

Does Nudging Students Decrease Learning Deficits and Dropouts During and After a Pandemic? Experimental Evidence from Covid-19 Responses in Brazil

Update to the Pre-analysis Plan: Continuation of the Intervention

Based on the short-term results made available following the first phase of the intervention, the Goiás Secretariat of Education decided to continue the intervention during September. Assignment to the treatment and control groups will be held fixed – in line with one of the possibilities originally pre-registered in the main pre-analysis plan. The outcomes of interest will remain the same for this extension, since regular classes will not resume until October (and even then, conditional on the COVID-19 situation in the State).

At the time of this update to the original pre-analysis plan, the Secretariat of Education has not yet made a decision on whether the Eduq+ will still be in place and at what scale from October onwards. The options originally available therefore remain valid: (1) the intervention continues for a longer period, keeping the treatment assignment fixed; (2) the control group starts receiving the nudges; or (3) the treatment group stops receiving the nudges. The interpretation of the long-term effects will therefore be subject to this decision. In case (1), long-term effects will reflect a combination of nudges sent during and after the school shutdown; in case (2), long-term effects will only reflect differences in the intensity of the treatment; and in case (3), long-term effects will capture persistence of treatment effects (if any).

If and when regular classes resume, we still hope to be granted access to administrative data for students' attendance, grades, grade retention and dropouts.