

IES is **transforming education** by encouraging an evidence-based approach to education, focusing attention on critical areas of need, sponsoring education studies, and interpreting research results for use by broader audiences. The Institute gives educators, parents, and policymakers the tools to **make educated decisions about our educational system**. It is demonstrating the value of education evaluation.



[ncee.ed.gov](http://ncee.ed.gov)



**The Institute of Education Sciences (IES)** brings rigorous and relevant research, evaluation, and statistics to our nation's education system. It is transforming education into a field in which decision-makers routinely turn to evidence to inform policies and practices that affect students.

**IES accomplishes this mission through the work of its four centers**

- **National Center for Education Research**  
[ncer.ed.gov](http://ncer.ed.gov)
- **National Center for Education Statistics**  
[nces.ed.gov](http://nces.ed.gov)
- **National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance**  
[ncee.ed.gov](http://ncee.ed.gov)
- **National Center for Special Education Research**  
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**NATIONAL CENTER** FOR  
**EDUCATION EVALUATION**  
AND **REGIONAL ASSISTANCE**

**Building Evidence-based Education**

Institute of Education Sciences  
U.S. Department of Education

## Education Sciences Reform Act

The Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 established the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) to serve as the research arm of the U.S. Department of Education and the primary federal source for education research.

## Rigorous Evidence Matters

School superintendents, principals, and teachers need to know which programs have evidence of effectiveness if they are to make **sound decisions** that will improve instruction and raise student achievement.

## Promoting Evidence-based Education

The National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance (NCEE) helps policymakers and educators make informed decisions about educational programs and interventions by providing evidence-based information through the Center's evaluation and knowledge utilization divisions.

The combined activities of these divisions demonstrate an underlying commitment to evidence-based education by:

- Conducting rigorous impact studies of promising educational programs and practices that are supported through federal funds;
- Developing and applying through the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) scientifically-grounded evidence standards to gauge educational interventions; and
- Widely disseminating the results of evidence-based research through NCEE evaluation reports, regional educational laboratories research products, WWC intervention and topic reports, Education Resources Information Center (ERIC), and the National Library of Education.

## Evaluating Program Effectiveness

The Center's evaluation division conducts rigorous impact studies of promising education programs and practices that are supported through federal funds. Studies assess the effect of education programs on student achievement, particularly in reading, mathematics, and science. The evaluations use scientifically-based methodologies that answer questions about program effectiveness.

## Disseminating Research

The knowledge utilization division administers the following programs to ensure the widespread dissemination of research findings and other evidence-based knowledge:

- **The Regional Educational Laboratory Program** has 10 regional educational laboratories serving geographic regions that span the nation. The labs work to ensure that those involved in educational improvement at the local, state, and regional levels have access to the best available evidence-based information through applied research and development projects and studies.
- **The What Works Clearinghouse (WWC)** synthesizes the best evidence of the effectiveness of education programs, policies, and practices. WWC reports the most up-to-date research findings available at [whatworks.ed.gov](http://whatworks.ed.gov). The **Help Desk** provides technical assistance for researchers who design and carry out evaluations, sponsors who support the evaluations, and educators who need to be able to implement evidence-based interventions. The **Registry of Evaluators** helps schools, school districts, and educational program developers identify potential evaluators to conduct studies on educational outcomes.
- **The Education Resources Information Center (ERIC)** provides access to the world's foremost database of education literature. ERIC offers free public access to more than 100,000 archived, full-text documents and search capabilities across leading education research journals and reports. The digital library is the world's premiere database of journal and non-journal education literature, available at [eric.ed.gov](http://eric.ed.gov).
- **The National Library of Education** collects and archives information, providing special historical and current collections of Department of Education documents, a collection of journals for the ERIC database, research reports for WWC, and resources on current and historical federal education legislation.

