in the observed student, caregiver, and community characteristics (table 7.6). For students, the mean age was 8.1 years. The sample contained roughly equal percentages of girls (52%) and boys (48%). The sample was ethnically diverse, with White non-Hispanic students making up 5 percent of the sample, Black non-Hispanic students making up 41 percent of the sample, and Hispanic students making up 46 percent of the sample.

The sample was also diverse in its levels of family income, education levels of primary caregivers of the children in the sample, and family situation. For the total sample, 58 percent of children lived in a household where the income was 135 percent of the federal poverty level or lower, which is the income threshold for eligibility for free school meals. Twenty-eight percent of primary caregivers had not completed high school. Less than half of the children (48%) lived with both their mother and their father. There were no significant differences in these characteristics between the treatment and control groups.

The mean values of the outcomes for children's behavior and attitudes as reported by the primary caregiver, child, and teacher at initial data collection in fall 2004 are shown in table 7.7. There were no significant differences between the treatment and control groups.

Table 7.6. Initial characteristics of children, their families, and communities—4Rs

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Student sample size	493	275	218
Student demographics			
Gender (percent)			
Male	48.3	49.3	47.3
Female	51.7	50.7	52.7
Race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	5.3	7.0	3.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	40.5	43.4	37.6
Hispanic	45.9	43.1	48.7
Other	8.3	6.5	10.1
Age (in years) (mean)	8.1	8.1	8.2
Primary caregiver and family characteristics			
Primary caregiver's age (in years) (mean)	35.1	36.0	34.3
Primary caregiver's race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	7.1	7.9	6.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	41.1	44.4	37.8
Hispanic	43.4	41.0	45.8
Other	8.4	6.7	10.2
Primary caregiver's education (percent)			
Did not complete high school	28.0	27.2	28.8
Completed high school or equivalent	27.5	25.9	29.1
Some college	32.2	31.2	33.3
Bachelor's or higher degree	12.3	15.8	8.8
Primary caregiver's employment (percent)			
Full-time	38.9	37.5	40.3
Other	61.1	62.5	59.7
Primary caregiver's marital status (percent)			
Married	40.3	41.6	39.0
Other	59.7	58.4	61.0
Students who live in one household (percent)	91.7	92.1	91.4
Number of individuals in household (mean)	4.7	4.6	4.9
Primary caregiver's relationship to child (percent)			
Mother (stepmother)	86.5	85.9	87.2
Father (stepfather)	8.6	7.3	9.8
Other relative/nonrelative	4.9	6.8	3.0

See notes at end of table.

Table 7.6. Initial characteristics of children, their families, and communities—4Rs—Continued

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Student lives with (percent)			
Mother (stepmother) and father (stepfather)	47.9	46.7	49.0
Mother (stepmother) only; father (stepfather) not present	46.1	47.1	45.0
Father (stepfather) only; mother (stepmother) not present	2.9	1.9	3.9
Other relative/nonrelative, parents not present	3.2	4.3	2.0
Highest education of anyone in household (percent)			
Did not complete high school	21.0	18.4	23.6
Completed high school or equivalent	28.9	26.9	31.0
Some college	32.6	32.3	32.9
Bachelor's or higher degree	17.4	22.4	12.5
Total household income (percent)			
Less than \$20,000	51.7	51.0	52.5
\$20,000 to \$39,999	25.9	24.2	27.7
\$40,000 to \$59,999	9.9	8.5	11.3
\$60,000 or more	12.5	16.4	8.6
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio—Below 135 percent (percent)	57.8	55.2	60.5
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio—135 to 185 percent (percent)	19.3	20.1	18.5
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio—Above 185 percent (percent)	22.9	24.8	21.1
Alabama Parenting Questionnaire—Poor Monitoring and Supervision Subscale (mean)	1.2	1.2	1.2
Alabama Parenting Questionnaire—Positive Parenting Subscale (mean)	3.5	3.5	3.5
Confusion, Hubbub, and Order Scale (mean)	2.2	2.1	2.2
Community characteristics (mean)			
Community Risks Scale	2.0	1.9	2.0
Community Resources Scale	2.8	2.8	2.8
Child-Centered Social Control Scale	2.7	2.7	2.8

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 7.7. Mean scores and standard deviations for initial outcome measures of sample—4Rs

Outcome measure—Report	Range	Total		Treatment		Control	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Social and Emotional Competence Domain							
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interaction—CR	1-4	2.9	0.7	2.9	0.6	2.9	0.7
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR	1-4	1.3	0.5	1.3	0.5	1.3	0.6
Empathy—CR	1-3	2.4	0.4	2.4	0.4	2.4	0.4
Behavior Domain							
Altruistic Behavior—CR	0-3	1.6	0.8	1.6	0.8	1.6	0.8
Altruistic Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.6
Altruistic Behavior—PCR	1-4	2.3	0.8	2.4	0.8	2.3	0.8
Positive Social Behavior—TRS	1-4	2.8	0.7	2.8	0.7	2.8	0.7
Positive Social Behavior—PCR	1-4	2.9	0.5	3.0	0.5	2.9	0.5
Problem Behavior—CR	0-3	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.6
Problem Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.5	0.5	1.5	0.6	1.4	0.4
Problem Behavior—PCR	1-4	1.5	0.3	1.5	0.3	1.5	0.3
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.8	0.7	1.8	0.7	1.8	0.6
Academics Domain							
Academic Competence and Motivation—TRS	1-5	2.6	0.8	2.6	0.9	2.6	0.8
Engagement with Learning—CR	1-4	3.6	0.7	3.6	0.7	3.7	0.6
Perceptions of School Climate Domain							
Positive School Orientation—CR	1-4	3.0	0.7	3.0	0.8	3.1	0.7
Negative School Orientation—CR	1-4	2.1	0.6	2.1	0.6	2.1	0.7
Student Afraid at School—CR	1-4	2.6	0.9	2.6	1.0	2.6	0.9
Victimization at School—CR	0-3	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8
Student sample size—PCR		497		228		269	
Student sample size—CR		521		238		283	
Student sample size—TRS		525		248		277	

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

SD: Standard deviation

No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Characteristics of Teachers and Schools

Table 7.8 describes the third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers at the study schools. Half the members of this sample were White non-Hispanic (50%), and most were female (86%). They had an average of 8.5 years of total teaching experience, and there was a statistically significant difference between the treatment and control groups, with control teachers having more teaching experience than treatment teachers (10 years versus 7 years). The majority of the teachers (78%) held an advanced or specialist degree.

Data related to school characteristics were drawn from the Common Core of Data in order to compare treatment and control schools. There were no significant differences between the two groups of schools in terms of student composition (race/ethnicity and school lunch eligibility), number of students enrolled, number of full-time teachers, Title I status, or number of years the principal had been at the school (see table 7.9). In addition, there were no significant differences between treatment and control schools in terms of location (urban, suburban, or rural) or lowest and highest grade offered (these data are not shown in a table).

Table 7.8. Initial characteristics of teachers in sample—4Rs

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Teacher sample size	177	92	85
Gender (percent)			
Male	14.4	14.8	13.9
Female	85.6	85.2	86.1
Race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	50.0	47.9	52.2
Other	50.0	52.1	47.8
Number of years teaching experience (mean)	8.5	7.0*	10.0
Number of years teaching experience in this school (mean)	5.6	5.0	6.2
Type of teaching certificate (percent)			
Regular state certificate or advanced professional certificate	68.0	62.4	73.5
Other	32.0	37.6	26.5
Education (percent)			
Bachelor's degree	22.0	18.7	25.2
Advanced degree/other	78.0	81.3	74.8

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 7.9. Initial characteristics of schools in sample—4Rs

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
School sample size	14	7	7
Student race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	6.7	8.8	4.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	47.1	47.7	46.5
Hispanic	40.1	37.2	42.9
Other	6.1	6.3	6.0
Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (percent)	85.1	85.9	84.5
Number of students enrolled (mean)	604.2	608.6	599.9
Number of full-time teachers (mean)	44.2	43.4	44.8
Title I status (percent)			
Title I eligible school	92.9	85.7	100.0
Schoolwide Title I	76.9	83.3	71.4
Number of years principal has been at this school (mean)	6.4	7.4	5.0

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: NCES Common Core of Data (2003-04), the Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

In the Teacher Report on Classroom and School, teachers reported on nine dimensions of school environment (these data are not shown in a table): feelings of safety, adequacy of resources, student support, freedom to teach as desired, affiliation with and ties to colleagues, innovation regarding new approaches to teaching, professional interest, participatory decisionmaking, and work pressure. There were no statistically significant differences between treatment and control schools.

The Level of SACD in the Schools Near the Beginning of the Study

During the initial data collection, principals and teachers reported on the SACD activities used in the schools and classrooms, the availability of SACD materials, and the professional development provided on SACD. Table 7.10 shows that the majority of the school principals reported activities to promote six social and character development goals: violence prevention and peace promotion (93%), social and emotional development (100%), character education (100%), tolerance and diversity (100%), risk prevention and health promotion (93%), and civic responsibility and community service (100%). In addition, 64 percent of the principals reported activities directed toward behavior management. There were no statistically significant differences between the treatment and control schools in the percentages reported by principals, although this may be due to the small principal sample size. Teachers reported on use of these activities in their classrooms, ranging from 38 percent to 84 percent, and there was one significant difference (out of eight comparisons), with more treatment teachers than control teachers reporting the use of Social and Emotional Development activities in their classrooms (83% versus 64%). With respect to the use of schoolwide activities, 33 percent to 61 percent of teachers reported that their schools used such activities. There was one significant difference here (out of six comparisons), with more control teachers reporting the use of school newspapers or bulletins than treatment teachers (54% versus 33%).

Table 7.10. Principal and teacher initial reports on use of SCD programs or activities in sample—4Rs

SACD program or activity	Total	Treatment	Control
Principal sample size	14	7	7
Teacher sample size	177	92	85
Principals reporting that school had programs or activities to promote the following SCD goals (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	92.9	100.0	85.7
Social and emotional development	100.0	100.0	100.0
Character education	100.0	100.0	100.0
Tolerance and diversity	100.0	100.0	100.0
Risk prevention and health promotion	92.9	100.0	85.7
Civic responsibility and community service	100.0	100.0	100.0
Behavior management	64.3	57.1	71.4
None of the above	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teachers reporting on using programs or activities in their class to promote the following SCD goals (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	64.4	71.9	56.9
Social and emotional development	73.4	83.1*	63.8
Character education	79.3	80.2	78.5
Tolerance and diversity	70.6	73.9	67.4
Risk prevention and health promotion	38.0	36.6	39.5
Civic responsibility and community service	60.2	61.7	58.8
Behavior management	84.3	88.9	79.8
None of the above	1.5	‡	‡
Teachers reporting schoolwide use of the following activities to promote SCD (percent)			
Morning announcements or videos	59.6	49.3	69.9
School assemblies	53.7	51.9	55.5
School newspapers or bulletins	43.5	32.9*	54.1
Special school days	32.5	29.0	36.0
Special events	61.4	57.0	65.8
Other activities	7.0	6.7	7.3

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SCD) Research Program.

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Teachers reported using a broad range of teaching materials to support SACD activities (table 7.11), including teacher guides (73%), student materials (41%), instructional aids (31%), giveaways (43%), and children's literature (77%). There was a statistically significant difference (out of seven comparisons) in the use of teacher guides, with more treatment teachers reporting their use than control teachers (88% versus 58%), and in the use of unspecified SACD materials, with treatment teachers reporting using other types of materials more often than control teachers (18% versus 6%).

Teachers also reported using a wide variety of teaching strategies (table 7.11). All teachers reported using any of the 20 strategies asked about, and teachers used an average of 11.5 of the strategies. There were no significant differences between treatment and control teachers in the use of any of these specific strategies.

Table 7.11. Teacher initial reports on use of SACD materials and classroom strategies in sample—4Rs

SACD material and classroom strategy	Total	Treatment	Control
Teacher sample size	177	92	85
Teachers using the following materials in conjunction with social and character development activities (percent)			
Teacher guides (manuals, curricula)	72.9	87.5**	58.2
Student materials (workbooks, worksheets)	41.2	39.6	42.9
Instructional aids (games, software, videos)	30.6	37.6	23.7
Giveaways (bookmarks, stickers)	42.9	38.3	47.6
Children's literature	77.0	81.7	72.3
Other types of materials	12.0	18.2*	5.7
Do not use any of the materials listed above	2.9	‡	‡
Teachers using any of the strategies listed below to promote social and character development in the classroom (percent)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of strategies (listed below) used by teachers to promote social and character development in the classroom (mean)	11.5	11.7	11.3
Teachers using each of the following strategies to promote social and character development (percent)			
Role-playing	59.7	61.9	57.5
Cooperative learning	97.8	100.0	95.6
Peer group discussions	90.6	94.5	86.6
Direct instruction of social and character development	85.0	89.1	80.8
Skill training	52.8	48.1	57.5
Incorporating social and character development into academic curriculum	77.3	81.4	73.1
Parent training	8.5	8.4	8.6
Parent/community involvement in program development or delivery	20.5	26.6	14.3
Mentoring	32.6	37.6	27.6
Good behavior notes sent home daily or weekly	56.6	49.4	63.8
Presenting role models	62.2	63.5	60.9
Targeted story reading or writing on SACD themes	89.7	95.0	84.4
Peer mediation	40.3	40.9	39.8
Honor roll for positive behavior	53.6	45.8	61.3
Pledges or recitations on social and character development themes	25.5	24.2	26.9
Guided visualization	38.0	33.3	42.8
Student-led/student-assisted instruction	60.6	64.5	56.6
Journaling	75.4	79.4	71.4
Time out for negative behavior	85.5	87.7	83.2
Daily or weekly rewards for positive behavior	87.7	85.0	90.5

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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Principals and teachers reported on participation in and amount of SCD training and staff development provided over the previous 12 months (table 7.12). Principals reported higher participation rates (71% versus 70%) and more hours of training (10.5 versus 9.7) than did teachers. There was a significant difference between percentages of treatment and control teachers who reported participating in SCD training, and this favored the treatment group (84% versus 56%). The treatment teachers also reported significantly more training than did the control teachers on two specific SCD activities (out of seven): Social and Emotional Development (51% versus 17%) and Character Education (54% versus 20%).

Table 7.12. Principal and teacher initial reports on SCD professional development in sample—4Rs

SACD professional development	Total	Treatment	Control
Principal sample size	14	7	7
Teacher sample size	177	92	85
Principals reporting that staff participated in social and character development training within the past year (percent)	71.4	100.0	42.9
Teachers reporting participation in social and character development training within the past 12 months (percent)	70.3	84.2*	56.3
Number of hours of social and character development training principals report were provided to each staff person last year (mean)	10.5	12.1	8.9
Number of hours of social and character development training teachers report receiving during the past 12 months (mean)	9.7	12.4	7.1
Teachers reporting receiving training in the past 12 months in the following areas (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	36.5	43.2	29.8
Social and emotional development	34.4	51.3**	17.4
Character education	36.9	54.3**	19.5
Tolerance and diversity	20.5	28.6	12.4
Risk prevention and health promotion	12.8	14.0	11.6
Civic responsibility and community service	13.8	15.1	12.6
Behavior management	36.6	37.7	35.6

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SCD) Research Program.

The data on the initial level of SCD activity emphasize that the control condition was a “standard practice” control. Standard practice at the control schools included using SCD activities, materials, and practices, along with professional development, at rates and in types and amounts similar to the treatment schools. For example, the percentages of teachers who reported using programs or activities to promote specific SCD goals ranged from 37 percent to 89 percent in the treatment schools and from 40 percent to 80 percent in the control schools. However, the 7 significant differences between the treatment and control conditions in the use of SCD activities was more than expected by chance (3 out of 62 comparisons), and 6 of these cases favored the treatment group. This may reflect the fact that program implementation and program training for staff started before initial data collection.

Impacts on Use of SACD Activities

The introduction of the formal 4Rs program would be expected to increase the use of SACD activities in the treatment schools in comparison to the control schools. The analysis of this impact was based on the Teacher Report on Classroom and School. Every spring, third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers provided information through the Teacher Report on Classroom and School about the social and character development activities they used in their classroom. Specifically, information from the TRCS was used to determine the difference between treatment and control teachers in these areas:

1. the use of SACD activities in their classrooms overall and by SACD goal;
2. the use of materials and strategies to implement the SACD activities within classrooms and within the entire school;
3. the use of staff development to support the teachers; and
4. teacher support for SACD efforts in the school and the use of practices conducive to the social and character development of students.

Teacher Report on Classroom and School consent and completion rates (table 7.4) led to 89 percent to 98 percent of all teachers having data for the 3 years. To estimate intervention impacts for each of the outcomes, testing of the statistical significance of the differences in means was used. Preliminary analysis indicated little or no gains in precision from using covariates. Before testing the mean differences, the data were weighted such that each school received equal weight. Standard errors of the impact estimates account for the clustering of teachers within schools. In addition, a set of heuristics was applied to determine whether each outcome domain was statistically significant after adjustments were made for the multiple tests conducted.

Use of Activities

The percentages of control teachers who reported using any SACD activities in their classrooms ranged from 76 percent to 86 percent over the 3 years (table 7.13, panels 1 and 2). For the six individual SACD goals, the percentages ranged from 47 percent to 67 percent in Year 1, 44 percent to 66 percent in Year 2, and 43 percent to 60 percent in Year 3. Control teachers' use of behavior management activities ranged from 68 percent to 76 percent over this period. The percentages of control teachers who reported using any SACD activities for at least 1 hour per week in their classrooms ranged from 51 percent to 69 percent over the 3 years. For the six individual SACD goals, the percentages ranged from 15 percent to 36 percent in Year 1, 11 percent to 28 percent in Year 2, and 11 percent to 31 percent in Year 3. Control teachers' use of behavior management activities ranged from 37 percent to 54 percent over this period.

For teachers' reported use of any SACD activity, 48 comparisons were made, with 2 expected to be significant by chance. The percentages of treatment teachers using any SACD activity (panel 1) were significantly different from the percentages of control teachers in Year 1 (impact = 15 percentage points) and Year 3 (impact = 19 percentage points). Significantly larger percentages of treatment teachers reported using activities targeting violence prevention and peace promotion (impact = 31, 19, and 31 percentage points), social and emotional development (impact = 33, 27, and 24 percentage points), character education (impact = 26, 18, and 26 percentage points), and tolerance and diversity (impact = 25, 27, and 27 percentage points) in all 3 years. In Year 2, there was a significant difference between treatment and control teachers in their use of civic responsibility and community service activities, with more control teachers reporting their use (impact = -16 percentage points). A similar overall pattern was seen in teachers' reported use of these activities for at least 1 hour per week (panel 2). Treatment teachers' use of any SACD activity for at least 1 hour per week was significant in all 3 years (impact = 32, 17, and 24 percentage points). Violence prevention and peace promotion was significantly impacted in Years 2 and 3 (impact = 30 and 34 percentage points). Impacts on social and emotional development (impact = 31, 36, and 25 percentage points), character education (impact = 29, 35, and 29 percentage points), and tolerance and diversity (impact = 30, 34, and 30 percentage points)

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were found in all 3 years. Civic responsibility and community service was positively significantly impacted in Year 2 (impact = 10 percentage points). Behavior management was significantly impacted in Year 3 (impact = 29 percentage points). After the heuristics were applied, the domain for engagement in SACD activities showed that the 4Rs program had statistically significant impacts in all 3 years.

For teachers' reported use of any named SACD activity (panels 3 and 4), 42 comparisons were made, with 2 expected to be significant by chance. Several of the impact estimates were statistically significant over the 3 years. This pattern holds for the use of named activities at least 1 hour per week. The use of any named activity was significantly impacted in all 3 years, both overall and for at least 1 hour per week (impacts ranged from 40 to 49 percentage points). Violence prevention and peace promotion was significantly impacted in all 3 years, both overall and for at least 1 hour per week (impacts ranged from 27 to 44 percentage points), as were social and emotional development (impacts ranged from 29 to 43 percentage points), character education (impacts ranged from 31 to 45 percentage points), and tolerance and diversity (impacts ranged from 21 to 49 percentage points). The use of risk prevention and health promotion activities overall and for at least 1 hour per week were significantly impacted in Year 2 (impact = 15 and 11 percentage points). Civic responsibility and community service was significantly impacted in all 3 years (impact = 10, 15, and 16 percentage points). The overall impact of the 4Rs program on the domain for engagement in named SACD activities was significant in all 3 years.

Table 7.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—4RsPanel 1: Engagement in any activities to promote SACD goals¹

SACD activity	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	(Spring 3rd grade)				(Spring 4th grade)				(Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	94	88			91	82			88	75		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	85.2*	53.9	31.3	0.004	76.5*	57.1	19.4	0.014	84.6*	53.3	31.3	0.000
Social and emotional development (percent)	88.2*	55.7	32.5	0.004	80.2*	52.9	27.3	0.010	84.2*	60.1	24.1	0.012
Character education (percent)	92.4*	66.9	25.5	0.007	83.4*	65.6	17.8	0.022	83.2*	57.7	25.6	0.042
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	80.8*	56.0	24.7	0.032	76.1**	49.0	27.1	0.011	83.5*	56.9	26.6	0.001
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	28.7	46.6	-17.9	0.174	48.2	44.1	4.1	0.550	45.8	42.8	3.0	0.696
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	61.6	56.6	5.0	0.694	44.4*	60.5	-16.1	0.050	47.9	57.4	-9.5	0.355
Any SACD goal (percent)	97.1*	82.1	15.0	0.011	88.7	85.6	3.0	0.575	95.0*	75.6	19.4	0.017
Behavior management (percent)	85.1	73.9	11.2	0.196	89.7^	75.9	13.8	0.096	80.7^	67.6	13.1	0.087

See notes at end of table.

Table 7.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—4Rs—Continued

Panel 2: Engagement in any activities to promote SACD goals for at least 1 hour per week

SACD activity	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
	94	88			91	82			88	75		
Teacher sample size												
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	53.1^	27.0	26.2	0.053	57.7*	27.9	29.8	0.003	55.4*	21.8	33.7	0.002
Social and emotional development (percent)	55.1*	23.7	31.4	0.006	63.8*	27.8	36.0	0.004	54.9*	29.8	25.1	0.028
Character education (percent)	65.9*	36.4	29.4	0.013	61.0*	26.1	34.9	0.000	60.4*	31.0	29.3	0.006
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	51.7*	21.6	30.1	0.008	56.3*	22.7	33.5	0.001	51.4*	21.8	29.6	0.001
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	5.1	15.1	-10.0	0.124	22.1	14.9	7.2	0.274	17.7	21.0	-3.3	0.723
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	25.2	15.8	9.3	0.228	20.9*	10.7	10.2	0.044	22.1	11.1	11.0	0.147
Any SACD goal (percent)	82.4*	50.8	31.6	0.003	85.7*	69.0	16.7	0.023	88.1*	63.8	24.3	0.017
Behavior management (percent)	70.4^	53.8	16.6	0.090	65.7	47.9	17.7	0.114	66.3*	37.2	29.1	0.015

See notes at end of table.

Table 7.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—4Rs—ContinuedPanel 3: Engagement in activities to promote SACD goals linked to named SACD programs²

SACD activity	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	(Spring 3rd grade)				(Spring 4th grade)				(Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	94	88			91	82			88	75		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	42.0*	4.8	37.2	0.008	54.0*	12.4	41.6	0.000	52.4*	8.4	44.0	0.000
Social and emotional development (percent)	46.6*	3.9	42.7	0.010	49.8*	9.3	40.5	0.000	52.9*	12.1	40.8	0.015
Character education (percent)	47.7*	3.9	43.8	0.001	53.6*	11.7	41.9	0.002	51.1*	6.6	44.6	0.004
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	‡*	‡	31.8	0.001	48.4*	6.7	41.7	0.000	‡*	‡	49.2	0.000
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	5.9	8.7	-2.9	0.719	23.0*	8.0	15.0	0.049	16.3	10.3	6.1	0.500
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	‡*	‡	9.6	0.032	18.2*	3.3	14.9	0.004	‡*	‡	15.8	0.040
Any named activity (percent)	60.0*	12.4	47.6	0.006	66.8*	26.7	40.1	0.000	65.3*	21.9	43.4	0.013
See notes at end of table.												

Table 7.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SCD classroom activities—4Rs—Continued

Panel 4: Engagement in activities to promote SCD goals linked to named SCD programs for at least 1 hour per week

SACD activity	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	94	88			91	82			88	75		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	31.6*	5.1	26.5	0.033	48.8*	9.4	39.4	0.000	‡*	‡	40.4	0.005
Social and emotional development (percent)	32.8*	4.1	28.7	0.034	45.4*	6.6	38.8	0.003	43.8*	7.3	36.6	0.020
Character education (percent)	35.6*	4.2	31.4	0.006	48.2*	7.8	40.4	0.001	48.3*	3.5	44.8	0.001
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	‡*	‡	21.3	0.012	40.0*	3.6	36.4	0.002	‡*	‡	40.1	0.001
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	‡	‡	-4.9	0.264	15.0*	3.7	11.4	0.018	10.1	6.8	3.3	0.660
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	‡^	‡	5.9	0.097	13.1	0.0	13.1	†	15.8	0.0	15.8	†
Any named activity (percent)	48.6*	8.7	40.0	0.003	60.1*	16.5	43.6	0.000	59.1*	10.0	49.1	0.005

† Not applicable.

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

^ Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

¹ In Year 1 at least half of the impacts were positive and statistically significant and no impact was negative and statistically significant based on univariate statistical tests, the omnibus impact for all the outcomes measured together was positive and statistically significant on the basis of a multivariate statistical test, and at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts. In Years 2 and 3 at least half of the impacts were positive and statistically significant and no impact was negative and statistically significant based on univariate tests, and at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts.

² In Years 1 and 3 at least half of the impacts were positive and statistically significant and no impact was negative and statistically significant based on univariate statistical tests, the omnibus impact for all the outcomes measured together was positive and statistically significant on the basis of a multivariate statistical test, and at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts. In Year 2 at least half of the impacts were positive and statistically significant and no impact was negative and statistically significant based on univariate tests, and at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SCD) Research Program.

Use of Materials and Strategies

For use of materials and strategies to support SCD goals, 87 comparisons were made, with 4 expected to be significant by chance. Several significant impacts were found on treatment teachers' use of SCD materials in all years (table 7.14). In Year 1, there was an effect on the use of teacher guides (impact = 42 percentage points), which was also seen in Year 2 (impact = 37 percentage points) and Year 3 (impact = 27 percentage points). In Year 2, there was an impact on the use of student materials (impact = 27 percentage points) and another in Year 3 (impact = 15 percentage points). In Years 2 and 3, there was an impact on the use of children's literature (impact = 24 and 27 percentage points). In Year 2, control teachers reported significantly greater use of other types of materials (impact = -18 percentage points). Regarding use of instructional techniques, there was a significant impact on use of role-playing in all 3 years (impact = 29, 32, and 18 percentage points). In Year 2, there were significant impacts on the use of direct instruction of SCD (impact = 12 percentage points) and on incorporating SCD into the academic curriculum (impact = 19 percentage points). Other impacts were seen on targeted story reading or writing (impact = 11 percentage points) and student-led/student-assisted instruction (impact = 18 percentage points). In Year 3, there was an impact on skill training (impact = 11 percentage points), guided visualization (impact = 21 percentage points), and the average number of strategies teachers reported (by 1.3 strategies on average). The 4Rs program had significant impacts on the domain of materials and strategies in Years 1 and 3.

Table 7.14. Impacts on use of SACD classroom materials and teaching strategies—4Rs

SACD material and teaching strategy	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	94	88			91	82			88	75		
Use of SACD materials (percent)												
Teacher guides (manuals, curricula)	88.9*	46.9	42.0	0.001	87.6*	51.1	36.5	0.000	81.2*	54.3	26.9	0.002
Student materials (workbooks or sheets)	34.3	39.0	-4.7	0.621	62.5*	35.1	27.3	0.008	59.1*	43.9	15.2	0.029
Instructional aids (games, software, videos)	31.3	22.3	8.9	0.233	28.0	29.5	-1.6	0.825	40.0^	25.7	14.3	0.056
Giveaways (bookmarks, stickers)	39.0	42.7	-3.7	0.530	23.3^	36.9	-13.6	0.080	42.6	56.2	-13.5	0.170
Children's literature	71.4	57.6	13.8	0.117	76.6*	52.5	24.0	0.023	81.1*	54.0	27.2	0.001
Other types of materials	9.6	7.8	1.7	0.738	3.6*	21.7	-18.1	0.004	‡	‡	3.9	0.236
Did not use any of these materials	‡*	‡	-16.0	0.009	6.4^	15.4	-8.9	0.077	4.9	15.8	-11.0	0.100
Use of teaching strategies (percent)												
Role-playing	85.9*	57.3	28.6	0.000	94.4*	62.7	31.6	0.000	94.1*	76.3	17.9	0.020
Cooperative learning	97.6	95.6	1.9	0.427	99.0	97.6	1.5	0.433	100.0	98.7	1.3	†
Peer group discussions	94.7	91.7	3.0	0.492	94.4	89.8	4.6	0.324	100.0	96.3	3.7	†
Direct instruction of SACD	89.2	83.0	6.2	0.441	92.6*	81.0	11.6	0.006	95.3^	83.1	12.2	0.077
Skill training	66.2	57.4	8.7	0.282	60.7	52.8	7.9	0.327	90.4*	79.1	11.4	0.032
Incorporating SACD into academic curriculum	87.1^	71.2	16.0	0.063	88.6*	69.4	19.1	0.007	96.1	86.1	10.1	0.116
Parent training	7.6	3.4	4.2	0.278	4.9	7.9	-3.0	0.558	25.1	28.7	-3.6	0.632
Parent/community involvement	21.2	17.2	4.0	0.551	23.2	13.7	9.4	0.231	47.4	39.8	7.6	0.318
Mentoring	30.4	28.5	1.9	0.817	35.9	34.0	1.9	0.866	54.4	49.3	5.1	0.591
Good behavior notes sent home daily or weekly	46.5^	65.0	-18.6	0.062	55.3	59.4	-4.0	0.650	87.7	80.5	7.2	0.229
Presenting role models	60.5	65.4	-4.9	0.598	63.5	72.3	-8.8	0.235	78.3	77.5	0.8	0.906

See notes at end of table.

Table 7.14. Impacts on use of SACD classroom materials and teaching strategies—4Rs—Continued

SACD material and teaching strategy ¹	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Use of teaching strategies (percent)— Continued												
Targeted story reading or writing on social and character development themes	94.2	85.4	8.8	0.113	98.8*	87.7	11.1	0.034	96.8	93.0	3.7	0.174
Peer mediation	50.3 [^]	41.7	8.6	0.085	58.3	46.5	11.8	0.249	73.4	64.1	9.3	0.126
Honor roll for positive behavior	40.3	56.3	-15.9	0.297	49.0	56.2	-7.1	0.633	68.2	69.2	-1.0	0.924
Pledges or recitations on social and character development themes	31.9	32.9	-1.0	0.905	27.1	30.7	-3.6	0.693	57.3	50.5	6.8	0.361
Guided visualization	43.8	38.7	5.1	0.324	54.5	53.2	1.3	0.889	78.2*	57.7	20.5	0.002
Student-led/student-assisted instruction	53.7	53.8	-0.1	0.993	67.8*	50.2	17.6	0.014	82.4	76.5	5.9	0.455
Journaling	67.4	69.0	-1.5	0.865	75.6 [^]	61.5	14.1	0.093	85.1	77.4	7.7	0.275
Time out for negative behavior	89.5	86.4	3.1	0.501	79.0	82.3	-3.4	0.549	91.0	82.2	8.8	0.181
Daily or weekly rewards for positive behavior	80.6	86.8	-6.2	0.439	83.5	82.8	0.7	0.901	97.1	95.2	1.8	0.550
Any strategy	100.0	99.0	1.0	†	100.0	100.0	0.0	†	100.0	98.7	1.3	†
Number of strategies (mean)	12.2	11.8	0.3	0.612	12.9 [^]	11.8	1.1	0.073	15.6*	14.3	1.3	0.028

† Not applicable.

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

[^] Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.¹ In Years 1 and 3 and at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Regarding the use of schoolwide strategies, 18 comparisons were made between treatment and control teacher reports, with 1 expected to be significant by chance. There were no significant impacts on teacher reports of schools' use of specific schoolwide strategies (these data are not shown in a table).

Participation in Professional Development

Regarding reported participation in professional development, 27 comparisons were made over 3 years, with 1 expected to be significant by chance. In Year 1, the 4Rs intervention had a statistically significant impact on teachers' participation in professional development training (impact = 40 percentage points); mean hours of SCD training (by 4.8 hours on average); and training in the specific goals of violence prevention and peace promotion (impact = 25 percentage points), social and emotional development (impact = 25 percentage points), character education (impact = 39 percentage points), and tolerance and diversity (impact = 20 percentage points) (table 7.15). There was also a significant impact on behavior management training (impact = 19 percentage points). The impact on mean hours of SCD training remained significant in Year 3 (by 2.5 hours on average). The significant impacts on violence prevention and peace promotion training remained in Year 2 (impact = 19 percentage points) and Year 3 (impact = 12 percentage points), as did the impact on social and emotional development and character education in Year 2 (impact = 16 and 11 percentage points). The impact on tolerance and diversity training was seen again in Year 3 (impact = 17 percentage points). Significant impact was found on the domain in Years 1 and 3.

Table 7.15. Impacts on teacher-reported SCD professional development—4Rs

SACD professional development ¹	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	94	88			91	82			88	75		
SACD training in past 12 months (percent)	81.6*	41.2	40.4	0.000	63.9^	48.6	15.3	0.083	54.1^	30.7	23.4	0.052
Hours of SACD training (mean)	9.3*	4.4	4.8	0.005	7.4	4.8	2.5	0.448	‡*	‡	2.5	0.037
Training by goal (percent)												
Violence prevention and peace promotion	44.0*	19.4	24.6	0.003	36.7*	17.4	19.3	0.031	25.0*	12.8	12.3	0.027
Social and emotional development	40.8*	15.8	25.0	0.003	32.5*	16.1	16.4	0.038	22.6^	8.3	14.3	0.087
Character education	50.2*	10.9	39.4	0.003	23.2*	12.3	10.9	0.038	20.1	9.4	10.7	0.133
Tolerance and diversity	27.8*	8.0	19.8	0.001	23.1	12.1	11.1	0.109	‡*	‡	17.3	0.005
Risk prevention and health promotion	7.1	4.6	2.5	0.468	21.0	18.7	2.3	0.785	12.8	6.1	6.7	0.290
Civic responsibility and community service	10.2	5.7	4.5	0.358	‡	‡	6.4	0.100	7.3	7.3	0.0	0.992
Behavior management	35.0*	15.9	19.1	0.042	20.4	18.8	1.6	0.774	14.9	13.4	1.4	0.796

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

^ Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

¹ In Years 1 and 3 at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts. In Year 1 at least half of the impacts were positive and statistically significant and no impact was negative and statistically significant based on univariate statistical tests.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Attitudes and Practices

Teachers reported on their enthusiasm for SACD efforts in their schools (these data are not shown in a table) by indicating enthusiasm, cooperation, or open dislike. They also reported on the SACD practices of teachers and staff members in their schools (these data are not shown in a table). The practices included modeling positive character and behavior traits with students and fellow teachers, involving students in making decisions, giving students a voice in school governance, school encouragement of parent involvement in children's social and character development, and the use of developmentally appropriate discipline strategies rather than punishment for misbehavior. Twenty-seven comparisons were made over 3 years, with 1 expected to be significant by chance. There were no statistically significant impacts on teachers' enthusiasm for SACD efforts or reported SACD practices in their schools in any of the years (these data are not shown in a table). The 4Rs program had no impact on the domain in any year.

Year-by-Year Impacts on Students and Perceptions of School Climate

The primary research question for the 4Rs evaluation was this:

What is the average effect of the 4Rs program on children's social and emotional competence, behavior, academics, and perceptions of school climate?

The first approach to answering this question was to examine the year-by-year impacts of the 4Rs program on these student and school climate outcomes over the 3 years as the students progressed from third through fifth grades.

Equation (2) (described in chapter 1) was estimated to provide the impacts of the 4Rs program on the 20 outcomes using data from the 14 treatment and control schools. For the 4Rs evaluation, equation (2) excluded the program fixed effects (θ_p) and included program-specific covariates and random school effects covariates. Table 7.16 lists the covariates used with outcomes from each report in the 4Rs analysis.

Table 7.16. Covariates used with outcomes from each report for analysis—4Rs

Potential covariate	CR outcome	PCR outcome	TRS outcome	TRCS outcome
Total number	10	26	19	6
Child-reported				
Female	✓	✓	✓	
Hispanic	✓	✓	✓	
Black (non-Hispanic)	✓	✓	✓	
Other ethnicity	✓	✓	✓	
Age in years	✓	✓	✓	
Scales				
Afraid at School		✓		
Altruistic Behavior				
Empathy		✓	✓	
Engagement with Learning			✓	
Negative School Orientation		✓		
Normative Beliefs About Aggression	✓		✓	
Sense of School as a Community				
Problem Behavior		✓		
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions				
Victimization at School			✓	
Primary caregiver-reported				
Age in years	✓	✓	✓	
Completed high school or equivalent		✓	✓	
Some college		✓	✓	
Bachelor's or higher degree		✓	✓	
Highest level of education in household				
Completed high school or equivalent				
Some college				
Bachelor's or higher degree				
Mother present in home life			✓	
Mother and father present			✓	
Respondent someone other than mother or father			✓	
Number of people in household	✓	✓		
Household income: \$20,000 to \$40,000		✓		
Household income: \$40,000 to \$60,000		✓		
Household income: More than \$60,000		✓		
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio: Below 135 percent		✓		
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio: 135-185 percent		✓		
Full-time employment		✓		
Part-time employment		✓		

See notes at the end of table.

Table 7.16. Covariates used with outcomes from each report for analysis—4Rs—Continued

Potential covariate	CR outcome	PCR outcome	TRS outcome	TRCS outcome
Parental scales				
APQ-Poor Monitoring and Supervision Subscale		✓		
APQ-Positive Parenting Subscale				
Child-Centered Social Control				
Confusion, Hubbub, and Order		✓	✓	
Community Resources				
Community Risk		✓		
Parent and Teacher Involvement				
Child scales				
Altruistic Behavior				
Positive Social Behavior	✓		✓	
Problem Behavior	✓	✓		
Teacher-reported				
Female				✓
Hispanic				✓
Black (non-Hispanic)				✓
Other ethnicity				✓
Total teaching experience				✓
Total experience in current school				
Regular certificate				
Other certificate				
Highest degree—bachelor's				✓
Child scales				
Academic Competence and Motivation				
ADHD-Related Behavior		✓		
Altruistic Behavior				
Positive Social Behavior			✓	
Problem Behavior				
Parent and Teacher Involvement			✓	

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

APQ: Alabama Parenting Questionnaire

✓: Covariate used

Blank cell: Covariate not used

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Chapter 7. The 4Rs Program (Reading, Writing, Respect, and Resolution)

To assess the statistical power of the program-level impact estimates, minimum detectable impacts in effect size units (MDES) for each outcome measure were calculated for the 4Rs evaluation (table 7.17). MDES represent the smallest impacts in effect size (standard deviation) units that can be detected with a high probability (80%). MDES are primarily a function of study sample sizes, the degrees of freedom available for statistical tests, and design effects due to clustering (Schochet 2005). For the 14 schools included in the 4Rs evaluation, the MDES ranged from 0.088 to 0.569 for the child-level outcomes based on the Child, Caregiver, and Teacher Report on Student and from 0.180 to 0.581 for the school climate outcomes based on the Teacher Report on Classroom and School. In general, the MDES for the school climate outcomes were larger than those for the child-level outcomes.

Table 7.17. Adjusted minimum detectable effect sizes for impact evaluation—4Rs

Outcome measure—Report	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Social and Emotional Competence Domain			
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interaction—CR	0.250	0.090	0.090
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR	0.148	0.159	0.275
Empathy—CR	0.326	0.213	0.180
Behavior Domain			
Altruistic Behavior—CR	0.118	0.150	0.183
Altruistic Behavior—PCR	0.130	0.109	0.164
Altruistic Behavior—TRS	0.323	0.540	0.569
Positive Social Behavior—PCR	0.104	0.108	0.197
Positive Social Behavior—TRS	0.268	0.117	0.354
Problem Behavior—CR	0.148	0.253	0.135
Problem Behavior—PCR	0.104	0.108	0.161
Problem Behavior—TRS	0.213	0.218	0.404
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS	0.160	0.226	0.449
Academics Domain			
Engagement with Learning—CR	0.202	0.195	0.169
Academic Competence and Motivation—TRS	0.159	0.303	0.335
Perceptions of School Climate Domain			
Positive School Orientation—CR	0.277	0.236	0.294
Negative School Orientation—CR	0.088	0.190	0.225
Student Afraid at School—CR	0.218	0.235	0.137
Victimization at School—CR	0.157	0.116	0.218
Feelings of Safety—TRCS	0.501	0.542	0.568
Student Support for Teachers—TRCS	0.180	0.581	0.343

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The minimum detectable effect (MDE) formula used in the calculations is as follows:

$$MDE = factor(df) * \sqrt{\rho_1 \left(\frac{1}{s_T} + \frac{1}{s_C} \right) + (1 - \rho_1) \left(\frac{1}{s_T n_T} + \frac{1}{s_C n_C} \right)}$$

where s_T and s_C are the number of treatment and comparison schools; n_T and n_C are the average number of students per classroom; ρ_1 is the intraclass correlation (ICC) at the school level; and $factor(df)$ is a constant that depends on the number of degrees of freedom (df) available for analysis (and is 2.802 for the pooled analysis).

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Chapter 7. The 4Rs Program (Reading, Writing, Respect, and Resolution)

Table 7.18 provides the estimates of the 4Rs program's impacts on each of the 20 outcomes over each of the 3 years (60 impacts in total, with 3 expected to be statistically significant by chance). Of the 60 results, 1 was statistically significant. There was a detrimental impact on Academic Competence and Motivation (Teacher Report on Student, effect size [ES] = -0.17) in Year 1. In addition, there were substantively important but nonsignificant detrimental impacts on Feelings of Safety (Teacher Report on Classroom and School, ES = -0.42) and Student Support for Teachers (Teacher Report on Classroom and School, ES = -0.35) in Year 3. Application of the heuristics to adjust for multiple comparisons within each outcome domain indicated that 4Rs had a statistically significant detrimental effect on the Social and Emotional Competence domain in Year 3 and on the Behavior domain in Year 1.

Table 7.18. Impacts on child and school outcomes—4Rs

	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value
Scale–Report												
Social and Emotional Competence Domain ¹												
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions–CR (+)	2.96	3.04	-0.13	0.359	3.10	3.12	-0.04	0.598	3.15	3.21	-0.08	0.338
Normative Beliefs About Aggression–CR (-)	1.39	1.44	-0.09	0.324	1.47	1.49	-0.03	0.778	1.59	1.65	-0.09	0.545
Empathy–CR (+)	2.24	2.27	-0.07	0.674	2.08	2.10	-0.05	0.701	1.95	2.00	-0.10	0.382
Behavior Domain ²												
Altruistic Behavior–CR (+)	1.30	1.40	-0.13	0.137	1.14	1.22	-0.09	0.365	1.18	1.18	0.00	0.985
Altruistic Behavior–PCR (+)	2.38	2.38	0.00	0.989	2.36	2.43	-0.11	0.270	2.33	2.43	-0.13	0.375
Altruistic Behavior–TRS (+)	1.48	1.58	-0.17	0.262	1.48	1.53	-0.10	0.730	1.62	1.55	0.11	0.698
Positive Social Behavior–PCR (+)	2.97	2.98	-0.03	0.756	3.02	3.04	-0.03	0.757	3.11	3.05	0.13	0.422
Positive Social Behavior–TRS (+)	2.81	2.78	0.03	0.788	2.84	2.90	-0.08	0.310	2.81	2.81	-0.01	0.969
Problem Behavior–CR (-)	0.40	0.43	-0.04	0.654	0.48	0.51	-0.05	0.718	0.61	0.59	0.03	0.709
Problem Behavior–PCR (-)	1.55	1.51	0.11	0.223	1.51	1.53	-0.04	0.720	1.52	1.53	-0.01	0.916
Problem Behavior–TRS (-)	1.60	1.55	0.08	0.439	1.51	1.55	-0.07	0.516	1.63	1.65	-0.04	0.830
ADHD-Related Behavior–TRS (-)	1.84	1.83	0.01	0.865	1.69	1.78	-0.15	0.205	1.74	1.87	-0.20	0.357
Academics Domain												
Engagement with Learning–CR (+)	3.63	3.67	-0.08	0.541	3.63	3.64	-0.03	0.815	3.63	3.59	0.07	0.508
Academic Competence and Motivation– TRS (+)	2.69*	2.84	-0.17	0.032	2.80	2.88	-0.10	0.513	2.73	2.89	-0.16	0.309

See notes at end of table.

Table 7.18. Impacts on child and school outcomes—4Rs—Continued

Scale–Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment		Effect size		Treat- ment		Effect size		Treat- ment		Effect size	
	Control	p-value			Control	p-value			Control	p-value		
Perceptions of School Climate Domain												
Positive School Orientation–CR (+)	2.70	2.64	0.08	0.577	2.39	2.38	0.01	0.950	2.31	2.36	-0.08	0.617
Negative School Orientation–CR (-)	2.04	2.07	-0.06	0.439	2.20	2.19	0.02	0.841	2.26	2.25	0.02	0.862
Victimization at School–CR (-)	0.83	0.89	-0.08	0.436	0.74 [^]	0.87	-0.17	0.069	0.75	0.78	-0.04	0.785
Feelings of Safety–TRCS (+)	3.15	3.22	-0.09	0.606	3.08	3.12	-0.05	0.817	2.93	3.27	-0.42 [°]	0.146
Student Support for Teachers–TRCS (+)	3.10	3.05	0.06	0.568	3.14	3.12	0.02	0.926	3.08	3.30	-0.35 [°]	0.109

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

[^] Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

[°] Substantive (but nonsignificant at .05 level) effect size of $\geq .25$ or $\leq -.25$.

¹ Impact on domain found statistically significant and detrimental in Year 3 based on the fourth heuristic in which the statistical model used to estimate impacts on the individual outcomes was re-estimated using a composite of all the outcome variables under a domain. The domain was found significant if the impact on the composite was significant. The composite was formed by standardizing each outcome variable using its standard deviation, combining the values of the outcome variables, and taking the average of the final value.

² Impact on domain found statistically significant and detrimental in Year 1 based on the fourth heuristic in which the statistical model used to estimate impacts on the individual outcomes was re-estimated using a composite of all the outcome variables under a domain. The domain was found significant if the impact on the composite was significant. The composite was formed by standardizing each outcome variable using its standard deviation, combining the values of the outcome variables, and taking the average of the final value.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using regression models where each program and school within a program was weighted equally. The standard errors of all estimates account for design effects due to unequal weighting and the clustering of students within schools. See table 1.5 for information about the measures used to create the outcome variables. The effect size was calculated by dividing the estimated impact by the standard deviation of the outcome measure for the control group. The number of results found significant was no more than expected by chance.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Impacts on Child Outcomes Over Time

The 4Rs program’s impacts on the child outcomes over time were estimated using growth curve models by examining treatment and control group differences in the trajectories of student outcomes during the follow-up period while accounting for clustering at the school level. The growth curve models are estimated using a three-level hierarchical linear model, where Level 1 corresponds to time, Level 2 to students, and Level 3 to schools (described in chapter 1).

Table 7.19 provides the estimates of the 4Rs program’s impacts on the growth in student outcomes over the 3 years. The estimated impacts ranged in effect size units (absolute value) from 0.00 to 0.10. None of the 18 estimated 4Rs intervention impacts on the trajectories of child outcomes was statistically significantly different from zero at the 5 percent level (1 in 18 would be expected to be significant by chance).

Table 7.19. Impacts on growth of child outcomes—4Rs

Scale–Report	Mean score at implementation ²	Average growth in the score per year ¹				Standard error of impact	<i>p</i> -value of impact
		Treatment	Control	Impact on growth ³	Effect size ⁴		
Social and Emotional Competence Domain							
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions–CR (+)	2.89	0.13	0.14	-0.01	-0.01	0.03	0.850
Normative Beliefs About Aggression–CR (-)	1.31	0.13	0.13	-0.01	-0.01	0.04	0.840
Empathy–CR (+)	2.37	-0.18	-0.17	-0.01	-0.02	0.03	0.756
Behavior Domain							
Altruistic Behavior–CR (+)	1.51	-0.16	-0.19	0.02	0.03	0.06	0.681
Altruistic Behavior–PCR (+)	2.39	-0.02	0.01	-0.03	-0.04	0.04	0.405
Altruistic Behavior–TRS (+)	1.46	0.07	0.00	0.07	0.10	0.10	0.475
Positive Social Behavior–PCR (+)	2.94	0.02	0.04	-0.02	-0.04	0.02	0.400
Positive Social Behavior–TRS (+)	2.85	-0.05	0.00	-0.05	-0.06	0.05	0.356
Problem Behavior–CR (-)	0.36	0.12 [^]	0.09	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.067
Problem Behavior–PCR (-)	1.54	0.00	-0.02	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.391
Problem Behavior–TRS (-)	1.47	0.06	0.11	-0.04	-0.09	0.05	0.361
ADHD-Related Behavior–TRS (-)	1.77	0.01	0.05	-0.04	-0.05	0.05	0.464
Academics Domain							
Engagement with Learning–CR (+)	3.65	0.01	-0.04	0.05	0.07	0.03	0.136
Academic Competence and Motivation–TRS (+)	2.61	0.05	0.09	-0.04	-0.04	0.06	0.548
See notes at end of table.							

See notes at end of table.

Table 7.19. Impacts on growth of child outcomes—4Rs—Continued

Scale–Report	Mean score at implementation ²	Average growth in the score per year ¹					
		Treatment	Control	Impact on growth ³	Effect size ⁴	Standard error of impact	p-value of impact
Perceptions of School Climate Domain							
Positive School Orientation–CR (+)	2.88	-0.23	-0.25	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.571
Negative School Orientation–CR (-)	2.05	0.08	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.947
Student Afraid at School–CR (-)	2.59	-0.14	-0.15	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.716
Victimization at School–CR (-)	0.88	-0.06	-0.06	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.930

¹ Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

² Pertains to the estimated slope of the outcome for the treatment or control groups.

³ The average score at implementation is calculated across treatment and control groups, using regression models for adjustment on covariates.

⁴ Estimated difference between the slope of the treatment and control groups.

⁵ Effect size: the slope of the treatment group minus the slope of the control group divided by the standard deviation of the outcome for the program's control group (the standard deviation is calculated without accounting for school-level clustering or regression adjustments).

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

No findings were found statistically significant at or below the .05 level. The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using HLM 6.06. Sample weights were used in all analyses to give (1) each school equal weight in each program (within each time period) and (2) each time period equal weight within the analysis. See table 1.5 for information about the measures used to create the outcome variables.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Summary

As part of the Social and Character Development (SACD) initiative, researchers at the New York site evaluated the 4Rs program. This program was designed to integrate the teaching and promoting of social and emotional skills and conflict resolution into the language arts curriculum and to create a caring classroom community. Fourteen public schools in New York City were recruited by the New York research team and randomly assigned to treatment and control conditions to determine the impact of 4Rs on social and character development activities in the schools and on the child outcome domains of Social and Emotional Competence, Behavior, Academics, and Perceptions of School Climate.

Analyses of the initial characteristics of the sample (students, caregivers, communities, teachers, and schools) indicated that randomization to treatment and control status produced groups that were relatively similar at the start of the study (with 1 out of 84 comparisons statistically significantly different, fewer than would be expected by chance). The data on the initial level of SACD activity led to two findings. First, treatment teachers reported greater use of and training in SACD activities than control teachers, and they did so more often than would be expected by chance (7 out of 62 comparisons, with 3 expected significant by chance). There are two potential causes for this finding, and the analysis cannot be used to determine whether the reason for such a difference was that the two groups did differ on their initial use of SACD activities (i.e., that randomization did not create similar treatment and control groups) or whether the fact that the training of all treatment teachers and the implementation of the 4Rs program began before the initial data were collected (by 4 weeks) influenced the teacher reports. Because it is likely (though unproven) that the training and implementation affected the teacher reports, these data were not considered appropriate for use as a baseline measure of SACD activities and training in the treatment schools.

Second, these data indicate that the control condition for the SACD project was not a “no treatment” control but a “standard practice” control. Because the control teachers were not affected by the implementation of the SACD programs before data collection, their reports reflect standard practice in the control schools. Standard practice at the control schools included reports of 40 percent to 80 percent of teachers using any SACD activities, 96 percent of teachers using specific materials in conjunction with these activities, 100 percent using at least one of the specified instructional strategies, and 56 percent participating in SACD training over the past 12 months.

Analyses of the impacts of the 4Rs program on the level of SACD activities in the schools revealed impacts on the use of such activities (66 out of 90, 1 negative) and related materials and strategies (18 out of 87, 1 negative) across the 3 years. Analyses also showed more use of professional development activities for treatment teachers in all years (13 out of 27).

Of the 20 child-level outcomes representing the four domains of Social and Emotional Competence, Behavior, Academics, and Perceptions of School Climate assessed in each of the 3 years of the study (a total of 60 results), 1 showed a statistically significant detrimental impact of the 4Rs intervention. A growth curve analysis was used to analyze the change over time in these same outcomes between initial data collection and the final outcome data collection at the end of the study. None of the 18 child-level outcomes assessed showed a significant impact of the 4Rs program.

The SACD evaluation did not find evidence to support the hypothesis that 4Rs had beneficial impacts on students’ social and character development. Such results could be caused by the inability of the program to cause such change, possibly because the theory of action for the program is incomplete or the activities to carry out that theory are not effective.

However, these results may also be due to the inability of the evaluation to observe such a change due to the control condition, the level of nonparticipation, or the sample size. The control schools continued using their standard SACD activities, and these turned out to be high in quantity and broad in scope. While 4Rs had a significant positive impact on the amount and type of SACD activities, the resulting difference in the amount

Chapter 7. The 4Rs Program (Reading, Writing, Respect, and Resolution)

of SADC activities between the treatment and control schools may not have been large enough to cause significant differences in the student outcomes. Second, 38 percent to 45 percent of the students in the sample universe did not take part (depending on year) because of nonconsent or noncompletion of the surveys. As a determination could not be made as to whether the students not taking part significantly differed from those who did take part, the evaluation's results are valid only for the students who took part. If the students not taking part were different, and if they would have responded better to 4Rs than to the SADC activities occurring in the control schools, then the evaluation could have underestimated the program's impact. Third, the sample size of 14 schools and the resulting higher MDES compared to those for the multiprogram evaluation may have reduced the likelihood of detecting statistically significant effects. However, it should be noted that 68 percent of the MDES for the 60 outcomes used in the year-by-year analysis were below 0.25 (50% were below 0.20). In addition, only 2 of the 60 outcomes were found to be substantively important, and they were detrimental.

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Chapter 8. Second Step

University of Maryland (Maryland Site)

Intervention

Researchers at the University of Maryland (Maryland site) evaluated the *Second Step* (SS) program. This program, one of several disseminated by the Committee for Children, is designed to promote social competence and reduce children's social and emotional problems. Table 8.1 describes the SS program's general characteristics (panel 1), the types of instruction and strategies used (panel 2), the professional development provided for those implementing the program (panel 3), and the social and character development activities (panel 4) and outcomes (panel 5). SS includes the following components:

- The SS curriculum focuses on developing children's social and emotional skills in the areas of empathy, impulse control and problem solving, and anger management. Through storytelling, discussion, and role-playing, teachers deliver 30-minute classroom lessons to students, 1 to 2 days per week.
- Teachers learn to use classroom management practices and to model social-emotional skills to foster a positive classroom climate. Teachers give students opportunities to practice social-emotional skills in new situations; positively reinforce students' skill use; and utilize teachable moments to provide coaching, constructive feedback, and positive reinforcement to students to support skills used during real-life situations. Visual cues are utilized to illustrate aspects of social problem solving.
- SS extends into the home through newsletters, a family guide and video, and encouragement of parent involvement in helping children complete their SS homework.
- In this evaluation, treatment schools established Character Development Planning Teams (CDPTs), made up of counselors, the principal, and other school staff members (e.g., teachers, administrative or office personnel) who made decisions about program implementation and other social and character development activities.

Table 8.1. Second Step

Panel 1: General characteristics

Target population

Universal

Program components

Peer: In class

Parent: Contact

Classroom: Lessons and transfer of training

Schoolwide: Program artifacts and modeling

Community: None or not major focus

Training: Pretraining and ongoing

Level of integration

Add-on curriculum

Flexibility

Manualized: Curriculum guidebook

Adaptability: Character development planning teams

See notes at end of table.

Panel 2: Description of instruction and strategies

Classroom

Lessons

Who delivers: Teacher

Activities and tools: Storytelling, discussion, videos, role-playing, anticipation, recall, learning points

Content: Empathy, impulse control, problem solving, anger management

Frequency: 30-minute lessons, 1 to 2 days per week

Strategies

Who delivers: Teacher

Activities and tools: Modeling and reinforcement of skills

Frequency: Weekly lessons, daily generalization

Supplement to classroom

Take-home letters, homework, family guide, and video

Schoolwide activities

Program artifacts, training of school staff

See notes at end of table.

Table 8.1. Second Step—Continued**Panel 3: Professional development****Pre-implementation****Teachers***Content:* Training on child development, social skills, and curriculum delivery*Duration:* 2 days**Other***Content:* Character Development Planning Team, school counselor, and other staff; training on child development, social skills, and curriculum content*Duration:* 2½ hours**Ongoing consultation****Teachers***Content:* Year-end workshop to review student outcome data and plan for following year; ongoing program implementation support by school counselors*Duration:* 1 day**Other***Content:* School counselor guidance on strategies and challenges; principal and staff review student outcome data and plan for following year*Duration:* ½-day counselor meetings about monthly; 1-day year-end workshop

See notes at end of table.

Panel 4: Activities for SACD goals

Violence prevention and peace promotion	✓	Risk prevention and health promotion
Social and emotional development	✓	Civic responsibility and community service
Character education	✓	Behavior management
Tolerance and diversity		

See notes at end of table.

Panel 5: SACD outcomes addressed

Engagement with Learning		Empathy	✓
Academic Competence and Motivation		Positive School Orientation	
Altruistic Behavior	✓	Negative School Orientation	
Positive Social Behavior	✓	Student Afraid at School	
Problem Behavior	✓	Victimization at School	
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions	✓	Feelings of Safety	
Normative Beliefs About Aggression		Student Support for Teachers	

NOTE: Abbreviations are

✓: Activity or outcome addressed

Blank cell: Activity or outcome not addressed

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Sample and Random Assignment

The Maryland research team recruited a total of 12 public elementary schools in a single school district in Maryland. The 12 schools were randomly assigned to treatment and control conditions prior to the fall 2004 data collection. A two-step process was used. First, a pairwise matching algorithm developed by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (MPR) was used to identify the best pairwise matches across the 12 schools based on variables identified by the Maryland research team. The variables used in the pairwise matching for the Maryland site included the following: (a) school mobility rate, (b) average daily attendance rate, (c) average national percentile rank of reading and math scores for fifth-graders, (d) average national percentile rank of reading and math scores for third-graders, (e) percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch, (f) school enrollment size, (g) percentage of families in the community with children in female-headed households with no husband present, (h) percentage of persons in the community aged 25 years and older with bachelor's degrees, and (i) population density. Second, using a computer-based pseudo random number generator, 1 school in each matched pair was assigned to either the intervention or the control condition. Six schools received the SS program and 6 schools acted as control schools and continued to implement the social and character development activities that constituted their standard practice. Assignment to treatment or control condition was at the school level and therefore limited the risk of contamination between treatment and control classrooms.

The original student sample (the cohort of students in the third grade in the 12 schools in fall 2004) numbered 944 students (524 treatment and 420 control). Table 8.2 documents the change in the sample over the three spring follow-up data collection periods. Over time, new entrants to the cohort became a larger percentage of the sample, eventually making up 14 percent of the sample by the spring of Year 3. There were no statistically significant differences between the treatment and control groups in the numbers of new entrants. The percentage of the sample made up of the original cohort further declined as students left the schools. By Year 3, approximately 9 percent of the original sample had left. There was a statistically significant difference between treatment and control schools in the percentage of students who had left (i.e., "leavers") in Year 3; the treatment schools had a larger percentage of leavers than control schools (11% versus 8%).

Table 8.2. Sample—SS

Characteristic	Year 1 (Fall 3rd grade)			Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control
School sample size	12	6	6	12	6	6	12	6	6	12	6	6
Student sample size	944	524	420	951	528	423	959	533	426	989	533	456
Stayers	†	†	†	918	510	408	826	456	370	855	467	388
New entrants	†	†	†	33	18	15	133	77	56	134	66	68
New entrants as a percent of spring enrollment	†	†	†	3.5	3.4	3.5	13.9	14.4	13.1	13.5	12.4	14.9
Total leavers (from original cohort)	†	†	†	26	14	12	118	68	50	89	57	32
Leavers as a percent of fall 2004 enrollment	†	†	†	2.8	2.7	2.9	12.5	13.0	11.9	9.4	10.9*	7.6
Number of students per school (mean)	79	87	70	79	88	71	80	89	71	82	89	76
Range of number of students per school	46-123	55-123	46-102	47-127	54-127	47-104	39-125	54-25	39-110	41-121	52-121	41-115

† Not applicable.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Implementation

Training

The intervention teachers received 2 days of program implementation training prior to the beginning of the school year (table 8.1, panel 3). School counselors provided ongoing program implementation support to teachers throughout the school year. School counselors received ongoing guidance through half-day monthly project meetings from the Maryland research team. In these monthly meetings, the research team provided detailed implementation feedback to the school counselors, who then conveyed the information to participating teachers on an as-needed basis.

Teachers participated in a 2-day training that focused on child development, social skills, and program implementation. Members of the Character Development Planning Teams (CDPTs) and other school staff members (e.g., principal, school counselors) received a condensed, 2.5-hour version of the teacher training. During the school year, school counselors participated in monthly half-day meetings with the Maryland research team to discuss program implementation. Teachers and CDPT members were invited to participate in a 1-day end-of-the-year workshop to review data on student progress and to plan implementation activities for the following year. Teams opted to do this after the first year of implementation only.

Data Collection

MPR collected the multiprogram child, teacher, and school data for the Maryland site. Table 8.3 shows the school year milestones and dates of implementation for the Maryland site. Data were collected in the fall and spring of the first 2 years and in the spring of Year 3. The fall 2004 multiprogram data collection began on October 11, 2004, and ended on October 29, 2004. The average time frame from the beginning of program implementation to the beginning of fall data collection was 5 weeks. As a result, initial data collection took place after implementation of the SS program began. Therefore, these data provide a measure of the students, teachers, and schools near the beginning of the school year, at a time when the SS program had been operating for a relatively short period of time. The spring data collection window was from April 25, 2005, to May 13, 2005. The SS program had been implemented for 33 weeks at the time of the spring data collection and for 25 weeks from the end of the fall data collection. Year 2 followed a similar pattern, with implementation occurring at the start of the school year, fall data collection occurring 8 weeks later, and spring data collection occurring 23 weeks after fall data collection (and 34 weeks after the start of implementation). In spring 2007, data collection occurred 34 weeks after the start of implementation. Data collection took from 3 to 5 weeks at each collection point.

Table 8.3. Data collection dates—SS

	Year 1	Year 1	Year 2	Year 2	Year 3
Data collection schedule	(Fall 3rd grade)	(Spring 3rd grade)	(Fall 4th grade)	(Spring 4th grade)	(Spring 5th grade)
School sample size	12	12	12	12	12
School year dates					
First day of school	8/30/04	†	8/29/05	†	8/28/06
Start of implementation	9/6/04	†	First day	†	First day
Last day of school	†	6/16/05	†	6/15/06	6/14/07
Data collection					
Start	10/11/04	4/25/05	10/24/05	4/24/06	4/23/07
End	10/29/04	5/13/05	11/11/05	5/12/06	5/10/07
Calendar weeks from program implementation to start of fall 2004 data collection					
	5	†	†	†	†
Calendar weeks from start of school to start of fall 2004 data collection					
	6	†	8	†	†
Calendar weeks from end of fall data collection to start of spring data collection					
	†	25	†	23	†
Calendar weeks from program implementation to start of spring data collection					
	†	33	†	34	34

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Consent Rates, Completion Rates, and Percentage of Sample With Data

The actual number of student, primary caregiver, and teacher reports available for analysis was smaller than the number in the sample because consent and completion rates were less than 100 percent. Primary caregivers had to provide consent before children could complete the Child Report, before their child's teacher could complete the Teacher Report on Student, and before they themselves completed the Primary Caregiver Report. There were statistically significant differences in consent for child and primary caregiver in Year 1; treatment caregivers had higher consent rates than control caregivers. Teachers also had to provide consent before completing the Teacher Report on Classroom and School. There were no statistically significant differences between treatment and control groups in consent rates for teachers.

Of those with consent, not all completed their respective reports. Table 8.4 shows the consent rates, completion rates, and percentages of sample with data for each of the four reports over the 3 years. For the Child Report and two teacher reports, completion rates ranged from 87 percent to 100 percent, with no statistically significant difference in completion rates between treatment and control groups. For the Primary Caregiver Report, the completion rates dropped over time from 96 percent to 83 percent. There was one statistically significant difference for the Primary Caregiver Report completion rate; in the spring of Year 1, fewer treatment group caregivers completed reports than did control group caregivers.

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The percentages of the sample with Child Report data ranged from 58 percent to 72 percent over the 3 years, with one statistically significant difference in the fall of Year 1. The percentages of students with information from the Teacher Report on Student ranged from 60 percent to 72 percent, again with one statistically significant difference in the fall of Year 1. The percentages of students with data from the Primary Caregiver Report ranged from 55 percent to 66 percent, also with one statistically significant difference in the fall of Year 1. The percentages of teachers with data from the Teacher Report on Classroom and School ranged from 87 percent to 97 percent, with no statistically significant differences between treatment and control teachers.

Table 8.4. Consent rates, completion rates, and percentage of sample with data from each report—SS

Report	Year 1 (Fall 3rd grade)			Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control	Total	Treat- ment	Control
Student sample size	944	524	420	951	528	423	959	533	426	989	533	456
Child Report (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate	65.0	68.9**	60.2	65.7	68.6*	62.2	71.1	72.4	69.5	68.4	70.4	66.0
Student completion rate	95.9	95.6	96.4	99.8	99.7	100.0	99.9	100.0	99.7	99.6	100.0	99.0
Students with data ¹	62.3	65.7	58.0	65.6	68.4	62.2	71.0	72.4	69.2	68.0	70.4	65.4
Primary Caregiver Report (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate	65.0	68.9**	60.2	65.7	68.8*	61.9	70.6	71.9	69.0	68.1	70.0	66.0
Primary caregiver completion rate	95.8	95.6	96.0	87.2	84.3*	91.2	87.6	88.0	87.1	83.2	83.4	83.1
Primary caregivers with data ¹	62.3	65.7	57.8	57.3	58.0	56.5	61.8	63.2	60.1	56.7	58.3	54.8
Teacher Report on Student (percent)												
Primary caregiver consent rate ²	65.0	68.9**	60.2	65.7	68.6*	62.2	71.1	72.4	69.5	68.4	70.4	66.0
Teacher completion rate	99.7	99.4	100.0	99.8	99.7	100.0	99.6	99.5	99.7	99.7	100.0	99.3
Students with data ¹	64.8	68.5	60.2	65.6	68.4	62.2	70.8	72.0	69.2	68.1	70.4	65.6
Teacher Report on Classroom and School (3rd- to 5th-grade teachers) (percent)												
Teacher consent rate	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Teacher completion rate	92.2	90.3	94.4	93.1	93.5	92.6	96.6	96.8	96.2	89.0	90.8	86.8
Teachers with data ¹	92.2	90.3	94.4	93.1	93.5	92.6	96.6	96.8	96.2	89.0	90.8	86.8

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

¹ Calculated as consent rate x completion rate.

² The primary caregiver consent rates for the Child Report and the Teacher Report on Student are identical, as the primary caregiver gave consent to both together.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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Responses from students in the original cohort (stayers) and new entrants in the SS sample were examined to investigate possible differences between the two groups in consent rates, completion rates, and the percentages of sample with data that might affect outcome data (table 8.5). In Years 1 and 2, the stayers had significantly higher consent rates than the new entrants (by 18 to 24 percentage points), and in Year 3, the opposite trend was found, with new entrants having significantly higher consent rates than stayers (by 18 percentage points). These differences in consent rates resulted in a similar pattern of differences for percentages of sample with data, with more data for the stayers in Years 1 and 2 on all three reports (by 17 to 22 percentage points), and more data for the new entrants in Year 3 on all three reports (by 15 to 16 percentage points).

Table 8.5. Consent rates, completion rates, and percentage of sample with data: Stayers versus new entrants—SS

Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)			Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)			Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)		
	Total	Stayers	New entrants	Total	Stayers	New entrants	Total	Stayers	New entrants
Student sample size	951	918	33	959	826	133	989	855	134
Child Report (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate	65.7	66.4*	45.5	71.7	73.7***	54.9	68.4	66.0***	83.6
Student completion rate	99.8	99.8	100.0	99.9	99.8	100.0	99.6	99.8*	98.2
Students with data ¹	65.6	66.3*	45.5	71.0	73.6***	54.9	68.0	65.8***	82.1
Primary Caregiver Report (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate	65.7	66.6**	42.4	70.6	73.1***	54.9	68.1	65.7***	83.6
Primary caregiver completion rate	87.2	87.2	85.7	87.6	87.7	86.3	83.4	83.5	83.0
Primary caregivers with data ¹	57.3	58.1*	36.4	61.8	64.2***	47.4	56.8	54.9**	69.4
Teacher Report on Student (percent)									
Primary caregiver consent rate ²	65.7	66.4*	45.5	71.7	73.7***	54.9	68.4	66.0***	83.6
Teacher completion rate	99.8	99.8	100.0	99.6	99.7	98.6	99.7	100.0**	98.2
Students with data ¹	65.6	66.3*	45.5	70.8	73.5***	54.1	68.1	66.0***	82.1

* Stayers significantly different from new entrants at the .05 level.

** Stayers significantly different from new entrants at the .01 level.

*** Stayers significantly different from new entrants at the .001 level.

¹ Calculated as consent rate x completion rate.

² The primary caregiver consent rates for the Child Report and the Teacher Report on Student are identical, as the primary caregiver gave consent to both together.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Fidelity of Implementation

In Years 2 and 3, the six SS treatment group schools were individually rated for the quantity and quality of the program's implementation by two raters from the research team (in Year 1, only one rater was used). The global measure of fidelity for the multisite study was used; inter-rater reliability was measured using Cronbach's alpha (Year 2 = 1.00 and Year 3 = 0.99). The ratings were combined into a single consensus rating and used to identify schools with high implementation fidelity. In Year 2, five treatment schools were identified as having high fidelity, and in Year 3 four schools were. Cohen's kappa was used as the measure of agreement when identifying schools as high fidelity, and it equaled 1.00 in both years. In Year 1, four treatment schools were identified as having high fidelity; however, only one rater was used, and therefore inter-rater reliability could not be determined.

Initial Characteristics

This section examines the initial characteristics of the students, teachers, and schools participating in the evaluation of the SS program. These characteristics were collected from students who were enrolled in the third grade at the study schools in fall 2004, as well as from their primary caregivers and third-grade teachers. In addition, third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers and principals in the study schools provided information about activities related to social and character development in these schools. Documenting the characteristics of students, teachers, and schools and initial measures of key outcomes at a point before the interventions had been operating for an extended period helped to determine whether the random assignment of schools to treatment and control status produced treatment and control groups with similar distributions of observed characteristics. As noted in the following discussion, there were 13 significant differences in the observed characteristics, 12 of which (out of 62 comparisons, with 3 expected to be significant by chance) were related to differences between the treatment and control students, teachers, and schools in the use of SCD activities in the classroom and school.

Characteristics of Children, Their Families, and Communities

The mean age of students in the overall SS sample was 8.0 years. The sample contained equal percentages of girls (50%) and boys (50%). The sample had some ethnic diversity, with White non-Hispanic students making up 83 percent of the sample, Black non-Hispanic students making up 7 percent of the sample, and Hispanic students making up 5 percent of the sample.

The sample was also somewhat diverse in its levels of family income, education levels of primary caregivers of the children in the sample, and family situation. For the total sample, 5 percent of children lived in a household where the income was 135 percent of the federal poverty level or lower, which is the income threshold for eligibility for free school meals. About 4 percent of primary caregivers had not completed high school. There was a statistically significant difference between the groups, with more control group caregivers not having completed high school than treatment group caregivers (5% versus 4%). The majority of the children (80%) lived with both their mother and their father.

The mean values of the outcomes for children's behavior and attitudes as reported by the primary caregiver, child, and teacher at initial data collection in fall 2004 are shown in table 8.7. There were no significant differences between the treatment and control groups.

Table 8.6. Initial characteristics of children, their families, and communities—SS

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Student sample size	588	345	243
Student demographics			
Gender (percent)			
Male	50.4	51.6	49.3
Female	49.6	48.4	50.7
Race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	82.9	85.8	80.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	6.6	5.3	7.8
Hispanic	4.7	2.9	6.5
Other	5.8	6.0	5.6
Age (in years) (mean)	8.0	8.0	8.0
Primary caregiver and family characteristics			
Primary caregiver's age (in years) (mean)	38.6	38.3	38.9
Primary caregiver's race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	84.7	88.4	80.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	7.0	5.6	8.3
Hispanic	4.2	2.0	6.4
Other	4.2	3.9	4.4
Primary caregiver's education (percent)			
Did not complete high school	4.1	3.5*	4.6
Completed high school or equivalent	13.5	18.2	8.8
Some college	36.1	34.5	37.6
Bachelor's or higher degree	46.4	43.8	49.0
Primary caregiver's employment (percent)			
Full-time	49.2	50.3	48.0
Other	50.8	49.7	52.0
Primary caregiver's marital status (percent)			
Married	79.3	79.4	79.3
Other	20.7	20.6	20.7
Students who live in one household (percent)	96.1	95.0	97.1
Number of individuals in household (mean)	4.7	4.6	4.8
Primary caregiver's relationship to child (percent)			
Mother (stepmother)	90.1	90.1	90.1
Father (stepfather)	7.6	6.9	8.3
Other relative/nonrelative	2.3	3.0	1.5

See notes at end of table.

Table 8.6. Initial characteristics of children, their families, and communities—SS—Continued

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Student lives with (percent)			
Mother (stepmother) and father (stepfather)	80.3	79.3	81.2
Mother (stepmother) only; father (stepfather) not present	15.3	15.9	14.8
Father (stepfather) only; mother (stepmother) not present	2.8	2.7	3.0
Other relative/nonrelative, parents not present	1.6	‡	‡
Highest education of anyone in household (percent)			
Did not complete high school	1.4	1.5	1.2
Completed high school or equivalent	10.0	13.0	7.0
Some college	31.3	30.5	32.1
Bachelor's or higher degree	57.3	54.9	59.7
Total household income (percent)			
Less than \$20,000	2.2	1.7	2.6
\$20,000 to \$39,999	10.1	10.3	10.0
\$40,000 to \$59,999	11.2	12.3	10.2
\$60,000 or more	76.5	75.7	77.2
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio—Below 135 percent (percent)	5.1	4.9	5.3
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio—135 to 185 percent (percent)	7.2	7.5	6.8
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio—Above 185 percent (percent)	87.7	87.6	87.8
Alabama Parenting Questionnaire—Poor Monitoring and Supervision Subscale (mean)	1.1	1.1	1.1
Alabama Parenting Questionnaire—Positive Parenting Subscale (mean)	3.5	3.5	3.5
Confusion, Hubbub, and Order Scale (mean)	2.2	2.3	2.2
Community characteristics (mean)			
Community Risks Scale	1.1	1.1	1.1
Community Resources Scale	3.1	3.0	3.1
Child-Centered Social Control Scale	3.5	3.5	3.5

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 8.7. Mean scores and standard deviations for initial outcome measures of sample—SS

Outcome measure—Report	Range	Total		Treatment		Control	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Social and Emotional Competence Domain							
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interaction—CR	1-4	3.0	0.6	3.0	0.6	3.0	0.6
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR	1-4	1.2	0.4	1.2	0.4	1.2	0.4
Empathy—CR	1-3	2.4	0.4	2.5	0.3	2.4	0.4
Behavior Domain							
Altruistic Behavior—Child	0-3	1.2	0.8	1.2	0.8	1.2	0.8
Altruistic Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.4	0.5	1.5	0.6	1.4	0.4
Altruistic Behavior—PCR	1-4	2.1	0.7	2.2	0.7	2.1	0.7
Positive Social Behavior—TRS	1-4	3.4	0.6	3.4	0.6	3.4	0.6
Positive Social Behavior—PCR	1-4	3.1	0.5	3.2	0.5	3.1	0.5
Problem Behavior—CR	0-3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Problem Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.2	0.3	1.2	0.3	1.2	0.3
Problem Behavior—PCR	1-4	1.5	0.3	1.5	0.3	1.5	0.3
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS	1-4	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.6
Academics Domain							
Academic Competence and Motivation—TRS	1-5	3.3	0.8	3.3	0.8	3.4	0.8
Engagement with Learning—CR	1-4	3.8	0.4	3.8	0.4	3.8	0.4
Perceptions of School Climate Domain							
Positive School Orientation—CR	1-4	3.4	0.5	3.4	0.5	3.3	0.5
Negative School Orientation—CR	1-4	1.5	0.5	1.5	0.4	1.5	0.5
Student Afraid at School—CR	1-4	2.1	0.9	2.1	0.9	2.1	0.9
Victimization at School—CR	0-3	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.7
Student sample size—PCR		588		345		243	
Student sample size—CR		589		345		244	
Student sample size—TRS		612		359		253	

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

SD: Standard deviation

No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Characteristics of Teachers and Schools

Table 8.8 describes the third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers at the study schools. The majority were White non-Hispanic (92%) and female (96%). They had an average of 12.3 years of total teaching experience, and more than half (59%) held an advanced or specialist degree. There were no significant differences between the treatment and control groups in these characteristics.

Data regarding school characteristics were drawn from the Common Core of Data in order to compare treatment and control schools. There were no significant differences between the two groups of schools in terms of student composition (race/ethnicity and school lunch eligibility), number of students enrolled, number of full-time teachers, Title I status, or number of years the principal had been at the school (see table 8.9). In addition, there were no significant differences between treatment and control schools in terms of location (urban, suburban, or rural) or lowest and highest grade offered (these data are not shown in a table).

Table 8.8. Initial characteristics of teachers in sample—SS

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
Teacher sample size	107	56	51
Gender (percent)			
Male	4.0	‡	‡
Female	96.0	‡	‡
Race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	92.1	93.9	90.3
Other	7.9	6.1	9.7
Number of years teaching experience (mean)	12.3	12.8	11.8
Number of years teaching experience this school (mean)	7.5	8.2	6.7
Type of teaching certificate (percent)			
Regular state certificate or advanced professional certificate	97.5	95.1	100.0
Other	2.5	4.9	0.0
Education (percent)			
Bachelor's degree	41.0	36.6	45.4
Advanced degree/other	59.0	63.4	54.6

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Table 8.9. Initial characteristics of schools in sample—SS

Characteristic	Total	Treatment	Control
School sample size	12	6	6
Student race/ethnicity (percent)			
White (non-Hispanic)	83.7	88.2	79.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	10.4	7.1	13.6
Hispanic	2.2	1.2	3.3
Other	3.7	3.5	3.8
Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (percent)	12.2	11.7	12.6
Number of students enrolled (mean)	453.8	491.8	415.7
Number of full-time teachers (mean)	26.1	27.1	25.1
Title I status (percent)			
Title I eligible school	16.7	16.7	16.7
Schoolwide Title I	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number of years principal has been at this school (mean)	4.2	4.0	4.4

NOTE: No statistically significant differences were found between values for treatment and control groups. Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: NCES Common Core of Data (2003-04), the Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

In the Teacher Report on Classroom and School, teachers reported on nine dimensions of school environment (these data are not shown in a table): feelings of safety, adequacy of resources, student support, freedom to teach as desired, affiliation with and ties to colleagues, innovation regarding new approaches to teaching, professional interest, participatory decisionmaking, and work pressure. There were no statistically significant differences between treatment and control schools in these reports.

The Level of SACD in the Schools Near the Beginning of the Study

During the initial data collection, principals and teachers reported on the SACD activities used in the schools and classrooms, the availability of SACD materials, and the professional development provided on SACD. Table 8.10 shows that the majority of the school principals reported activities to promote six social and character development goals: violence prevention and peace promotion (92%), social and emotional development (100%), character education (100%), tolerance and diversity (92%), risk prevention and health promotion (75%), and civic responsibility and community service (83%). In addition, all of the principals reported activities directed toward behavior management. There were no statistically significant differences between the treatment and the control group schools in the percentages reported by principals, although this may be due to the small principal sample size. Teachers reported that use of these activities in their classrooms ranged from 47 percent to 92 percent, with three significant differences (out of eight comparisons) between treatment and control teachers: larger percentages of treatment teachers than control teachers reported the use of social and emotional development (89% versus 61%) and character education (99% versus 85%) activities in their classrooms, while more control than treatment teachers reported the use of civic responsibility and community service activities (69% versus 48%) in their classrooms. With respect to the use of schoolwide activities, 62 percent to 96 percent of teachers reported that their schools used such activities. There were no significant differences between treatment and control groups.

Table 8.10. Principal and teacher initial reports on use of SCD programs or activities in sample—SS

SACD program or activity	Total	Treatment	Control
Principal sample size	12	6	6
Teacher sample size	107	56	51
Principals reporting that school had programs or activities to promote the following SCD goals (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	91.7	100.0	83.3
Social and emotional development	100.0	100.0	100.0
Character education	100.0	100.0	100.0
Tolerance and diversity	91.7	100.0	83.3
Risk prevention and health promotion	75.0	83.3	66.7
Civic responsibility and community service	83.3	100.0	66.7
Behavior management	100.0	100.0	100.0
None of the above	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teachers reporting on using programs or activities in their class to promote the following SCD goals (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	57.6	62.2	53.1
Social and emotional development	74.9	89.0**	60.9
Character education	91.9	98.6*	85.1
Tolerance and diversity	58.8	60.5	57.0
Risk prevention and health promotion	46.9	46.6	47.2
Civic responsibility and community service	58.7	48.1*	69.3
Behavior management	89.4	91.5	87.3
None of the above	‡	0.0	‡
Teachers reporting schoolwide use of the following activities to promote SCD (percent)			
Morning announcements or videos	96.2	94.8	97.6
School assemblies	65.1	56.2	73.9
School newspapers or bulletins	84.1	83.0	85.2
Special school days	61.8	62.4	61.1
Special events	68.1	65.4	70.8
Other activities	10.0	13.7	6.4

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SCD) Research Program.

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Teachers reported using a broad range of teaching materials to support SACD activities (table 8.11), including teacher guides (85%), student materials (45%), instructional aids (35%), giveaways (54%), and children's literature (38%). There was one statistically significant difference (out of seven comparisons) in the use of instructional aids, with more treatment teachers than control teachers reporting their use (52% versus 18%).

Teachers also reported using a wide variety of teaching strategies (table 8.11). All teachers reported using any of the 20 strategies asked about, and teachers used an average of 12 of the strategies. There were 4 significant differences (out of 20 comparisons) between treatment and control teachers in the use of these specific strategies. More treatment teachers than control teachers reported using role-playing (98% versus 44%), direct instruction of SACD (98% versus 73%), skill training (68% versus 34%), and guided visualization (65% versus 29%).

Table 8.11. Teacher initial reports on use of SACD materials and classroom strategies in the sample—SS

SACD material and classroom strategy	Total	Treatment	Control
Teacher sample size	107	56	51
Teachers using the following materials in conjunction with social and character development activities (percent)			
Teacher guides (manuals, curricula)	84.9	93.5	76.3
Student materials (workbooks, worksheets)	45.2	47.8	42.6
Instructional aids (games, software, videos)	34.9	52.1**	17.8
Giveaways (bookmarks, stickers)	54.0	49.8	58.3
Children's literature	37.5	43.7	31.4
Other types of materials	13.6	11.6	15.5
Do not use any of the materials listed above	4.8	‡	‡
Teachers using any of the strategies listed below to promote social and character development in the classroom (percent)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of strategies (listed below) used by teachers to promote social and character development in the classroom (mean)	12.0	12.6	11.3
Teachers using each of the following strategies to promote social and character development (percent)			
Role-playing	71.0	98.3**	43.6
Cooperative learning	95.6	98.3	92.9
Peer group discussions	85.7	90.4	81.0
Direct instruction of social and character development	85.5	97.9*	73.0
Skill training	51.1	68.4*	33.8
Incorporating social and character development into academic curriculum	80.1	80.4	79.8
Parent training	10.3	11.0	9.7
Parent/community involvement in program development or delivery	36.0	37.8	34.2
Mentoring	43.3	37.0	49.7
Good behavior notes sent home daily or weekly	77.2	75.1	79.3
Presenting role models	69.3	74.6	64.0
Targeted story reading or writing on SACD themes	67.1	73.8	60.3
Peer mediation	30.1	26.2	34.0
Honor roll for positive behavior	42.7	36.6	48.9
Pledges or recitations on social and character development themes	34.6	35.0	34.1
Guided visualization	47.0	65.2*	28.9
Student-led/student-assisted instruction	43.4	38.6	48.2
Journaling	66.4	68.7	64.1
Time out for negative behavior	80.0	80.0	80.1
Daily or weekly rewards for positive behavior	89.5	87.6	91.5

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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Principals and teachers reported on participation in and amount of SCD training and staff development provided over the previous 12 months (table 8.12). Principals reported higher participation rates (100% versus 81%) and more hours of training (9.7 versus 7.6) than did teachers. There was a significant difference between treatment and control teachers on the percentages reporting participation in SCD training; this favored the treatment group (96% versus 67%). The treatment teachers also reported significantly more training than did the control teachers on three out of seven specific SCD areas: violence prevention and peace promotion (24% versus 9%), social and emotional development (43% versus 13%), and character education (90% versus 50%).

Table 8.12. Principal and teacher initial reports on SCD professional development in sample—SS

SACD professional development	Total	Treatment	Control
Principal sample size	12	6	6
Teacher sample size	107	56	51
Principals reporting that staff participated in social and character development training within the past year (percent)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Teachers reporting participation in social and character development training within the past 12 months (percent)	81.4	95.6**	67.2
Number of hours of social and character development training principals report were provided to each staff person last year (mean)	9.7	8.2	11.6
Number of hours of social and character development training teachers report receiving during the past 12 months (mean)	7.6	9.3	5.8
Teachers reporting receiving training in the past 12 months in the following areas (percent)			
Violence prevention and peace promotion	16.5	24.2*	8.8
Social and emotional development	27.7	42.5**	12.9
Character education	69.9	89.8**	50.0
Tolerance and diversity	11.6	7.7	15.5
Risk prevention and health promotion	14.7	13.1	16.4
Civic responsibility and community service	3.1	‡	‡
Behavior management	25.4	19.0	31.8

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

** Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .01 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within each of the programs and to each program across programs, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means. Statistical tests were conducted using regressions that included program indicators to account for the sample design and adjusted for clustering at the school level. Sample size may differ for some outcomes due to nonresponse.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SCD) Research Program.

The data on the initial level of SCD activity emphasize that the control condition was a “standard practice” control. Standard practice at the control schools included using SCD activities, materials, and practices, along with professional development, at rates and in types and amounts similar to the treatment schools. For example, the percentages of teachers who reported using programs or activities to promote specific SCD goals ranged from 47 percent to 99 percent in the treatment schools and from 47 percent to 87 percent in the control schools. However, the 12 significant differences between the treatment and control schools in the use of SCD activities was more than expected by chance (which would be 3 out of 62 comparisons), and in all but 1 case the differences favored the treatment group. This may reflect the fact that program implementation and program training for staff started before initial data collection.

Impacts on Use of SCD Activities

The introduction of the formal SS program would be expected to increase the use of SCD activities in the treatment schools in comparison to the control schools. The analysis of this impact was based on the Teacher Report on Classroom and School. Every spring, third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teachers provided information through the Teacher Report on Classroom and School about the social and character development activities they used in their classrooms. Specifically, information from the Teacher Report on Classroom and School was used to determine the difference between treatment and control teachers in these areas:

1. the use of SCD activities in their classrooms overall and by SCD goal;
2. the use of materials and strategies to implement the SCD activities within classrooms and within the entire school;
3. the use of staff development to support the teachers; and
4. teacher support for SCD efforts in the school and the use of practices conducive to the social and character development of students.

Teacher Report on Classroom and School consent and completion rates (table 8.4) led to 87 percent to 97 percent of teachers overall having data for the 3 years (with a greater percentage of treatment teachers providing data at all but one time point). To estimate intervention impacts for each of the outcomes, testing of the statistical significance of the differences in means was used. Preliminary analysis indicated little or no gains in precision from using covariates. Before testing the mean differences, the data were weighted such that each school received equal weight. Standard errors of the impact estimates account for the clustering of teachers within schools. In addition, a set of heuristics was applied to determine whether each outcome domain was statistically significant after adjustments were made for the multiple tests conducted.

Use of Activities

The percentages of control teachers who reported using any SCD activities in their classrooms ranged from 81 percent to 92 percent over the 3 years (table 8.13, panel 1). For the six individual SCD goals, the percentages ranged from 53 percent to 86 percent in Year 1, 51 percent to 89 percent in Year 2, and 45 percent to 74 percent in Year 3. Control teachers’ use of behavior management activities ranged from 86 percent to 96 percent over this period. The percentages of control teachers who reported using any SCD activities in their classrooms for at least 1 hour per week (panel 2) ranged from 39 percent to 74 percent over the 3 years. For the six individual SCD goals, the percentages ranged from 0 percent to 20 percent in Year 1, 9 percent to 23 percent in Year 2, and 6 percent to 23 percent in Year 3. Control teachers’ reported use of behavior management activities ranged from 67 percent to 77 percent over this period.

For teachers’ reported use of any SCD activity (panels 1 and 2), 48 comparisons were made, with 2 expected to be significant by chance. The percentage of treatment teachers using any SCD activity was not significantly different from the percentage of control teachers in any year. There were significant impacts on the use of specific activities in all 3 years. In Year 1, there were significant impacts on violence prevention and

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peace promotion (impact = 31 percentage points) and on social and emotional development (impact = 39 percentage points). The same impacts were seen in Years 2 and 3 (impacts ranging from 25 to 40 percentage points). In Year 2, there was a significant impact on tolerance and diversity (impact = 23 percentage points) and another in Year 3 (impact = 32 percentage points). In Year 3, there was an impact on character education (impact = 22 percentage points). A similar pattern was seen in the reports of engagement in these activities for at least 1 hour per week. Significant impacts occurred on violence prevention and peace promotion in Year 2 (impact = 37 percentage points), social and emotional development activities in Year 1 (impact = 37 percentage points) and Year 2 (impact = 40 percentage points), character education in Year 1 (impact = 52 percentage points) and Year 2 (impact = 37 percentage points), and tolerance and diversity in Year 2 (impact = 26 percentage points) and Year 3 (impact = 31 percentage points). The use of any activity for at least 1 hour per week was significantly impacted in Year 1 (impact = 30 percentage points). After the heuristics were applied, the domain for engagement in SCD activities showed that SS had statistically significant impacts for all 3 years.

For teachers' reported use of any named SCD activity (panels 3 and 4), 42 comparisons were made, with 2 expected to be significant by chance. Eight of the 14 impact estimates were statistically significant in Year 1, with a significant impact on the domain as well. Ten of the 14 tested impacts were significant in Year 2, and there was an overall impact on the domain. Seven of the 14 tested impacts were significant in Year 3, again with a significant impact on the domain. In all 3 years, impacts were seen on violence prevention (impact = 53, 69, and 63 percentage points), social and emotional development (impact = 73, 80, and 81 percentage points), character education (impact = 45, 53, and 61 percentage points), tolerance and diversity (impact = 49, 45, and 49 percentage points), and any named activity (impact = 40, 49, and 53 percentage points). For any named activity at least 1 hour per week, SS had significant impacts on violence prevention in Year 2 (impact = 40 percentage points), social and emotional development in Years 1 and 2 (impact = 46 and 50 percentage points), character education in Years 1 and 2 (impact = 46 and 45 percentage points), tolerance and diversity in Years 2 and 3 (impact = 27 and 28 percentage points), and any named activity in all 3 years (impact = 49, 46, and 40 percentage points). After the heuristics were applied, SS had statistically significant impacts on the domain for engagement in named SCD activities in all 3 years.

Table 8.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—SSPanel 1: Engagement in any activities to promote SACD goals¹

SACD activity	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	(Spring 3rd grade)				(Spring 4th grade)				(Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	61	52			60	52			59	46		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	87.3*	56.2	31.1	0.017	91.5*	66.2	25.3	0.011	88.5*	50.5	38.0	0.005
Social and emotional development (percent)	91.9*	53.0	38.9	0.002	96.7*	64.9	31.8	0.002	94.9*	54.8	40.1	0.004
Character education (percent)	98.1^	86.4	11.8	0.083	100.0	88.8	11.2	†	96.1*	73.8	22.3	0.028
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	80.9^	62.0	19.0	0.092	85.1*	62.3	22.7	0.002	76.4*	44.7	31.8	0.022
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	52.7	63.2	-10.4	0.457	57.9	51.1	6.8	0.502	59.3	62.4	-3.1	0.819
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	70.4	73.7	-3.3	0.751	67.3	68.0	-0.6	0.959	70.5	66.7	3.8	0.732
Any SACD goal (percent)	100.0	87.8	12.2	†	100.0	91.5	8.5	†	97.9^	80.7	17.2	0.076
Behavior management (percent)	89.4	96.2	-6.8	0.187	92.3	85.7	6.6	0.213	85.4	89.8	-4.4	0.614

See notes at end of table.

Table 8.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—SS—Continued

Panel 2: Engagement in any activities to promote SACD goals for at least 1 hour per week

SACD activity	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	61	52			60	52			59	46		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	42.7	0.0	42.7	†	50.2*	13.1	37.1	0.026	38.2	12.5	25.7	0.109
Social and emotional development (percent)	49.8*	12.4	37.3	0.007	55.9*	16.1	39.8	0.005	48.2^	16.9	31.3	0.079
Character education (percent)	64.8*	13.2	51.5	0.002	60.2*	23.0	37.1	0.040	44.1^	23.3	20.9	0.094
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	36.1	19.6	16.5	0.199	41.9*	15.6	26.2	0.042	38.5*	7.4	31.1	0.010
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	13.9	9.7	4.2	0.527	13.3	8.5	4.8	0.530	16.0	6.4	9.6	0.181
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	11.2	11.8	-0.6	0.934	13.3	17.0	-3.7	0.591	13.9^	10.6	3.3	0.699
Any SACD goal (percent)	69.2*	39.4	29.7	0.045	83.4^	61.1	22.2	0.052	85.4	73.9	11.5	0.245
Behavior management (percent)	63.1	76.6	-13.5	0.417	79.3	67.4	11.9	0.331	73.0	77.3	-4.3	0.688

See notes at end of table.

Table 8.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD classroom activities—SS—ContinuedPanel 3: Engagement in activities to promote SACD goals linked to named SACD programs²

SACD activity	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	61	52			60	52			59	46		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	68.0*	15.0	53.0	0.002	76.3*	7.3	69.0	0.001	78.4*	15.6	62.8	0.004
Social and emotional development (percent)	86.8*	13.9	72.9	0.001	85.4*	5.8	79.6	0.000	93.4*	12.8	80.6	0.001
Character education (percent)	85.9*	41.4	44.5	0.008	82.0*	29.5	52.6	0.003	85.1*	24.4	60.7	0.003
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	62.4*	13.2	49.2	0.009	55.2*	10.2	45.0	0.000	58.9*	10.1	48.8	0.000
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	28.0	21.6	6.4	0.520	18.3	12.8	5.5	0.487	30.2	15.6	14.6	0.267
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	5.6	0.0	5.6	†	‡	‡	-3.8	0.310	13.8	6.8	7.0	0.294
Any named activity (percent)	97.0*	57.3	39.7	0.001	91.0*	42.5	48.5	0.001	97.9*	45.0	53.0	0.004
See notes at end of table.												

Table 8.13. Impacts on teacher-reported SCD classroom activities—SS—Continued

Panel 4: Engagement in activities to promote SCD goals linked to named SCD programs for at least 1 hour per week

SACD activity	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Teacher sample size	61	52			60	52			59	46		
Violence prevention and peace promotion (percent)	42.7	0.0	42.7	†	‡*	‡	40.0	0.002	37.0	8.7	28.3	0.138
Social and emotional development (percent)	‡*	‡	46.1	0.011	‡*	‡	50.4	0.002	48.2^	9.1	39.1	0.083
Character education (percent)	57.3*	11.1	46.2	0.002	54.4*	9.4	45.0	0.002	42.5^	12.8	29.7	0.089
Tolerance and diversity (percent)	36.1	0.0	36.1	†	‡*	‡	26.8	0.005	‡*	‡	28.1	0.006
Risk prevention and health promotion (percent)	‡	‡	7.1	0.187	10.1	7.3	2.9	0.688	‡	‡	9.6	0.119
Civic responsibility and community service (percent)	‡	‡	2.7	†	‡	‡	0.4	0.904	6.5	0.0	6.5	†
Any named activity (percent)	64.6*	15.7	49.0	0.015	59.5*	13.6	45.9	0.001	57.2*	17.5	39.7	0.039

† Not applicable.

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

^ Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

¹ In all 3 years at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts. In Year 2 at least half of the impacts were positive and statistically significant and no impact was negative and statistically significant based on univariate statistical tests.

² In all 3 years at least half of the impacts were positive and statistically significant and no impact was negative and statistically significant based on univariate statistical tests and at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Use of Materials and Strategies

For use of materials and strategies to support SACD goals, 87 comparisons were made, with 4 expected to be significant by chance. In Year 1, significant impacts were found for teachers' use of teacher guides (impact = 30 percentage points), instructional aids (impact = 36 percentage points), role-playing (impact = 37 percentage points), skill training (impact = 59 percentage points), incorporating SACD into the academic curriculum (impact = 27 percentage points), presenting role models (impact = 17 percentage points), using guided visualization (impact = 43 percentage points), and the average number of strategies used (by 2.7 strategies on average). In Year 2, SS significantly affected the use of teacher guides (impact = 39 percentage points), student materials (impact = 30 percentage points), instructional aids (impact = 24 percentage points), direct instruction of SACD (impact = 26 percentage points), skill training (impact = 52 percentage points), incorporating SACD into academic curriculum (impact = 21 percentage points), guided visualization (impact = 40 percentage points), and average number of strategies used (by 2.7 strategies on average). Significant impacts in Year 3 affected use of teacher guides (impact = 45 percentage points), instructional aids (impact = 28 percentage points), skill training (impact = 17 percentage points), parent training (impact = 36 percentage points), parent and community involvement (impact = 25 percentage points), guided visualization (impact = 38 percentage points), and average number of strategies (by 2.7 strategies on average). The SS impact on the domain of materials and strategies was significant in all 3 years.

Table 8.14. Impacts on use of SACD classroom materials and teaching strategies—SS

SACD material and teaching strategy ¹	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
	61	52			60	52			59	46		
Teacher sample size												
Use of SACD materials (percent)												
Teacher guides (manuals, curricula)	93.0*	62.7	30.4	0.000	98.1*	59.1	39.0	0.005	94.7*	50.2	44.5	0.003
Student materials (workbooks or sheets)	70.0	52.1	17.9	0.126	78.7*	48.6	30.1	0.021	67.1	52.9	14.3	0.192
Instructional aids (games, software, videos)	64.6*	28.7	35.9	0.005	62.8*	38.6	24.2	0.015	61.5*	33.6	27.9	0.005
Giveaways (bookmarks, stickers)	52.3	66.6	-14.3	0.343	59.1	66.8	-7.7	0.504	44.1	62.3	-18.2	0.203
Children's literature	40.8	35.4	5.4	0.765	46.7	38.7	8.0	0.587	40.6	33.9	6.8	0.381
Other types of materials	8.5	9.7	-1.1	0.843	10.9	12.2	-1.2	0.875	‡	‡	4.7	0.463
Did not use any of these materials	0.0	13.2	-13.2	†	0.0	14.7	-14.7	†	0.0	14.1	-14.1	†
Use of teaching strategies (percent)												
Role-playing	97.5*	60.2	37.2	0.008	100.0	62.9	37.1	†	100.0	73.1	27.0	†
Cooperative learning	97.2	92.9	4.3	0.365	98.3	95.5	2.8	0.404	100.0	91.7	8.3	†
Peer group discussions	95.4	86.1	9.3	0.153	91.4^	75.4	16.0	0.064	100.0	90.4	9.6	†
Direct instruction of SACD	100.0	72.8	27.2	†	97.9*	72.4	25.5	0.015	100.0	86.2	13.8	†
Skill training	88.5*	29.5	59.1	0.000	89.0*	36.7	52.3	0.000	94.4*	77.8	16.5	0.047
Incorporating SACD into academic curriculum	96.3*	69.1	27.2	0.003	87.4*	66.9	20.5	0.045	94.0	95.1	-1.1	0.825
Parent training	20.1	9.7	10.5	0.302	‡	‡	2.4	0.601	‡*	‡	35.9	0.002
Parent/community involvement	41.7	38.3	3.5	0.763	36.1^	18.5	17.6	0.093	62.2*	37.5	24.6	0.020
Mentoring	45.7	49.4	-3.7	0.820	42.7	42.5	0.2	0.988	74.7	67.6	7.1	0.569
Good behavior notes sent home daily or weekly	72.9	76.8	-3.9	0.766	73.6	79.2	-5.6	0.626	96.5	91.5	5.0	0.219
Presenting role models	85.7*	69.1	16.5	0.009	87.6	73.5	14.1	0.117	92.5	77.9	14.6	0.131

See notes at end of table.

Table 8.14. Impacts on use of SACD classroom materials and teaching strategies—SS—Continued

SACD material and teaching strategy ¹	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
Use of teaching strategies (percent)— Continued												
Targeted story reading or writing on social and character development themes	75.3	60.1	15.2	0.266	67.6	55.9	11.7	0.303	89.9	85.9	4.0	0.614
Peer mediation	38.8	37.0	1.9	0.887	38.0	41.4	-3.4	0.822	52.4	49.4	3.0	0.833
Honor roll for positive behavior	38.6	54.5	-15.8	0.371	58.2	53.0	5.2	0.749	68.1	57.0	11.1	0.554
Pledges or recitations on social and character development themes	43.2	29.2	14.0	0.451	35.3	32.1	3.2	0.838	56.8	40.9	16.0	0.317
Guided visualization	73.9*	30.8	43.1	0.000	71.3*	31.5	39.9	0.006	92.0*	54.6	37.5	0.001
Student-led/student-assisted instruction	46.4	38.3	8.1	0.553	55.1^	33.3	21.8	0.051	63.4	71.9	-8.5	0.362
Journaling	68.7	50.0	18.7	0.099	67.4	50.1	17.2	0.106	84.3	68.9	15.4	0.264
Time out for negative behavior	74.9	86.1	-11.2	0.331	82.9	90.1	-7.2	0.185	96.3	97.1	-0.8	0.857
Daily or weekly rewards for positive behavior	89.6	80.0	9.5	0.192	89.1	88.6	0.4	0.949	100.0	97.2	2.8	†
Any strategy	100.0	98.6	1.4	†	100.0	100.0	0.0	†	100.0	97.2	2.8	†
Number of strategies (mean)	13.8*	11.1	2.7	0.001	13.7*	10.9	2.7	0.002	16.3*	13.6	2.7	0.000

† Not applicable.

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

^ Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

¹ In all 3 years at least one outcome remained positive and statistically significant and no outcome was negative and statistically significant after applying the Benjamini-Hochberg (1995) procedure to adjust significance levels downward to account for the multiple testing of impacts.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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Regarding the use of schoolwide strategies, 18 comparisons were made between treatment and control teacher reports, with 1 expected to be significant by chance. There was no SS impact on teachers' reports of their schools' use of schoolwide strategies in any of the years (these data are not shown in a table), nor was there a significant impact on the domain in any year.

Participation in Professional Development

Regarding reported participation in professional development, 27 comparisons were made over 3 years, with 1 expected to be significant by chance. In Year 1, SS had an impact on SCD training (impact = 32 percentage points) and training in the specific goal of character education (impact = 29 percentage points). No significant impacts were found on the domain in any of the 3 years.

Table 8.15. Impacts on teacher-reported SACD professional development—SS

	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Impact	p-value
SACD professional development												
Teacher sample size	61	52			60	52			59	46		
SACD training in past 12 months (percent)	87.0*	54.7	32.3	0.009	60.2	48.1	12.1	0.295	44.9	42.8	2.1	0.864
Hours of SACD training (mean)	6.4	4.5	1.9	0.302	4.3	4.8	-0.4	0.859	3.1	2.9	0.1	0.934
Training by goal (percent)												
Violence prevention and peace promotion	21.0	13.5	7.5	0.267	10.6	10.4	0.2	0.973	12.9	9.0	3.9	0.581
Social and emotional development	32.1	16.8	15.3	0.208	14.4	18.5	-4.1	0.690	‡	‡	10.6	0.140
Character education	75.5*	46.2	29.3	0.029	43.7	31.5	12.2	0.267	24.4	27.9	-3.4	0.792
Tolerance and diversity	9.7	9.0	0.7	0.919	13.5	18.4	-4.9	0.647	4.5	8.3	-3.8	0.394
Risk prevention and health promotion	20.2	25.2	-5.0	0.438	8.6	19.9	-11.3	0.178	11.0	14.6	-3.6	0.614
Civic responsibility and community service	‡	‡	5.0	0.294	‡	‡	5.0	0.358	‡	‡	-2.8	0.502
Behavior management	13.8	27.9	-14.1	0.269	16.2	17.3	-1.1	0.891	4.9^	18.3	-13.5	0.073

‡ Reporting standards not met. Values suppressed to protect confidentiality.

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

^ Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

NOTE: Weights, which assign equal weight to each school within the program, were used in producing the treatment, control, and overall means.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Attitudes and Practices

Teachers reported on their enthusiasm for SCD efforts in their schools (these data are not shown in a table) by indicating enthusiasm, cooperation, or open dislike. They also reported on the SCD practices of teachers and staff members in their schools (these data are not shown in a table). The practices included modeling positive character and behavior traits with students and fellow teachers, involving students in making decisions, giving students a voice in school governance, the school encouraging parent involvement in children's social and character development, and using developmentally appropriate discipline strategies rather than punishment for misbehavior. Twenty-seven comparisons were made over 3 years, with 1 expected to be significant by chance. Out of 9 comparisons made in Year 2, there was 1 significant impact on reported enthusiasm (impact = 24 percentage points). There was no impact on the domain in any year.

Year-by-Year Impacts on Students and Perceptions of School Climate

The primary research question for the SS evaluation was this:

What is the average effect of the SS program on children's social and emotional competence, behavior, academics, and perceptions of school climate?

The first approach to answering this question was to examine the year-by-year impacts of the SS program on these student and school climate outcomes over the 3 years as the students progressed from third through fifth grades.

Equation (2) (described in chapter 1) was estimated to provide the SS impacts on the 20 outcomes using data from the 12 treatment and control schools. For the SS evaluation, equation (2) excluded the program fixed effects (θ_p) and included program-specific covariates and random school effects covariates. Table 8.16 lists the covariates used with outcomes from each report in the SS analysis.

Table 8.16. Covariates used with outcomes from each report for analysis—SS

Potential covariate	CR outcome	PCR outcome	TRS outcome	TRCS outcome
Total number	11	28	21	8
Child-reported				
Female	✓	✓	✓	
Hispanic	✓	✓	✓	
Black (non-Hispanic)	✓	✓	✓	
Other ethnicity	✓	✓	✓	
Age in years	✓	✓	✓	
Scales				
Afraid at School		✓	✓	
Altruistic Behavior				
Empathy		✓	✓	
Engagement with Learning				
Negative School Orientation		✓	✓	
Normative Beliefs About Aggression		✓	✓	
Sense of School as a Community	✓	✓	✓	
Problem Behavior				
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions				
Victimization at School				
Primary caregiver-reported				
Age in years				
Completed high school or equivalent	✓	✓	✓	
Some College	✓	✓	✓	
Bachelor's or higher degree	✓	✓	✓	
Highest level of education in household				
Completed high school or equivalent		✓		
Some college		✓		
Bachelor's or higher degree		✓		
Mother present in home life		✓		
Mother and father present				
Respondent someone other than mother or father				
Number of people in household		✓		
Household income: \$20,000 to \$40,000		✓		
Household income: \$40,000 to \$60,000		✓		
Household income: More than \$60,000		✓		
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio: Below 135 percent				
Income-to-poverty-threshold ratio: 135-185 percent				
Full-time employment			✓	
Part-time employment			✓	

See notes at end of table.

Table 8.16. Covariates used with outcomes from each report for analysis—SS—Continued

Potential covariate	CR outcome	PCR outcome	TRS outcome	TRCS outcome
Parental scales				
APQ-Poor Monitoring and Supervision Subscale				
APQ-Positive Parenting Subscale		✓	✓	
Child-Centered Social Control				
Confusion, Hubbub, and Order				
Community Resources				
Community Risk		✓		
Parent and Teacher Involvement				
Child scales				
Altruistic Behavior	✓	✓	✓	
Positive Social Behavior		✓		
Problem Behavior		✓	✓	
Teacher-reported				
Female				✓
Hispanic				✓
Black (non-Hispanic)				✓
Other ethnicity				✓
Total teaching experience				✓
Total experience in current school				
Regular certificate				✓
Other certificate				✓
Highest degree—bachelor's				✓
Child scales				
Academic Competence and Motivation	✓	✓	✓	
ADHD-Related Behavior			✓	
Altruistic Behavior		✓	✓	
Positive Social Behavior				
Problem Behavior				
Parent and Teacher Involvement				

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

APQ: Alabama Parenting Questionnaire

✓: Covariate used

Blank cell: Covariate not used

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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To assess the statistical power of the program-level impact estimates, minimum detectable impacts in effect size units (MDES) for each outcome measure were calculated for the SS evaluation (table 8.17). MDES represent the smallest impacts in effect size (standard deviation) units that can be detected with a high probability (80%). MDES are primarily a function of study sample sizes, the degrees of freedom available for statistical tests, and design effects due to clustering (Schochet 2005). For the SS evaluation, the MDES ranged from 0.099 to 0.526 for the child-level outcomes based on the Child, Caregiver, and Teacher Report on Student and from 0.314 to 0.694 for the school climate outcomes based on the Teacher Report on Classroom and School. In general, the MDES for the school climate outcomes were larger than those for the child-level outcomes.

Table 8.17. Adjusted minimum detectable effect sizes for impact evaluation—SS

Outcome measure—Report	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Social and Emotional Competence Domain			
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interaction—CR	0.156	0.252	0.105
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR	0.103	0.099	0.099
Empathy—CR	0.156	0.170	0.200
Behavior Domain			
Altruistic Behavior—CR	0.103	0.161	0.133
Altruistic Behavior—PCR	0.110	0.132	0.139
Altruistic Behavior—TRS	0.526	0.512	0.481
Positive Social Behavior—PCR	0.142	0.106	0.108
Positive Social Behavior—TRS	0.279	0.455	0.356
Problem Behavior—CR	0.106	0.166	0.099
Problem Behavior—PCR	0.183	0.142	0.149
Problem Behavior—TRS	0.275	0.404	0.348
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS	0.264	0.296	0.342
Academics Domain			
Engagement with Learning—CR	0.103	0.106	0.099
Academic Competence and Motivation—TRS	0.103	0.167	0.277
Perceptions of School Climate Domain			
Positive School Orientation—CR	0.192	0.259	0.270
Negative School Orientation—CR	0.201	0.198	0.123
Student Afraid at School—CR	0.103	0.197	0.204
Victimization at School—CR	0.103	0.185	0.209
Feelings of Safety—TRCS	0.447	0.550	0.481
Student Support for Teachers—TRCS	0.694	0.314	0.609

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The minimum detectable effect (MDE) formula used in the calculations is as follows:

$$MDE = factor(df) * \sqrt{\rho_1 \left(\frac{1}{s_T} + \frac{1}{s_C} \right) + (1 - \rho_1) \left(\frac{1}{s_T n_T} + \frac{1}{s_C n_C} \right)}$$

where s_T and s_C are the number of treatment and comparison schools; n_T and n_C are the average number of students per classroom; ρ_1 is the intraclass correlation (ICC) at the school level; and $factor(df)$ is a constant that depends on the number of degrees of freedom (df) available for analysis (and is 2.802 for the pooled analysis).

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

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Table 8.18 provides the estimates of the SS impacts on each of the 20 outcomes over each of the 3 years (60 impacts in total, with 3 expected to be statistically significant by chance). Of the 60 results, 1 was statistically significant: a detrimental impact was found on fourth-graders' Positive Social Behavior (Primary Caregiver Report, effect size [ES] = -0.14). A substantively important but nonsignificant beneficial impact was found in all 3 years for Feelings of Safety (Teacher Report on Classroom and School, ES = 0.37, 0.39, and 0.52). Application of the heuristics to adjust for multiple comparisons within each outcome domain indicates that SS had a statistically significant detrimental impact on the Social and Emotional Competence domain in Year 3.

Table 8.18. Impacts on child and school outcomes—SS

Scale–Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value
Social and Emotional Competence Domain ¹												
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions–CR (+)	3.09	3.03	0.09	0.337	3.20	3.24	-0.08	0.562	3.24	3.31	-0.12	0.146
Normative Beliefs About Aggression–CR (-)	1.22	1.20	0.06	0.539	1.23	1.28	-0.10	0.228	1.32	1.26	0.15	0.130
Empathy–CR (+)	2.38	2.37	0.04	0.649	2.25	2.28	-0.07	0.463	2.20	2.26	-0.14	0.258
Behavior Domain												
Altruistic Behavior–CR (+)	1.03	1.10	-0.09	0.249	0.89^	1.00	-0.18	0.094	0.88	0.95	-0.12	0.184
Altruistic Behavior–PCR (+)	2.08	2.10	-0.03	0.671	2.06	2.15	-0.13	0.144	2.02^	2.13	-0.16	0.098
Altruistic Behavior–TRS (+)	1.37	1.40	-0.08	0.757	1.30	1.29	0.03	0.919	1.27	1.32	-0.10	0.675
Positive Social Behavior–PCR (+)	3.18	3.17	0.03	0.739	3.20*	3.28	-0.14	0.050	3.30	3.30	0.01	0.880
Positive Social Behavior–TRS (+)	3.40	3.32	0.12	0.252	3.25	3.36	-0.17	0.435	3.28	3.31	-0.04	0.800
Problem Behavior–CR (-)	0.12	0.13	-0.04	0.659	0.20	0.17	0.09	0.406	0.26	0.22	0.12	0.201
Problem Behavior–PCR (-)	1.53	1.52	0.03	0.727	1.48	1.50	-0.05	0.566	1.47	1.50	-0.10	0.280
Problem Behavior–TRS (-)	1.26	1.27	-0.02	0.896	1.29	1.26	0.10	0.599	1.33	1.32	0.02	0.905
ADHD-Related Behavior–TRS (-)	1.59	1.55	0.07	0.517	1.60	1.53	0.13	0.412	1.57	1.57	-0.01	0.969
Academics Domain												
Engagement with Learning–CR (+)	3.73	3.74	-0.03	0.757	3.70	3.74	-0.10	0.210	3.59	3.64	-0.12	0.169
Academic Competence and Motivation– TRS (+)	3.34	3.40	-0.06	0.161	3.34^	3.49	-0.16	0.055	3.50	3.32	0.19	0.137

See notes at end of table.

Table 8.18. Impacts on child and school outcomes—SS—Continued

Scale—Report	Year 1 (Spring 3rd grade)				Year 2 (Spring 4th grade)				Year 3 (Spring 5th grade)			
	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value	Treat- ment	Control	Effect size	p-value
Perceptions of School Climate Domain												
Positive School Orientation—CR (+)	3.13	3.08	0.09	0.425	2.91	2.89	0.05	0.763	2.83	2.80	0.06	0.720
Negative School Orientation—CR (-)	1.62	1.65	-0.06	0.571	1.73	1.72	0.03	0.780	1.87	1.83	0.08	0.375
Student Afraid at School—CR (-)	1.93	2.00	-0.08	0.332	1.87	1.95	-0.10	0.402	1.86	1.82	0.05	0.691
Victimization at School—CR (-)	0.56	0.62	-0.09	0.283	0.55	0.62	-0.11	0.306	0.62	0.60	0.03	0.833
Feelings of Safety—TRCS (+)	4.19	4.04	0.37°	0.216	4.10	3.86	0.39°	0.197	4.02^	3.63	0.52°	0.062
Student Support for Teachers—TRCS (+)	4.89	4.11	0.13	0.663	4.27	4.22	0.08	0.678	4.17	4.12	0.08	0.768

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

^ Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

° Substantive (but nonsignificant at .05 level) effect size of $\geq .25$ or $\leq -.25$.

¹ Impact on domain found statistically significant and detrimental in Year 3 based on the fourth heuristic in which the statistical model used to estimate impacts on the individual outcomes was re-estimated using a composite of all the outcome variables under a domain. The domain was found significant if the impact on the composite was significant. The composite was formed by standardizing each outcome variable using its standard deviation, combining the values of the outcome variables, and taking the average of the final value.

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

TRCS: Teacher Report on Classroom and School

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using regression models where each program and school within a program was weighted equally. The standard errors of all estimates account for design effects due to unequal weighting and the clustering of students within schools. See table 1.5 for information about the measures used to create the outcome variables. The effect size was calculated by dividing the estimated impact by the standard deviation of the outcome measure for the control group. The number of results found significant was no more than expected by chance.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Impacts on Child Outcomes Over Time

SS impacts on the child outcomes over time were estimated using growth curve models by examining treatment and control group differences in the trajectories of student outcomes during the follow-up period while accounting for clustering at the school level. The growth curve models are estimated using a three-level hierarchical linear model, where Level 1 corresponds to time, Level 2 to students, and Level 3 to schools (described in chapter 1).

Table 8.19 provides the estimates of the program's impacts on the growth in student outcomes over the 3 years. The estimated impacts ranged in effect size units (absolute value) from 0.00 to 0.19. Three of the 18 (with 1 expected to be significant by chance) estimated SS impacts on the trajectories of child outcomes were statistically significant and showed a detrimental impact of the program on growth: Empathy (Child Report, $ES = -0.13$), Positive Social Behavior (Teacher Report on Student, $ES = -0.19$), and Engagement with Learning (Child Report, $ES = -0.09$).

Table 8.19. Impacts on growth of child outcomes—SS

Scale—Report	Mean score at implementation ²	Average growth in the score per year ¹				Standard error of impact	<i>p</i> -value of impact
		Treatment	Control	Impact on growth ³	Effect size ⁴		
Social and Emotional Competence Domain							
Self-Efficacy for Peer Interactions—CR (+)	2.95	0.12	0.15	-0.02	-0.03	0.03	0.495
Normative Beliefs About Aggression—CR (-)	1.20	0.05^	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.02	0.090
Empathy—CR (+)	2.43	-0.11*	-0.05	-0.06	-0.13	0.02	0.028
Behavior Domain							
Altruistic Behavior—CR (+)	1.21	-0.13	-0.12	-0.01	-0.01	0.04	0.755
Altruistic Behavior—PCR (+)	2.14	-0.05	-0.02	-0.04	-0.04	0.02	0.159
Altruistic Behavior—TRS (+)	1.42	-0.04	-0.07	0.03	0.05	0.06	0.666
Positive Social Behavior—PCR (+)	3.12	0.05	0.08	-0.03	-0.04	0.01	0.101
Positive Social Behavior—TRS (+)	3.39	-0.10*	0.06	-0.16	-0.19	0.06	0.019
Problem Behavior—CR (-)	0.09	0.06	0.05	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.711
Problem Behavior—PCR (-)	1.53	-0.02	-0.02	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.848
Problem Behavior—TRS (-)	1.20	0.08^	0.01	0.07	0.17	0.04	0.086
ADHD-Related Behavior—TRS (-)	1.56	0.02	-0.02	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.285
Academics Domain							
Engagement with Learning—CR (+)	3.80	-0.09*	-0.04	-0.05*	-0.09	0.02	0.021
Academic Competence and Motivation—TRS (+)	3.35	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.808
See notes at end of table.							

See notes at end of table.

Table 8.19. Impacts on growth of child outcomes—SS—Continued

Scale–Report	Mean score at implementation ²	Average growth in the score per year ¹					
		Treatment	Control	Impact on growth ³	Effect size ⁴	Standard error of impact	<i>p</i> -value of impact
Perceptions of School Climate Domain							
Positive School Orientation–CR (+)	3.32	-0.22	-0.19	-0.04	-0.05	0.04	0.339
Negative School Orientation–CR (-)	1.52	0.14	0.12	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.464
Student Afraid at School–CR (-)	2.08	-0.12	-0.09	-0.03	-0.03	0.04	0.403
Victimization at School–CR (-)	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.930

* Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .05 level.

^ Treatment group significantly different from control group at the .10 to > .05 level.

¹ Pertains to the estimated slope of the outcome for the treatment or control groups.

² The average score at implementation is calculated across treatment and control groups, using regression models for adjustment on covariates.

³ Estimated difference between the slope of the treatment and control groups.

⁴ Effect size: the slope of the treatment group minus the slope of the control group divided by the standard deviation of the outcome for the program's control group (the standard deviation is calculated without accounting for school-level clustering or regression adjustments).

NOTE: Abbreviations are

CR: Child Report

PCR: Primary Caregiver Report

TRS: Teacher Report on Student

ADHD: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

The +/- signs in parentheses indicate the direction of a beneficial outcome. All impact estimates were calculated using HLM 6.06. Sample weights were used in all analyses to give (1) each school equal weight in each program (within each time period) and (2) each time period equal weight within the analysis. See table 1.5 for information about the measures used to create the outcome variables.

SOURCE: The Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program.

Summary

As part of the Social and Character Development (SACD) Research Program, researchers at the Maryland site evaluated the SS program. This program is designed to promote social competence and reduce children's social and emotional problems. Twelve public schools in a single school district in Maryland were recruited by the Maryland research team and randomly assigned to treatment and control conditions to determine the impact of SS on social and character development activities in the schools and on the child outcome domains of Social and Emotional Competence, Behavior, Academics, and Perceptions of School Climate.

Analyses of the initial characteristics of the sample (students, caregivers, communities, teachers, and schools) indicated that randomization to treatment and control status produced groups that were relatively similar at the start of the study (with 1 out of 84 comparisons statistically significantly different, fewer than would be expected by chance). The data on the initial level of SACD activity led to two findings. First, treatment teachers reported greater use of and training in SACD activities than control teachers, and they did so more often than would be expected by chance (11 out of 62 comparisons, with 3 expected to be significant by chance). There are two potential causes for this finding, and the analysis cannot be used to determine whether the reason for such a difference was that the two groups did differ on their initial use of SACD activities (i.e., that randomization did not create similar treatment and control groups) or whether the fact that the training of all treatment teachers and the implementation of the SS program began before the initial data were collected (by 5 weeks) influenced the teacher reports. Because it is likely (though unproven) that the training and implementation affected the teacher reports, these data were not considered appropriate for use as a baseline measure of SACD activities and training in the treatment schools.

Second, these data indicate that the control condition for the SACD project was not a “no treatment” control but a “standard practice” control. Because the control teachers were not affected by the implementation of the SACD programs before data collection, their reports reflect standard practice in the control schools. Standard practice at the control schools included reports of 47 percent to 87 percent of teachers using any SACD activities, 92 percent of teachers using specific materials in conjunction with these activities, 100 percent using at least one of the specified instructional strategies, and 67 percent participating in SACD training over the past 12 months.

Analyses of the SS impacts on level of SACD activities in the schools revealed impacts on the use of SACD activities (39 out of 90) and materials and strategies (23 out of 87) across the 3 years. There were impacts on two of the professional development activities for treatment teachers in Year 1 (two out of nine). These same measures in the control schools across the 3 years of the study confirmed that use of these activities in the control schools constituted their standard practice.

Of the 20 child-level outcomes representing the four domains of Social and Emotional Competence, Behavior, Academics, and Perceptions of School Climate assessed in each of the 3 years of the study (a total of 60 results), 1 showed a statistically significant detrimental impact of the SS intervention. A growth curve analysis was used to analyze the change over time in these same outcomes between initial data collection and the final outcome data collection at the end of the study. Three of the 18 child-level outcomes assessed showed a significant detrimental impact of the SS program.

The SACD evaluation did not find evidence to support the hypothesis that SS had beneficial impacts on students' social and character development. Such results could be caused by the inability of the program to cause such change, possibly because the theory of action for the program is incomplete or the activities to carry out that theory are not effective.

However, these results may also be due to the inability of the evaluation to observe such a change due to the control condition, the level of nonparticipation, or the sample size. The control schools continued using their standard SACD activities, and these turned out to be high in quantity and broad in scope. While SS had a significant positive impact on the amount and types of SACD activities, the resulting difference in the amount

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of SACD activities between the treatment and control schools may not have been large enough to cause significant differences in the student outcomes. Second, 29 percent to 38 percent of the students in the sample universe did not take part (depending on year) because of nonconsent or noncompletion of the surveys. As a determination could not be made as to whether the students not taking part differed significantly from those who did take part, the evaluation's results are valid only for the students who took part. If the students not taking part were different, and if they would have responded better to SS than to the SACD activities occurring in the control schools, then the evaluation could have underestimated the program's impact. Third, the sample size of 12 schools and the resulting higher MDES compared to those for the multiprogram evaluation may have reduced the likelihood of detecting statistically significant effects. However, it should be noted that 63 percent of the MDES for the 60 outcomes used in the year-by-year analysis were below 0.25 (58% were below 0.20). In addition, only 3 of the 60 outcomes were found to be substantively important; however, they were all beneficial and referred to the same outcome (Feelings of Safety).

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