

CODEBOOK

The database contains data from 2013 to 2015. They are provided by the ICFES (Instituto Colombiano para el Fomento de la Educación Superior) (<https://www.icfes.gov.co/>) and the Department Nacional de Planeacion (<https://www.dnp.gov.co/>).

Outcome variable:

<i>Name of the variable</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
ranking	float	Students' exam scores (from 0 to 100) at the national high school exit exam, Saber 11.

Main explanatory variable:

<i>Name of the variable</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
eligible_post	float	Interaction between <i>eligible</i> and <i>post</i> variables. = 1 if treated in 2015 (is eligible to the scholarship and passes the Saber 11 exam in 2015), 0 otherwise.

Running variable:

<i>Name of the variable</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
sisben	float	The distance between the student's Sisbén score and the need-based eligibility cutoff. Since the cutoff varies by area of residence, the distance is normalized to the specific cutoff across the three areas of residence (57.21 for the 14 main cities, 56.32 for other urban areas, and 40.75 for rural areas).

Other important variables for the main regression:

<i>Name of the variables</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
eligible	float	= 1 if the individual is eligible to the Ser Pilo Paga (SPP) scholarship according to the need-based criteria (if the variable <i>sisben</i> is below the threshold of the Sisbén socio-economic index), 0 otherwise.
post	float	= 1 for students who passed the Saber 11 exam in 2015, 10 months after the introduction of the SPP scholarship in Columbia, 0 before 2015 (2013 and 2014).
sisben_eligible	float	The distance between the student's Sisbén score and the need-based eligibility cutoff

		(<i>sisben</i> variable) interacted with the <i>eligible</i> variable. It is equal to 0 for non eligible students, equal to <i>sisben</i> otherwise.
<i>sisben_post</i>	float	The distance between the student's Sisbén score and the need-based eligibility cutoff (<i>sisben</i> variable) interacted with <i>post</i> .
<i>sisben_eligible_post</i>	float	The distance between the student's Sisbén score and the need-based eligibility cutoff (<i>sisben</i> variable) interacted with the variables <i>eligible</i> and <i>post</i> .

Control variables:

<i>Name of the variable</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>cities</i>	float	= 1 if the individual lives in one of the 14 main Colombian cities, 0 otherwise.
<i>other_urban</i>	float	= 1 if the individual lives in the other urban areas, 0 otherwise.
<i>father_educ_prim</i>	float	= 1 if the father has primary school education, 0 otherwise.
<i>father_educ_second</i>	float	= 1 if the father has secondary school education, 0 otherwise.
<i>father_educ_high</i>	float	= 1 if the father has high school diploma, 0 otherwise.
<i>mother_educ_prim</i>	float	= 1 if the mother has primary school education, 0 otherwise.
<i>mother_educ_second</i>	float	= 1 if the mother has secondary school education, 0 otherwise.
<i>mother_educ_high</i>	float	= 1 if the mother has high school diploma, 0 otherwise
<i>age</i>	float	Age of the individual (from 10 to 35 years old)
<i>sex</i>	float	Sex of the individual. = 0 if female, 1 if male
<i>department_*</i>	float	Code of the department in which the individual lives, from 1 to 33 (there are 32 departments in Colombia plus one district capital).
<i>saber_avg_school</i>	float	Saber average score of the individual's middle school.

Other variables:

- **Needed for the replication of Table 1 (Summary statistics):**

<i>Name of the variable</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>status_eligible</i>	float	= 1 for the Need-based Eligible students in 2013-2014, = 2 for the Non-Eligible in 2013-2014, = 3 for the Need-based Eligible 2015, and

		= 4 for the Non-Eligible 2015
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- **Needed for the replication of Figure A2 (Manipulation test):**

<i>Name of the variable</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
area_sisben	byte	= 1 if the individual lives in one of the 14 main Colombian cities, = 2 if lives in other city, = 3 if lives in rural area.
score_sisben	float	Score obtained by the individual in the Sisbén socio-economic index. Each household receives a score from 0 to 100 (from poorest to richest).

- **Informative variable (not directly needed for the replication exercise):**

<i>Name of the variable</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
year	float	Year (from 2013 to 2015)