

Beyond Basics: Whole-School Reform and Early Adolescent Development

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We measured the impacts of the Pioneer School Program in Morocco's lower secondary schools during its first year of implementation (2024-25)

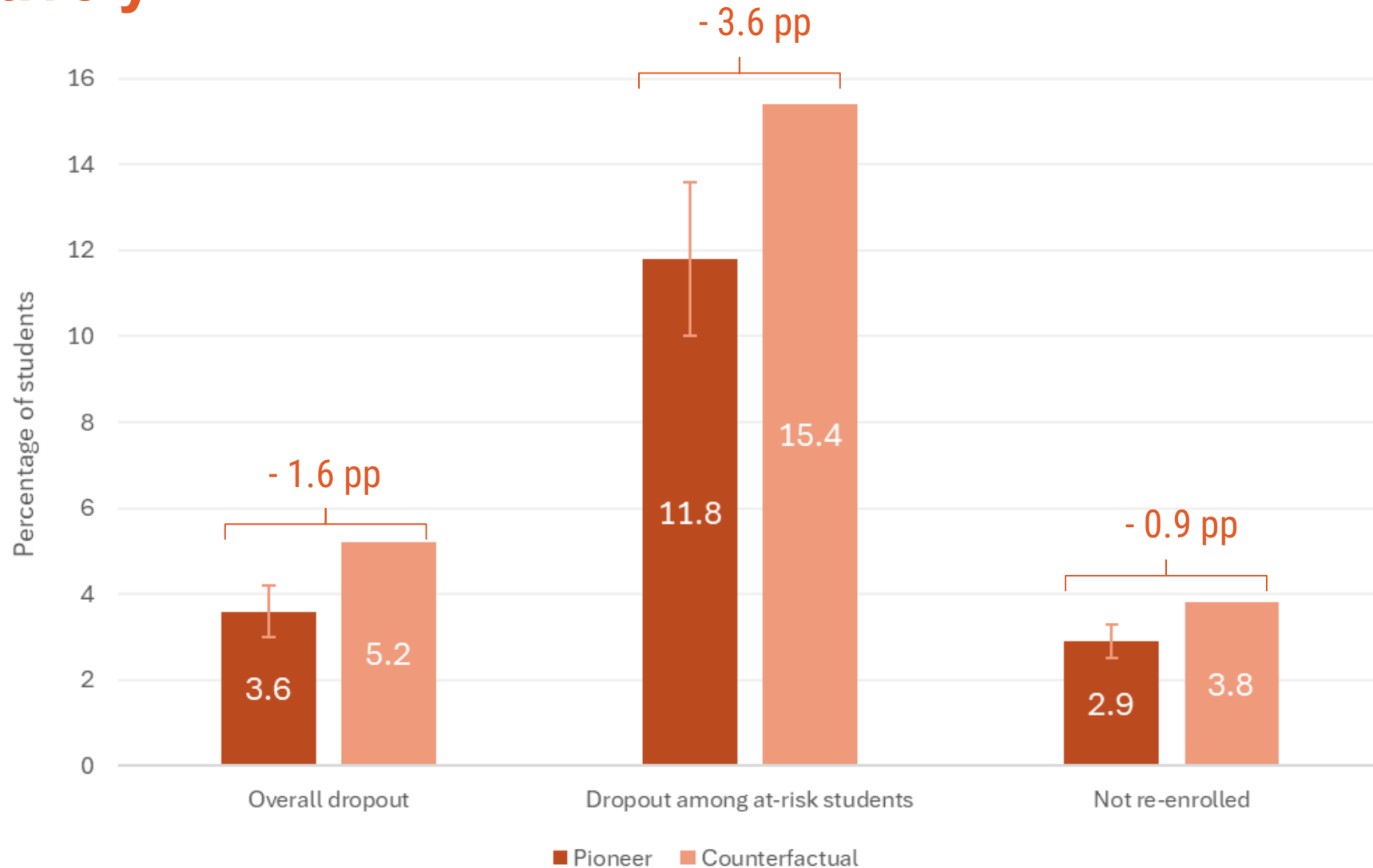
Difference-in-Differences design that matched 200 pioneer schools to 100 comparable schools across Morocco.

Data sources

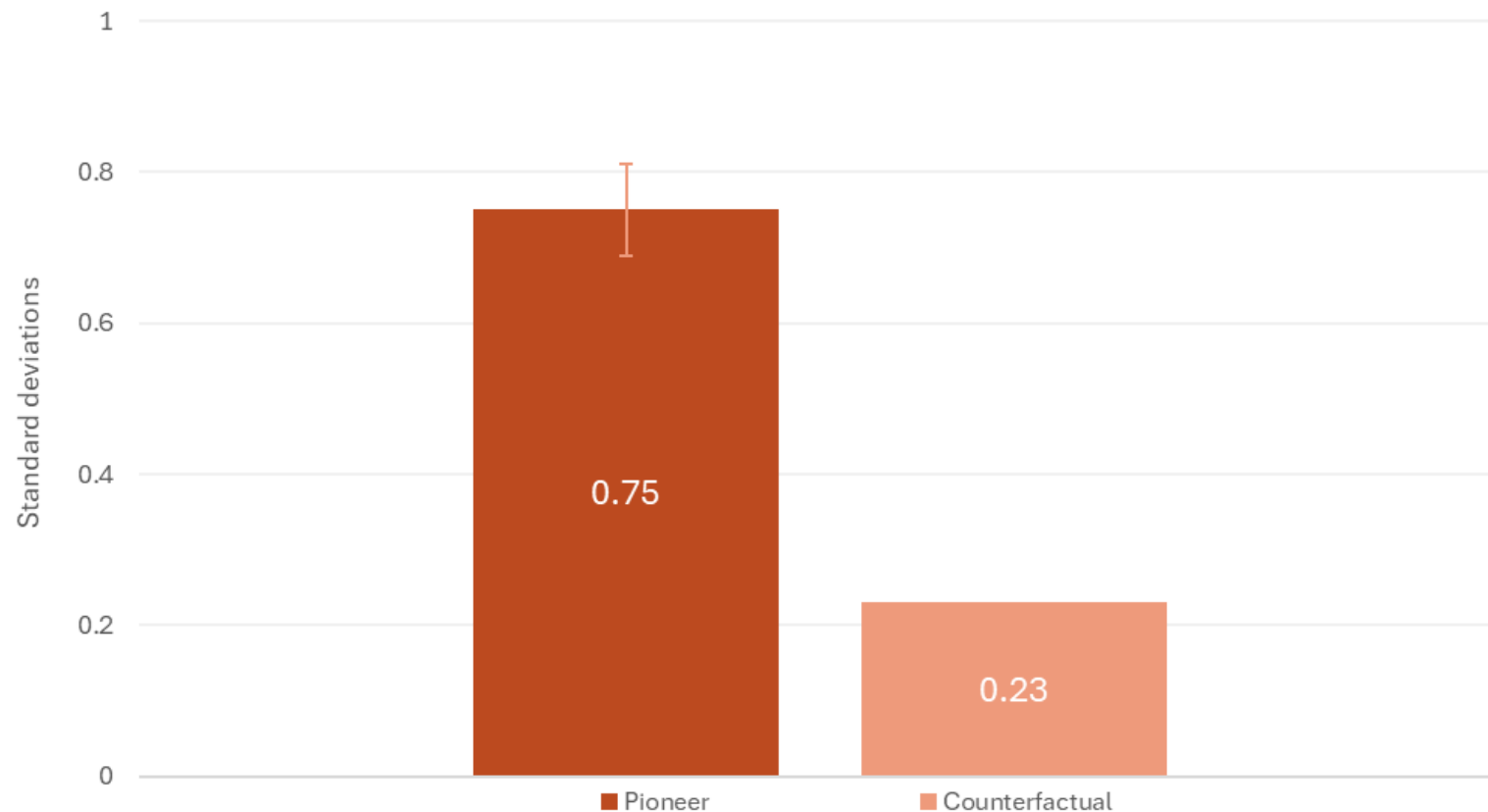
- Administrative data from 300 study schools (N=637,587 observations), combined with primary data collection conducted in collaboration with the Ministry.
- We trained 800+ enumerators who assessed 20,036 middle school students in Arabic (N=4,869), French (N=4,876), Mathematics (N=5,141), and Science (N=5,150).
- A sub-sample of students also completed a questionnaire measuring socioemotional skills and creativity.



The program reduced dropout by 1.6 pp overall and by 3.6 pp among at-risk students—reductions of 30.8 and 23.4 percent, respectively

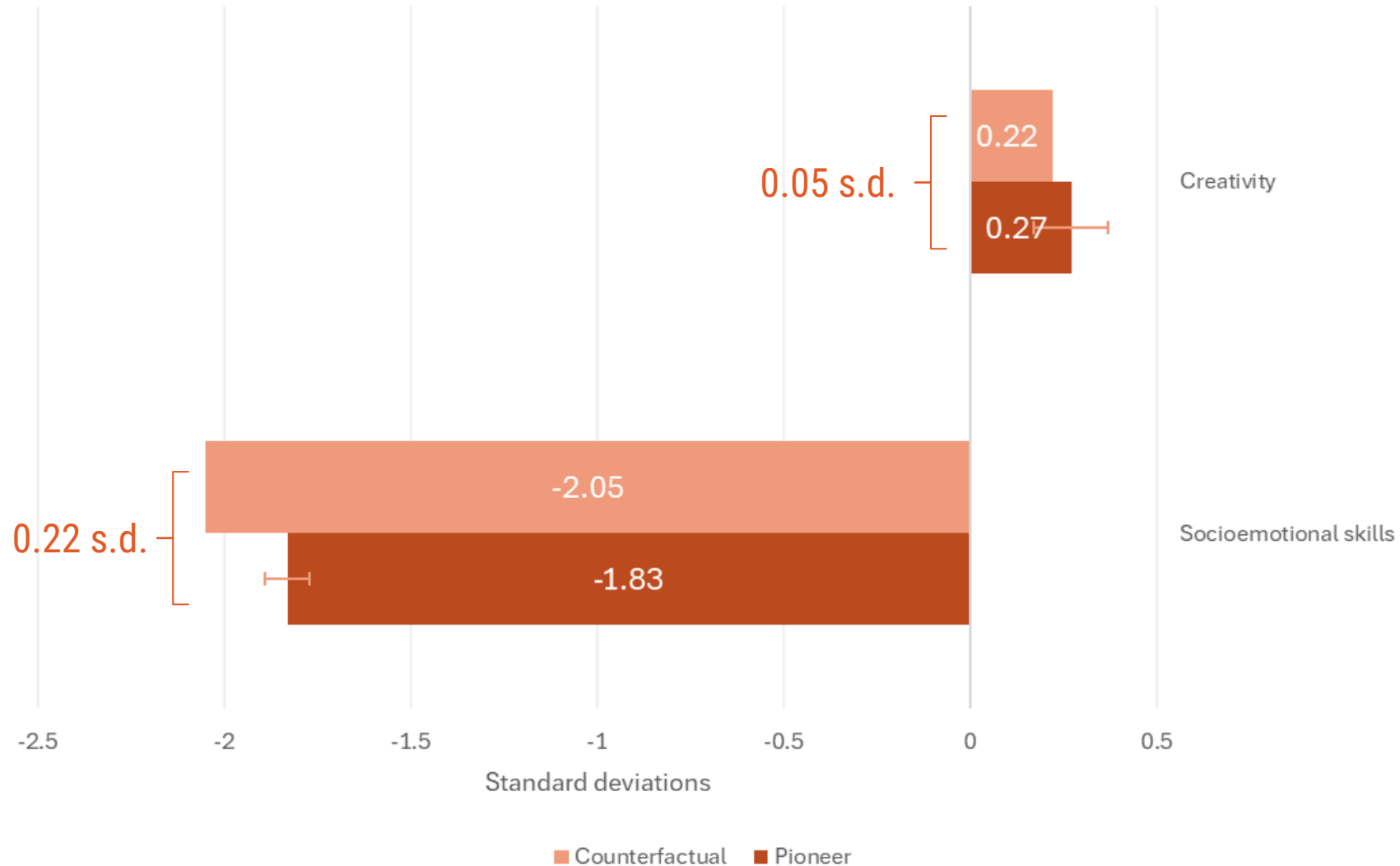


The program improved student learning by 0.52 s.d. on average—more than tripling the rate of learning over one year



This average learning impact exceeds that of 80% of comparable large-scale education interventions in low- and middle-income countries.

The program also had a positive impact on students' socioemotional skills



Thank you!

Working paper to be released on March 25.