

ESSA tiers of evidence webinar series

Session 2: ESSA and the What Works Clearinghouse

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Lyzz Davis | Matt Linick

Objectives for today's webinar

1. Gain a better understanding of how the ESSA tiers of evidence align with What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) standards.
2. Become more familiar with the resources of the WWC.
3. Check your knowledge.

Today's facilitators



Lyzz Davis

Principal Researcher
edavis@air.org



Matt Linick

*Senior
Researcher*
mlicnik@air.org

Agenda

1. Aligning ESSA with existing resources
2. Navigating the Reviews of Individual Studies
3. Navigating the Practice Guides

Aligning ESSA evidence tiers with WWC design standards



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1VRxZlUyn1k>

Factors to Consider

WWC rating

Outcomes

Sample size

Setting(s)

Context

Factors to consider

WWC rating

- Meets Design Standards **Without** Reservations

Remember? Aligns with “well-designed, well-implemented experimental study.”

- Meets Design Standards **With** Reservations

Remember? Aligns with “well-designed, well-implemented quasi-experimental study.”

Factors to consider

Outcomes

For each outcome of interest:

1. Is there a statistically significant favorable effect on a relevant outcome?
2. Are there overriding negative effects from causal studies that meet WWC standards?

Note: WWC reports on all relevant outcomes in studies, and each one can have its own ESSA tier of evidence.

Factors to consider

Sample size

- Were at least 350 students included in the sample(s)?

Location

- Was more than one district included in the study (or studies)?

Setting and population

- Is the study's setting and/or population similar to the district considering implementation?

Remember: You can pool across different studies that examine the same intervention on the same outcome.

ESSA tiers 1 and 2 on the WWC

WWC lists ESSA tiers 1 and 2 for qualifying findings:

- Studies reviewed under WWC standards 2.1 and higher (that is, not for 1.0 or 2.0).
- Findings meet standards with or without reservations.
- Significant favorable effect with no significant negative effects from other studies.
- Large/multisite samples.

The background of the slide features two small astronaut figurines standing on a textured, rocky surface. In the blurred background, a laptop keyboard is visible, suggesting a connection between space exploration and technology or research. A dark blue horizontal bar is overlaid on the image, containing the title text in white.

Navigating WWC Reviews of Individual Studies database

Reviews of Individual Studies: Review details

Activity 1

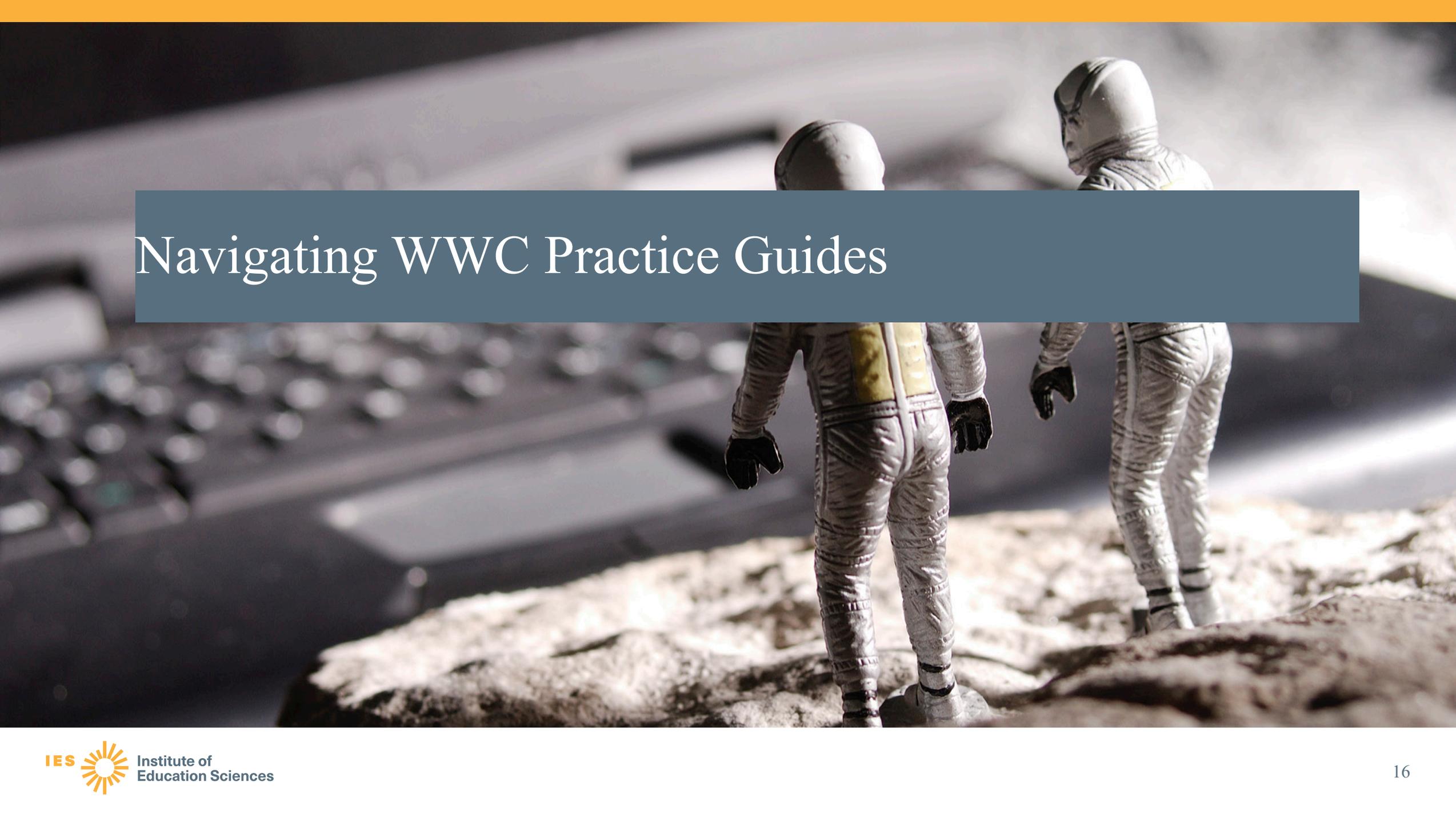
Finding evidence in the Reviews of Individual Studies

Activity

The deputy superintendent of a midsize school district needs to improve math and reading scores in grades K-8. The district is fairly diverse (35% white, 35% black, 30% Latino). In the elementary grades, English learner students are underperforming in English Language Arts. In the middle grades all students are underperforming in mathematics.

Find a program that meets one of the following criteria:

- Tier 1 finding (for your district) for **general literacy achievement**
- Tier 2 finding (for your district) for **general math achievement**
- Tier 3 finding in **math or reading** (for your district) that will help you address your challenges

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Navigating WWC Practice Guides

WWC Practice Guides

Currently 23 Practice Guides on a variety of topics

The guides provide the following:

- Summary of existing research.
- Examples to demonstrate concepts.
- Definitions key terms/concepts.
- Recommendations with evidence levels.

Three standards of evidence in the Practice Guides

1. **Strong evidence base:** Strong causal link between practice and improved student outcomes is supported by multiple studies that meet WWC design standards.
2. **Moderate evidence base:** Some evidence indicates a causal link between practice and improved student outcomes.
3. **Minimal evidence base:** A link between practice and improved student outcomes (not necessarily causal) is supported by at least one study that meets WWC standards.

Aligning Practice Guide ratings with ESSA evidence tiers

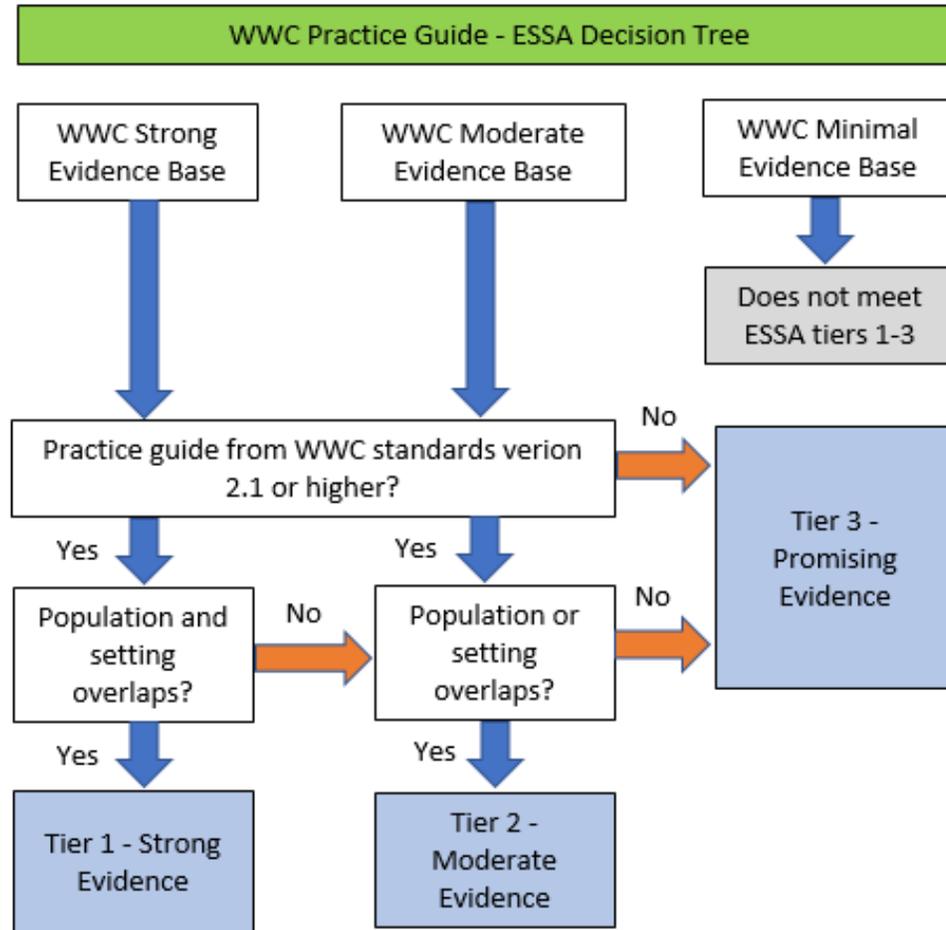
What do you need to know?

WWC standards version used to create the practice guide

- Standards version 2.1 released September 2011.
- Nine practice guides to date under version 2.1 and 3.0.

Your school or district's context

WWC Practice Guides



Locating Practice Guides in the WWC

Activity 2

Finding evidence in the Practice Guides

Navigating the Practice Guides

The same racially/ethnically diverse midsize school district needs to provide schools with some instructional practices for helping their struggling English learner students with improving literacy skills.

Find a practice guide recommendation to address this issue that would meet tier 2 for your district. Provide supporting evidence to show why the recommendation you chose meets the criteria.

Wrapping up



Next week

A deep dive into tiers 3 and 4!



Thank you!



Lyzz Davis

Principal
edavis@air.org



Matt Linick

*Senior
Researcher*
mnick@air.org