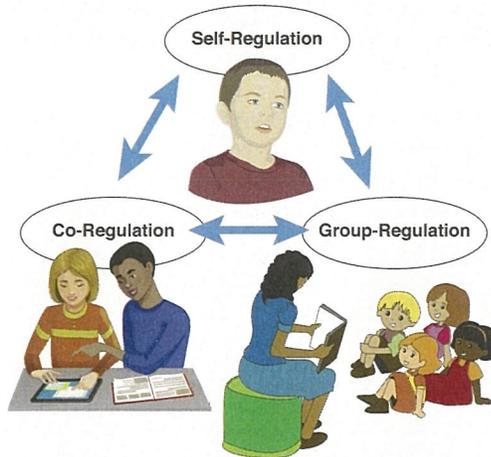


So What if New Mexico Protected Each Entering First Grade Cohort with PAX GBG?

New Mexico has approximately 27,000 entering first graders in the 2016-17 school year, based on the U.S. Census estimate. The numbers of young children entering school in New Mexico are declining each year, as a percentage of the states' population—making the state's economic future hinge on fewer children being more productive, peaceful, healthier, and happier.

Unfortunately, the percentage of children developing lifetime mental, emotional, behavioral and related medical disorders is rising each year in North America. This trend has been characterized as an epidemic—which dwarfs terrifying epidemics like polio in the 1950s. Most Americans have no idea that our nation possesses practical science to prevent psychiatric disorders¹ that is good or better than that of the Salk and Sabin vaccine, which together have nearly banished polio permanently.

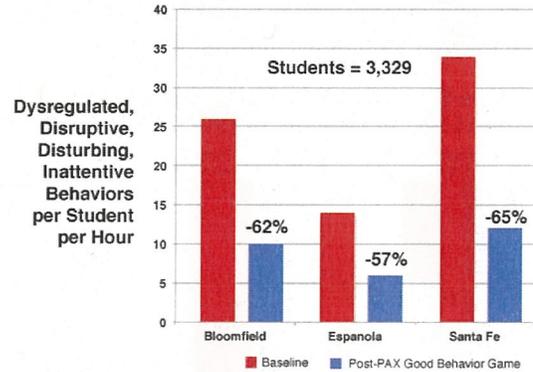
Could New Mexico adopt a public-health model to protect all children from psychiatric disorders? Yes, the PAX Good Behavior Game (PAX GBG) is a “behavioral vaccine”^{2,3} (e.g., like hand washing, wearing a seatbelt) that builds a lifetime skillset of self-regulation, co-regulation (with teacher or peers), and group regulation for positive, valued purposes of personal and peer-group peace, productivity, health happiness. Leading psychiatrists and neuro-scientists have named PAX GBG as the “next big thing” to prevent psychiatric disorders.⁴



These combined regulatory skills, in turn, reduce dysregulated or impulsive thoughts and behaviors that predict special education, psychiatric disorders, addictions, school failure, poor employment, injuries, violent crime, early sex and pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, and other social ills.⁵⁻⁸ PAX GBG also increases standard measures of academic progress in reading and math as well as high-school graduation and college entry.^{5,9}

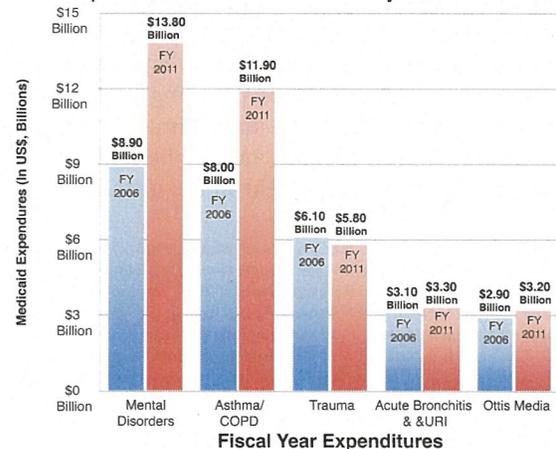
The recent pilot project that involved 3,300 students in three school districts of New Mexico (Bloomfield, Espanola, and Santa Fe conclusively proves that the immediate increase in self-regulation, co-regulation and group regulation in New Mexico classrooms by direct observation of dysregulated, problematic behaviors that interfere with learning, positive social relationships, and lifetime wellbeing.

Changes In Observed Student Behaviors in 75 Days (Mid-March thru May)



A leading medical journal, *Psychiatric Clinics*, cites PAX Good Behavior Game as the next big thing for universal, public-health prevention of psychiatric disorders.⁴ This has important economic consequences for states and America's economic future, since childhood psychiatric disorders are the largest single expense for Medicaid and children's health insurance—growing a billion dollars a year.

Medicaid Expenditures for the Five Most Costly Conditions in Children



Source: Center for Financing, Access, and Cost Trends, Agency for HealthCare Research and Quality, 2006, 2011

Does PAX GBG actually avert or reduce the prevalence and/or severity of mental-health disorders over children's lifetimes? Yes!

That has been well proven in “platinum-standard” randomized, comparative-effectiveness longitudinal studies that followed children for decades now.^{7, 8, 10, 11 5, 6, 12-15}

Some Hopkins studies compared PAX GBG to universal parenting supports as well as standard classroom strategies in the same school. PAX GBG was more effective than parenting supports. The question is why? PAX GBG created nurturing interactions between the teacher and students, and the positive peer changes last across many years—predicting reduced risk of suicide.¹⁶ Further, children will spend more waking time in school that with their parents. The change in children's behavior at school from PAX GBG also makes parents more reinforcing to and less negative or rejecting toward their children.¹⁷

Have the benefits of PAX GBG in reducing mental disorders been replicated beyond Johns Hopkins? Yes. For example, the Cabinet of Manitoba has funded universal access to PAX GBG for grade one children. A study by the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy shows that one semester exposure to PAX GBG reduces mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders using teachers' ratings on the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (see www.sdqinfo.org), which has clinical norms in the United States and other countries. Manitoba mental health results appear below. Similar results have been documented in Ireland and Estonia.



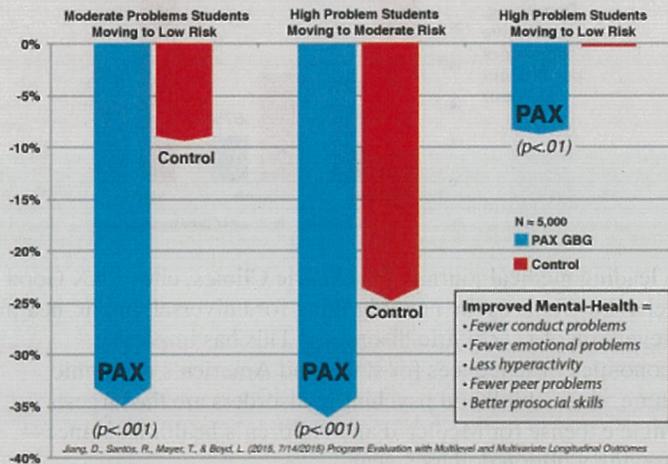
Predicted Benefits of PAX GBG in Your School, District, or Community When First Grade Students Reach Adulthood After 1-2 Years of PAX GBG Exposure*

Site Estimate for: Statewide Implementation in New Mexico for Each Cohort

Enter number of First Graders at school, district or community>>>>>>> **27,816** <<< Enter number of First Graders

2,393	Fewer young people will need any form of special education services
1,548	More boys will likely graduate from high school.
1,858	More boys will likely enter university
2,469	More girls will likely graduate from high school
1,929	More girls will likely enter university
270	Fewer young people will commit and be convicted of serious violent crimes
2,674	Fewer young people will likely develop serious drug addictions
1,830	Fewer young people will likely become regular smokers
985	Fewer young people will likely develop serious alcohol addictions
1,349	Fewer young women will likely contemplate suicide
1,830	Fewer young men will likely attempt suicide
\$362,164,320	Predicted financial net savings to students, families, schools, communities, state/federal governments
\$23.67	Estimated Cost of PAX GBG Materials Per Child for Lifetime Protection
\$22.00	Estimated Cost of External Training & Technical Supports Per Teacher Prorated per Child's Lifetime
\$26.80	Estimated Cost of Internal Supports for Implementation and Maintenance by Teachers Prorated per Child's Lifetime

One-Semester Benefits of Province-Wide Mental-Health Benefits of PAX GBG v. Control



Can New Mexico predict benefits if all first grade children were protected by PAX GBG? Yes. The work of the Washington State Institute for Public Policy has done the grunt work to enable such predictions¹⁸, using much of the science cited in this brief. There are approximately 27,000 - 28,000 first graders in New Mexico, and the benefits of protecting them with PAX GBG appear in the next figure.

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