

Curriculum Modifications and Their Unintended Consequences for Students' Educational Pathways

Background and Research Question

- ▶ Curriculum modifications (CM) involve individualised and subject-specific reductions of learning objectives to support learners unable to meet the regular learning objectives.
- ▶ Similar to placement in special education, CM may be associated with a (stigmatising) label and convey an ability signal.
- ▶ **How do learners with and without CM differ in terms of their educational pathways in secondary education?**

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Data

- ▶ The study draws on a large-scale educational assessment with (almost) full coverage of the student population in Northwestern Switzerland (2013-2024: $N \approx 226'000$ learners in grades 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9).
- ▶ Test scores are linked to administrative register data.

Analytical Approach

- ▶ Learners' educational pathways are analysed using logistic regression models on a series of outcome measures.
- ▶ To address the non-random assignment of CM, a propensity score matching approach is employed.

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Results

- ▶ Learners with CM are more likely than the control group to enter programmes with lower academic requirements.
- ▶ Instead of supporting integrative schooling of low-achieving learners, CM may pose an additional barrier for them.

Poster

