



Low school attendance, absent or overwhelmed teachers, and underperforming schools are on-going impediments to educational attainment for the poor around the world.

While many more children are in school than a decade ago, there are still 58 million children out of school, and even when these kids are in school and complete a few years of education, they are often still unable to read, write, and do basic math. The Education Program Area at Innovations for Poverty Action rigorously evaluates programs that aim to improve education outcomes and school attendance.

In partnership with academic leaders in the field, our work has produced evidence on how to keep kids in school, such as through school-based deworming or sharing information on the benefits of schooling, and on how to make sure kids learn while there, such as in our teacher community assistant initiative in Ghana and through incentives, such as merit scholarships for students.

Education Policy Lessons

1. Reducing the actual and hidden costs of school helps more kids attend.
2. Targeting instruction at the child's level improves learning levels.

Policy Impact: Teaching at the Level of the Child

The Ghana Ministry of Education is partnering with IPA on the Teacher Community Assistant Initiative (TCAI), an education program that assigns teaching assistants to work in small groups with struggling students. TCAI is based on a similar program developed in India that improves school performance. The study from Ghana confirms that targeted instruction is an effective approach to improve literacy and numeracy skills, yet there are still implementation questions about how the program can be more efficient and cost effective at a nationwide scale. IPA is working together with the Ministry of Education to design and evaluate implementation solutions as the program is scaled. [Read more - www.povertyaction.org/publication/teacher-community-assistant-initiative-ghana](https://www.povertyaction.org/publication/teacher-community-assistant-initiative-ghana)

Education Program Area Brief

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March 04, 2016