



WHAT WORKS CLEARINGHOUSE

BRINGING ANSWERS to Educators

A New Direction

Educators today are seeking research information on programs, policies, and practices that will make them more effective teachers and administrators and better able to reach the goals of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). The What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) is designed to connect educators with the best research on effective interventions and practices in education. Now under the management of Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., the WWC is undergoing a major transformation that will make it more responsive to the needs of education practitioners and a trusted resource for education researchers. The Clearinghouse will develop new products that are more relevant, redesign the WWC Web site (whatworks.ed.gov) so that it is more accessible, and streamline the research review process to enable the WWC to post products with greater frequency and maintain quality.



Relevant Products

In the next year, the WWC will unveil a redesigned Web site that is more interactive and user-friendly and has more content. The Web site will help educators find the information they need and better understand what the research says. To do this, the content will cater to their questions. It will include a broad array of products on topics that are particularly relevant to the increased demand for scientifically based evidence about effective interventions. This content will be timelier, less technical, and more focused on school practitioners as end users.



New directions include the development of:

- Quick reviews of single studies that summarize research and determine if it meets the WWC evidence standards;
- Practice guides for educators, which will contain explicit suggestions about effective approaches to a range of the most talked-about issues in education today;
- Research reviews on special education topics developed in consultation with key stakeholders;
- More studies on mathematics and reading topics, the most popular with users; and
- Searchable registries of researchers and randomized control trials, a series of unique cross-referenced databases that will enhance the WWC products and provide a critical resource for the field.

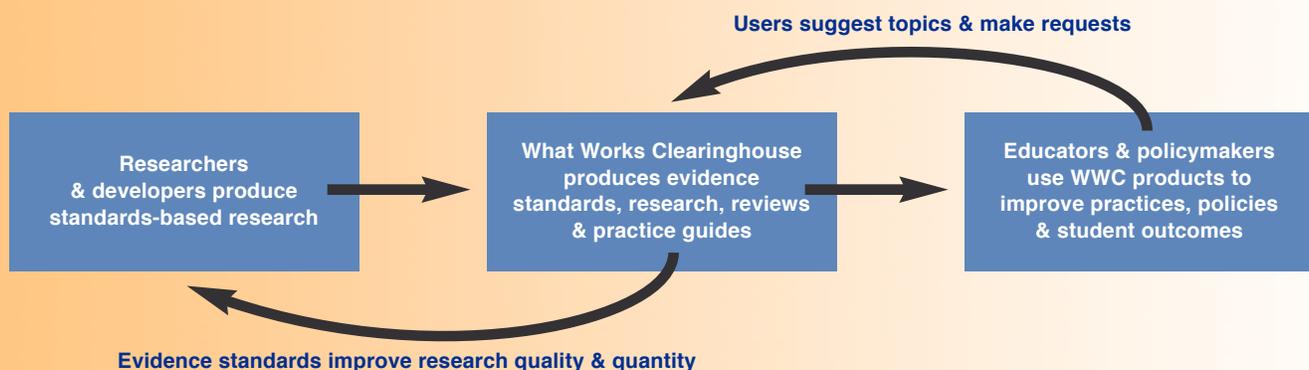
An Ambitious Research and Standards-Setting Agenda

To ensure that the WWC remains the gold standard for how research should be applied to practice, the WWC's report are designed to provide decisionmakers with a reliable and soundly researched source of information. The most significant changes in the next few years will be streamlining the review process and

adding quick reviews of studies to expand the research content available to the field more promptly. The WWC standards also will be broadened to incorporate more study designs, including single-case studies and regression discontinuity designs.

How the What Works Clearinghouse Influences Policy and Practice

The following chart illustrates the ways in which the WWC influences both education research and practice through its output and a feedback process. The feedback process ensures that the Clearinghouse responds to the interests of educators and policymakers and that its standards-setting practice improves both the quantity and quality of education research.



Responding to User Needs

Only by conveying relevant and understandable information to users can the WWC capture their interest and help them improve student outcomes. The Clearinghouse will continually strengthen its product offerings by actively listening to users about their needs. Through email, the Web site, phone interviews, meetings, and in-person interviews, the WWC will create opportunities for users to guide the WWC process.

Currently, the Clearinghouse is working with stakeholders to review:

- The level and types of interactivity on the WWC Web site;
- The balance of the WWC publications, between accessible guides and reports for practitioners and in-depth reports for the research community; and
- The research topics that are most valuable to educators.

What Works Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 2393
Princeton, NJ 08543-2393
Phone: 1-866-503-6114
whatworks.ed.gov

The What Works Clearinghouse collects, reviews, and reports on studies of education programs, products, practices, and policies in selected topic areas, using a set of standards based on scientifically valid criteria. We welcome your feedback on the WWC in general and on the topics that the WWC could study in the future. Your comments can be sent through the WWC Web site by going to “Contact Us.”

