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The Effects of Computers on Children's Social Development and School Participation: Evidence from a Randomized Control Experiment

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### ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

#### **Highlights**

- We conduct a field experiment that randomly provides free computers to more than one thousand children attending 15 different schools.
- We study the effects of home computers on social development and school participation.
- Children in the treatment group are more likely to report having a social networking site, but also report spending more time communicating with their friends and interacting with their friends in person.
- There is no evidence that computer ownership displaces participation in after-school activities such as sports teams or clubs or reduces school participation and engagement.

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