

# a slide template

the padajar-slides class

---

paolo adajar (they/them)  
[paoloadajar@mit.edu](mailto:paoloadajar@mit.edu)

v1.0

2025-06-25

# Outline

example slides

# The best code is self-commenting

```
1 // Generate summary statistics (Table 1)
2 use "${cleandata}/district_policy_merged_all.dta"
3
4 assert          num_charter >= 0
5 gen    has_charter = num_charter > 0
6
7 local covariates mn_all_math mn_all_ela          ^^I///
8                  num_charter schools totenrl100 sesall ^^I///
9                  urban suburb town rural        ^^I///
10                 perwht perblk perhsp perasn perind
11
12 eststo clear
13 eststo: estpost summarize 'covariates'           , detail
14 eststo: estpost summarize 'covariates' if has_charter, detail
15 eststo: estpost summarize 'covariates' if !has_charter, detail
```

guiding philosophy:  
you want people to **understand**.  
design with that in mind.

# Engagement is strongest predictor of take-up

Table 1: Access (%) by selection criteria used

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Selected w/ Admin	0.0678 (3.743)				-1.625 (3.920)
Selected w/ Endline		1.233 (3.492)			-1.073 (3.553)
Selected w/ Engagement			8.019* (3.391)		6.645 (3.446)
Selected w/ Grit				-9.489 (7.068)	-7.860 (8.326)
Cons.	61.84*** (3.151)	61.14*** (2.680)	58.07*** (2.347)	62.77*** (1.750)	61.14*** (4.727)
N	1464	1464	1464	1464	1464

Standard errors in parentheses. \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ .

# What closes the achievement gaps for top students?

- Access to mentors greatly enhances participation, performance (Ellison and Swanson, 2016; Calaway, 2024)
- Intensive, targeted 6-week program at an elite STEM university shifted students towards elite schools (12pp increase in BA attainment), with expected earnings effects of 3-15% (Cohodes et al., 2024)
- Self-paced classes and tutoring have proven useful for helping students across the ability distribution, and potentially highly scalable (Carlana and Ferrara, 2021; Muralidharan et al., 2019; Koedinger et al., 1997)

## Works cited (1)

Calaway, Ian (2024) “Early Mentors for Exceptional Students,” *Unpublished*.

Carlana, Michela and Eliana La Ferrara (2021) “Apart but Connected: Online Tutoring and Student Outcomes during the COVID-19 Pandemic,” *HKS Faculty Research Working Paper Series*, RWP21-001.

Cohodes, Sarah R, Helen Ho, and Silvia C Robles (2024) “Diversifying the STEM Pipeline: Evidence from STEM Summer Programs for Underrepresented Youth.”

Ellison, Glenn and Ashley Swanson (2016) “Do Schools Matter for High Math Achievement? Evidence from the American Mathematics Competitions,” *American Economic Review*, 106 (6), 1244–1277, [10.1257/aer.20140308](https://doi.org/10.1257/aer.20140308).

Koedinger, Kenneth R, John R Anderson, William H Hadley, and Mary A Mark (1997) “Intelligent Tutoring Goes To School in the Big City,” *Carnegie Mellon University*, [10.1184/R1/6470153.v1](https://doi.org/10.1184/R1/6470153.v1).

Muralidharan, Karthik, Abhijeet Singh, and Alejandro J. Ganimian (2019) “Disrupting Education? Experimental Evidence on Technology-Aided Instruction in India,” *American Economic Review*, 109 (4), 1426–1460, [10.1257/aer.20171112](https://doi.org/10.1257/aer.20171112).