Teaching assistants
Low impact for very high cost, based on limited evidence

Definition

Teaching assistants (also known as TAs or classroom support assistants) are adults who support teachers in the classroom. Teaching assistants’ duties can vary widely from school to school, ranging from providing administrative and classroom support to providing targeted academic support to individual pupils or small groups.

Search terms: support staff; adult support staff; teaching assistants; associate staff; classroom assistants; auxiliary teachers; teachers’ aide; education paraprofessional

Evidence Rating

A number of systematic reviews of the impact of support staff in schools have been conducted. However, there are no meta-analyses specifically looking at the impact of TAs on learning. Overall the evidence is limited.

Cost Information

The average cost of employing a teaching assistant, including salary and on-costs, is estimated at about £18,000. Overall, costs are estimated as high.

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# Summary of effects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meta-analyses</th>
<th>Effect size</th>
<th>FSM effect size</th>
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<tr>
<td>Blatchford, P., Bassett, P., Brown, P., Martin, C., Russell, A., &amp; Webster, R. (2011)</td>
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<td>Brown, K. J., Morris, D., &amp; Fields, M. (2005)</td>
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<td>Gerber, S.B., Pinn, J.D., Achilles, C.M. and Boyd-Zacharias, J. (2001)</td>
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**Indicative Effect Size** = 0.08

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