

# How Teachers Can Use Practice Guides

**Rebecca Bates**

Technical Assistance Consultant  
American Institutes for Research

**Bridget E. Thomas, PhD**

Senior Education Researcher  
Quality Information Partners

**Lyzz Davis**

Senior Researcher  
American Institutes for Research

**Tara Thornton Garrett**

SRCL Literacy Coach  
Partnership Academy

# Agenda

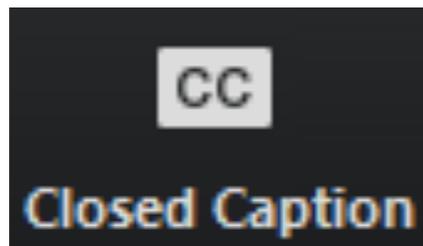
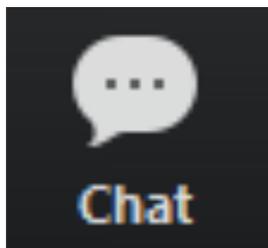
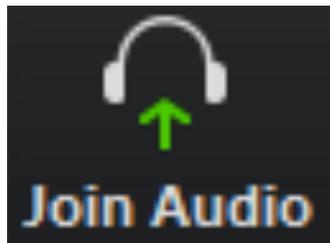
- Explanation of the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) Practice Guides and How They Can Inform Teacher Practice
- School-Level Practitioner Example
- ESSA and Practice Guide Levels of Evidence
- How Practice Guides Can Be Used to Inform Teacher Practice
- Wrap Up

## Goals of the Webinar

- Demonstrate how teachers can use Practice Guides to answer questions, inform their practice, and share information with colleagues
- Show how to locate and choose Practice Guides
- Answer audience questions about the Practice Guides



# Using the Zoom Webinar Platform

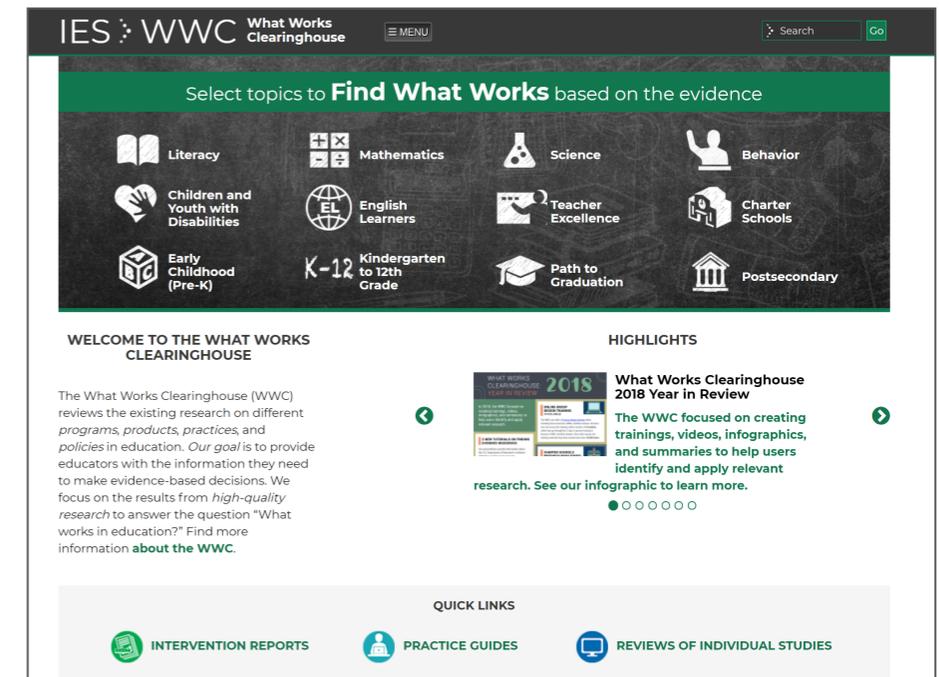


- If you aren't already connected to audio, click **Join Audio** in the Zoom toolbar
  - You have the option to dial into the phone line or listen through computer audio
- Click on the **Chat box** to introduce yourself, ask questions of the presenters, or let us know about any technical issues
- We have live closed captioning available during the webinar – to see the captions, click on **Closed Caption**

# Explanation of the Practice Guides and How They Can Inform Teacher Practice

# Introduction

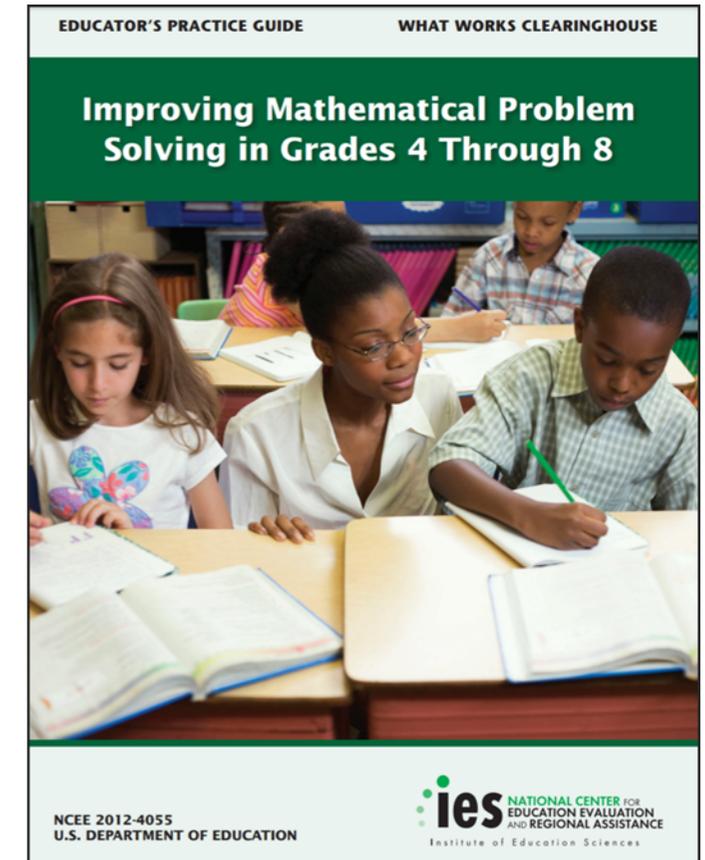
- The What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) reviews existing education research and provides educators with the information they need to make evidence-based decisions.
- WWC Practice Guides are specifically designed to be useful to educators and to answer key questions about effective instructional practices.



# What Practice Guides Offer

## Practice Guides

- provide educators with the best available evidence and expertise on current challenges in education;
- combine the knowledge of an expert panel with the findings of existing rigorous research; and
- offer specific recommendations about important educational issues.



# How Practice Guides Can Aid Teachers

Practice Guides can support your work and answer your questions

- across multiple academic subjects;
- related to policy issues;
- about varied academic levels; and
- about different student populations.



# Areas Covered by Practice Guides

As of this webinar, there are 23 Practice Guides, including guides about the following topics:

- Early childhood education (4 guides)
- Elementary or middle school education (9 guides)
- Secondary education (6 guides)
- Postsecondary education (1 guide)
- Writing and language arts (8 guides)
- Mathematics (6 guides)



# Included in Each Practice Guide



A summary of the existing research on a key topic



A discussion of practices supported by research evidence



Key examples to demonstrate the concepts discussed

## Included in Each Practice Guide (cont.)



Definitions of key terms and concepts



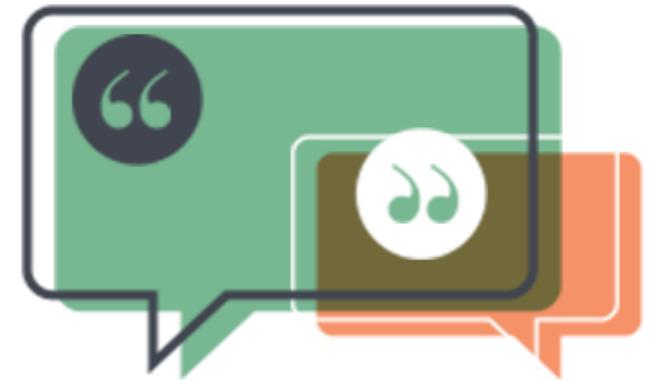
Specific recommendations for addressing educational issues



A system of evidence levels for each recommendation

# Practice Guide Development

- The Practice Guides combine research and practice to provide recommendations for educators.
- WWC works with an expert panel to develop recommendations.
- The panel rates the level of research evidence supporting each recommendation.



# Companion WWC Infographic

**HOW CAN THE WWC PRACTICE GUIDES HELP TEACHERS?**

**THE PRACTICE GUIDES...**

- Provide educators with the best research evidence available
- Combine expert panel knowledge with rigorous research findings
- Offer specific recommendations to address education challenges

[Access the Practice Guides](#)

**EACH PRACTICE GUIDE INCLUDES...**

- A summary of the existing research on a key topic
- Definitions of key terms and concepts
- A discussion of practices that are supported by research evidence
- Specific recommendations for how to address educational issues
- Key examples to demonstrate the concepts discussed
- A system of evidence levels for each recommendation

**PRACTICE GUIDES CAN SUPPORT WORK AND ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS...**

- Across multiple academic subjects
- At every level from early childhood to postsecondary education
- On topics beyond academic content, such as student dropout
- About different special populations

**EXAMPLES OF PRACTICE GUIDE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- "Prepare problems and use them in whole-class instruction."
- "Expose students to multiple problem-solving strategies."

*These recommendations are concise examples from the [Mathematical Problem Solving Practice Guide](#)*

View WWC resources at <https://whatworks.ed.gov>

This infographic was prepared for the U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, What Work Clearinghouse through a contract to American Institutes for Research

ies WHAT WORKS CLEARINGHOUSE

**HOW CAN THE WWC PRACTICE GUIDES HELP TEACHERS?**

**THE PRACTICE GUIDES...**

- Provide educators with the best research evidence available
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[Access the Practice Guides](#)

**EACH PRACTICE GUIDE INCLUDES...**

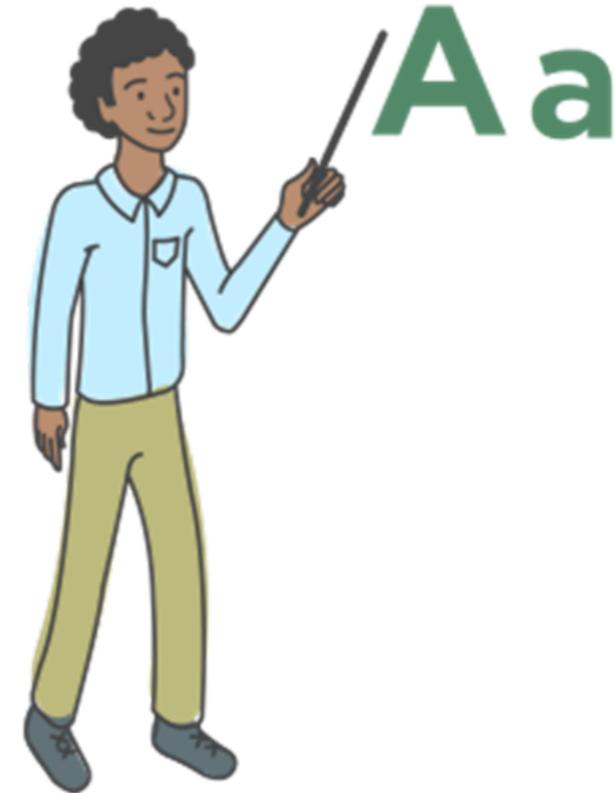
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[https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Docs/PracticeGuide/How\\_can\\_the\\_WWC\\_Practice\\_Guides\\_Help\\_Teachers\\_508.pdf](https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Docs/PracticeGuide/How_can_the_WWC_Practice_Guides_Help_Teachers_508.pdf)

# School-Level Practitioner Example

# Identifying the Problem

- Winter benchmark data showed limited progress in the area of reading fluency.



# Asking the Right Questions

Interpretive Analysis of the Data:

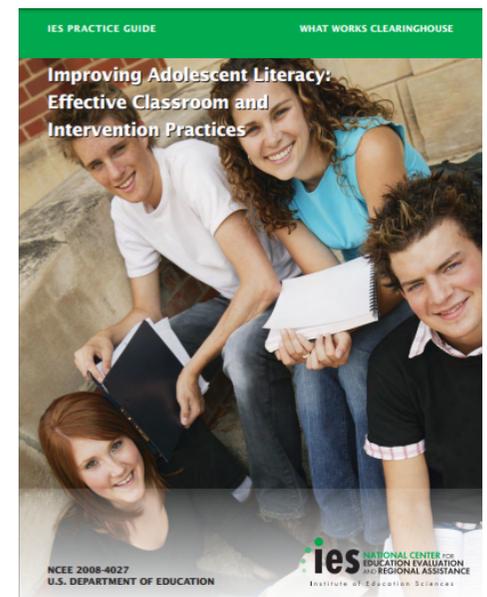
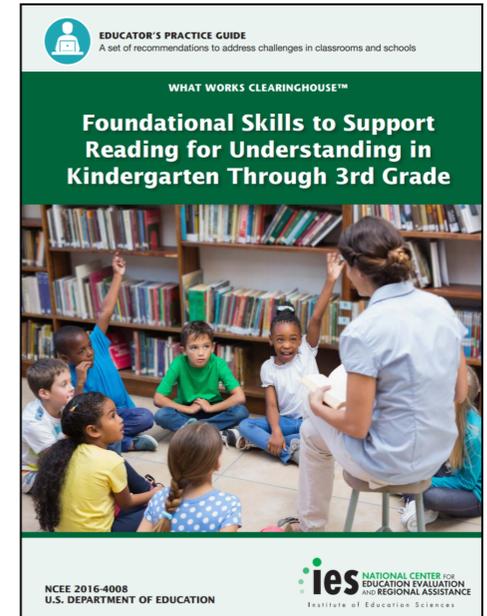
- Why were some grade levels exceeding expected growth while others weren't?
- What wasn't the data telling us?
- What types of practice are most effective in developing reading fluency?



# What Types of Practice are Most Effective in Developing Reading Fluency?

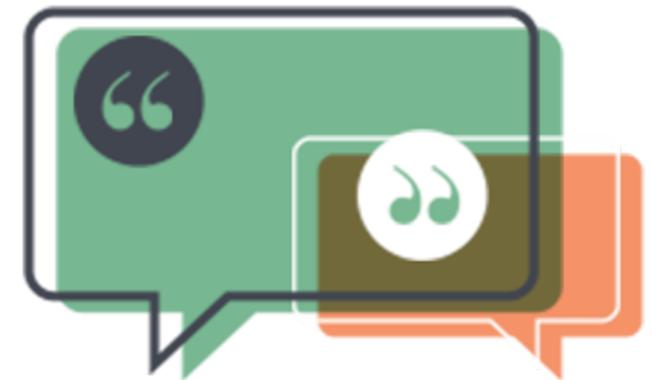
## Foundational Skills to Support Reading for Understanding in Kindergarten Through 3rd Grade

## Improving Adolescent Literacy: Effective Classroom and Intervention Practices



## Applying Strategies and Communicating to Colleagues

- Grade Level Teams
  - Developed grade-level action plans based on WWC best practices
- One-on-one Coaching
  - What best practices in the area of fluency are strengths?
  - What best practices in the area of fluency need development?
  - Created an individual action plan to develop those best practices



# Question-and-Answer Session

# ESSA and Practice Guide Levels of Evidence

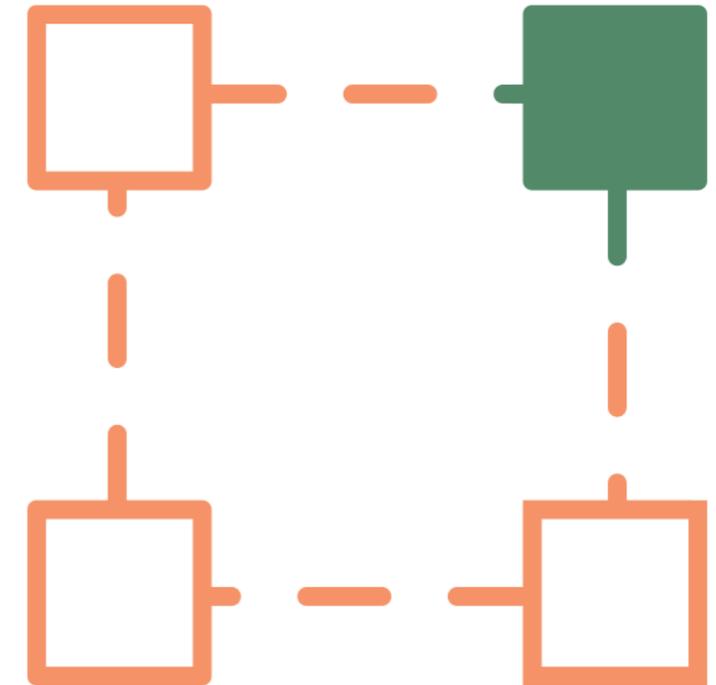
# WWC Practice Guides Standards of Evidence

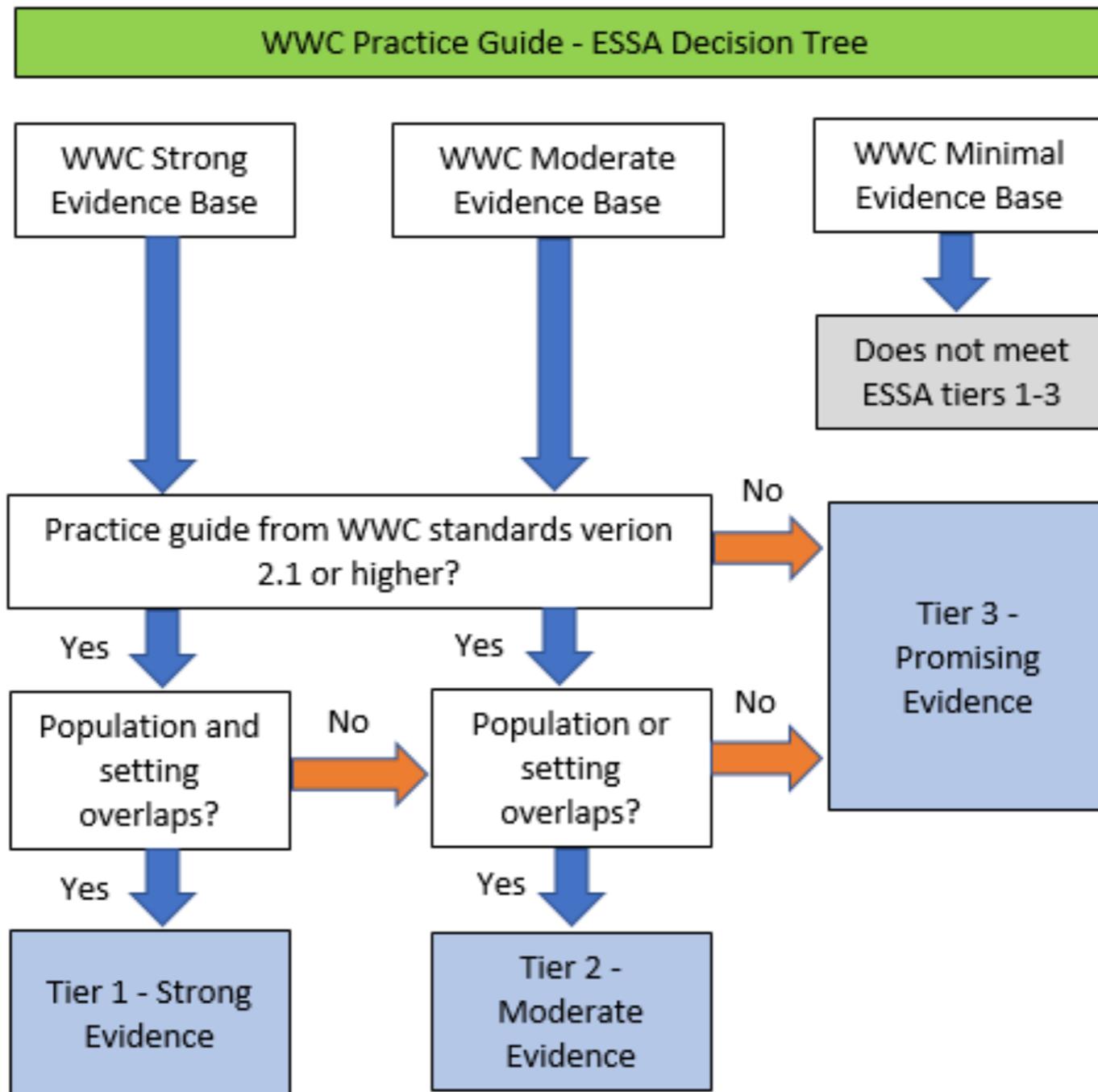
- **Strong evidence base:** Strong causal link between practice and improved student outcomes is supported by multiple studies that meet WWC design standards
- **Moderate evidence base:** Some evidence indicates a causal link between practice and improved student outcomes
- **Minimal evidence base:** 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





# Locating a Practice Guide

Practice Guides are in the **Publications** section on the WWC website.

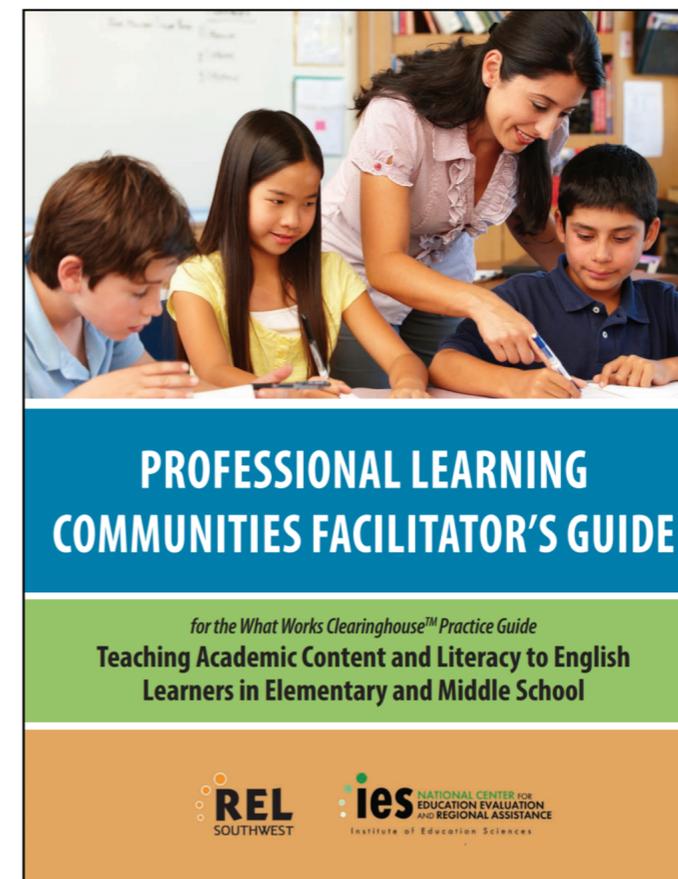
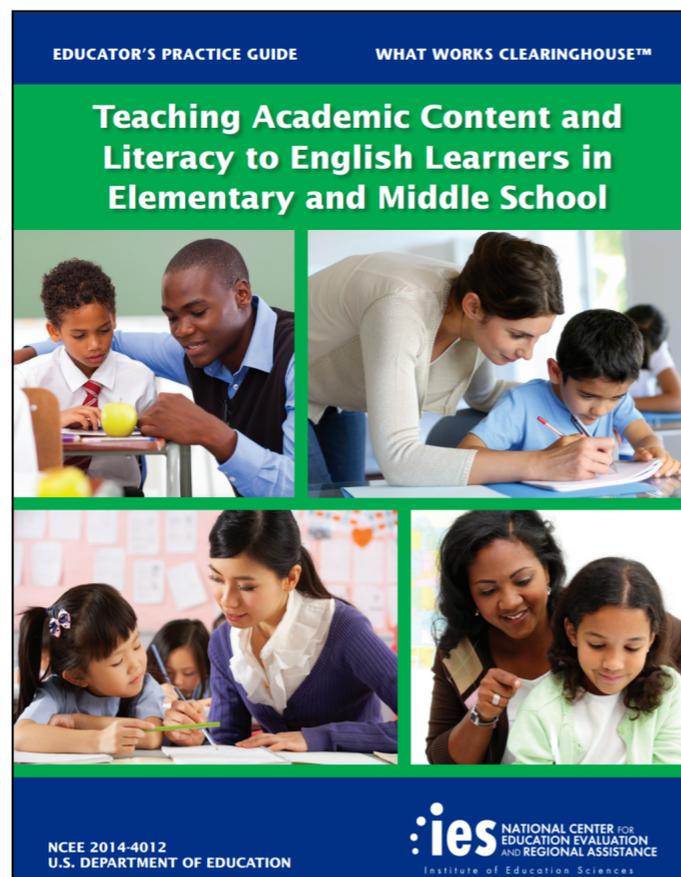
The screenshot shows the homepage of the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) website. The top navigation bar includes the IES and WWC logos, a search bar, and a menu icon. A left sidebar contains navigation links: About, Find Evidence, Search Publications, Handbooks & Other Resources, and WWC Help Desk. The main content area is titled 'Search Publications' and features a list of categories: Intervention Reports, Practice Guides (highlighted in green), and Archived Publications. A 'Practice Guides' tooltip is visible over the 'Practice Guides' link. To the right, there are social media icons for Newsflash, Contact Us, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. Below the navigation, a 'WELCOME TO THE WHAT WORKS CLEARINGHOUSE' section provides a brief overview of the WWC's mission. A 'HIGHLIGHTS' section features a 'What Works Clearinghouse 2018 Year in Review' infographic with a call to action to see an infographic to learn more.

## Locating a Practice Guide (cont.)

When searching for a Practice Guide, you can use the drop-down list to search within a category, or you can use keywords to search the full Practice Guide library.

The screenshot shows the IES WWC What Works Clearinghouse search interface. At the top, the logo 'IES WWC What Works Clearinghouse' is visible, along with a search bar containing the text 'Search' and a 'Go' button. Below the header, the page is titled 'SEARCH PUBLICATIONS' and includes a brief instruction: 'Use the search below to find WWC Intervention Reports and Educators Practice Guides that summarize the results of WWC reviews. To search for reviews of individual studies, use the [Reviews of Individual Studies Search](#).' The search area features a text input field with the placeholder 'Search WWC Publications', a dropdown menu currently set to 'All Topics', and another dropdown menu set to 'Practice Guide'. Below the search fields, there are navigation buttons for 'Previous', '1', '2', '3', and 'Next'. The results section indicates 'Displaying 1 - 10 of 23 results'. The first result is titled 'Improving Mathematical Problem Solving' and is a 'Practice Guide | October 2018'. Below this result is a 'Related Resource (925 KB)' titled 'Instructional Tips | July 2017'. A dropdown menu is open over the 'All Topics' dropdown, listing various categories: All Topics, Behavior, Charter Schools, Children and Youth with Disabilities, Early Childhood (Pre-K), English Learners, Kindergarten to 12th Grade, Literacy, and Mathematics.

# REL Resources that Complement Information from the Practice Guides



# Question-and-Answer Session

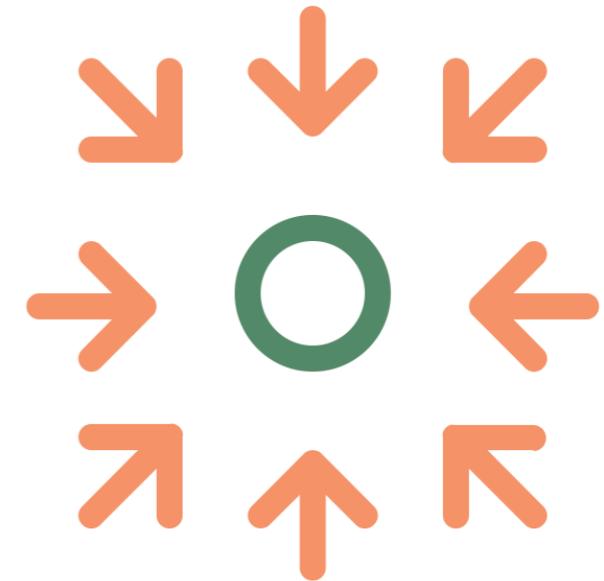
# How Practice Guides Can Be Used to Inform Teacher Practice

# Using Practice Guides to Inform Teacher Practice

First, determine where you want to focus.

Consider:

- Is there a content area on which you want to focus?
- Is there a population of students whose needs you want to better meet?
- Is there a practice you want to incorporate to improve your classroom practice?



# Using Practice Guides to Inform Teacher Practice (cont.)

Then search publications by selecting a topic and practice guide.

## SEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Use the search below to find WWC [Intervention Reports](#) and Educators [Practice Guides](#) that summarize the results of WWC reviews. To search for reviews of *individual studies*, use the [Reviews of Individual Studies Search](#).

Search WWC Publications

Previous **1** Next

Displaying 1 - 8 of 8 results

## Scan the Practice Guide Titles to Determine Fit

Grade levels or student groups are included in Practice Guide titles so you can determine if the guide aligns with your focus.



### **Foundational Skills to Support Reading for Understanding in Kindergarten Through 3rd Grade**

This practice guide provides four recommendations for teaching foundational reading skills to students in kindergarten through 3rd grade. Each recommendation includes implementation steps and solutions for common obstacles. The...

Practice Guide | July 2016

### **Related Resource (919 KB)**

This 10-page practice guide summary provides an overview of the four recommendations that support teachers in developing students' foundational reading skills. See the research evidence at a glance.

Practice Guide Summary | May 2017

# Practice Guide Features

Recommendations are listed with WWC level of evidence ratings.

## Foundational Skills to Support Reading for Understanding in Kindergarten Through 3rd Grade



Released: July 2016\* Revised  
PDF (3.4 MB)

- Recommendations
- Details
- Panel

This practice guide provides four recommendations for teaching foundational reading skills to students in kindergarten through 3rd grade. Each recommendation includes implementation steps and solutions for common obstacles. The recommendations also summarize and rate supporting evidence. This guide is geared towards teachers, administrators, and other educators who want to improve their students' foundational reading skills, and is a companion to the practice guide, **Improving Reading Comprehension in Kindergarten Through 3rd Grade**.

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b> Teach students academic language skills, including the use of inferential and narrative language, and vocabulary knowledge.</p> <p><b>MINIMAL EVIDENCE</b></p> <p>▼ Show More</p> | <p><b>2</b> Develop awareness of the segments of sounds in speech and how they link to letters.</p> <p><b>STRONG EVIDENCE</b></p> <p>▼ Show More</p> | <p><b>3</b> Teach students to decode words, analyze word parts, and write and recognize words.</p> <p><b>STRONG EVIDENCE</b></p> <p>▼ Show More</p> | <p><b>4</b> Ensure that each student reads connected text every day to support reading accuracy, fluency, and comprehension.</p> <p><b>MODERATE EVIDENCE</b></p> <p>▼ Show More</p> |
|---|--|---|---|

## Practice Guide Features (cont.)

- **Summary of Evidence:** Brief summary of evidence that leads to rating for recommendation
- **How to carry out the recommendation:** Action statements that describe the practice and how to implement it
- **Potential obstacles to implementing recommendation:** Description of potential obstacles and advice on how to address them

**How to carry out the recommendation**

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1. Engage students in conversations that support the use and comprehension of inferential language.

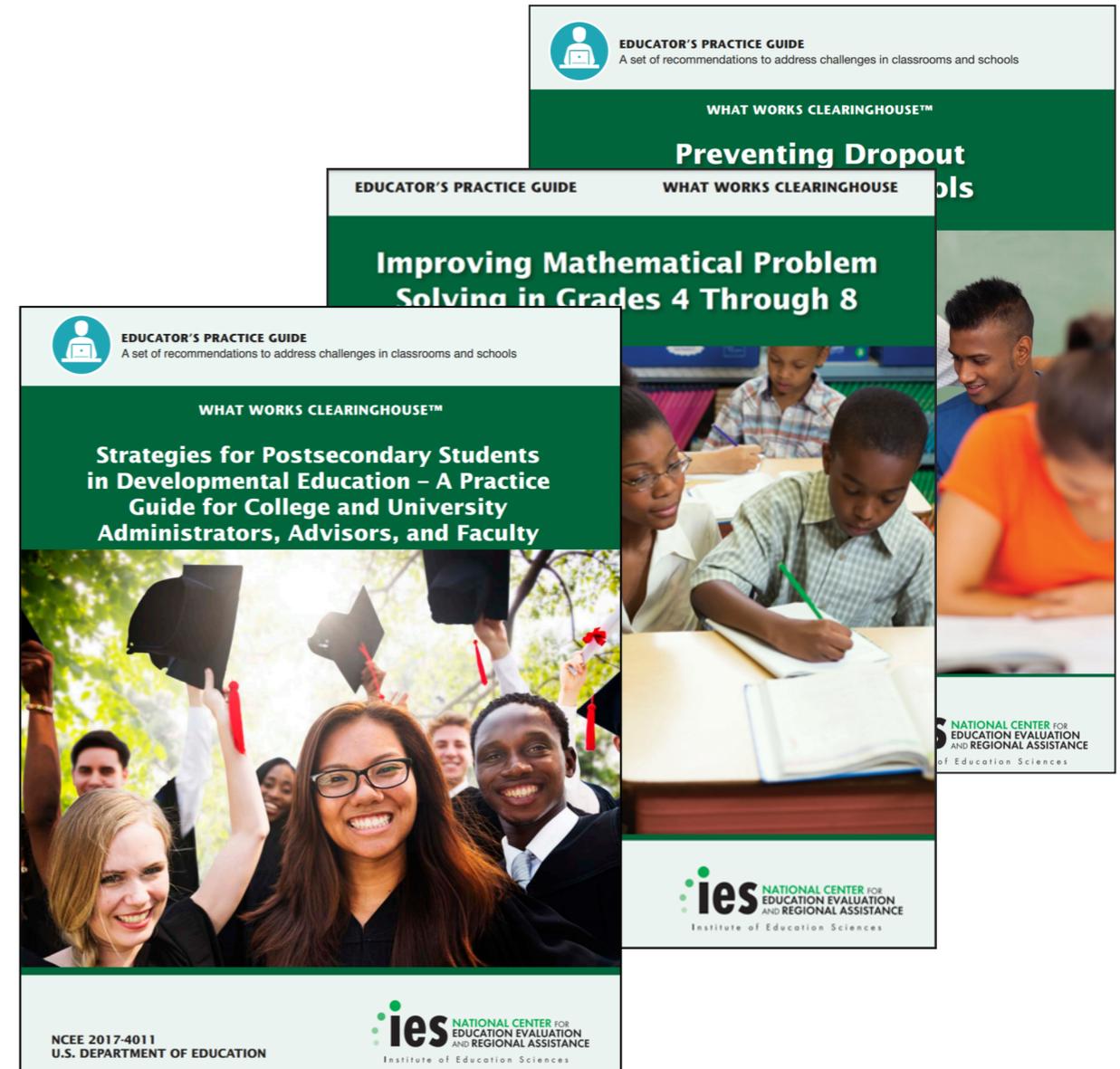
Develop students' inferential language—such as predicting, problem-solving, hypothesizing, or contrasting—with conversations before, during, and after read-alouds or other activities.<sup>22</sup> These conversations should engage students in higher-level thinking that encourages using inferential language.<sup>23</sup> Use open-ended questions to challenge students to think about the messages in both narrative and informational texts and how those messages apply to the world around them, by connecting events to

**Inferential language** focuses on topics removed from the here and now.

their own lives, hypothesizing causal relationships, or solving problems (see Example 1.2).<sup>24</sup> As students progress, ask increasingly complex questions, such as why an author used a certain metaphor, to encourage them to think critically and use inferential language.

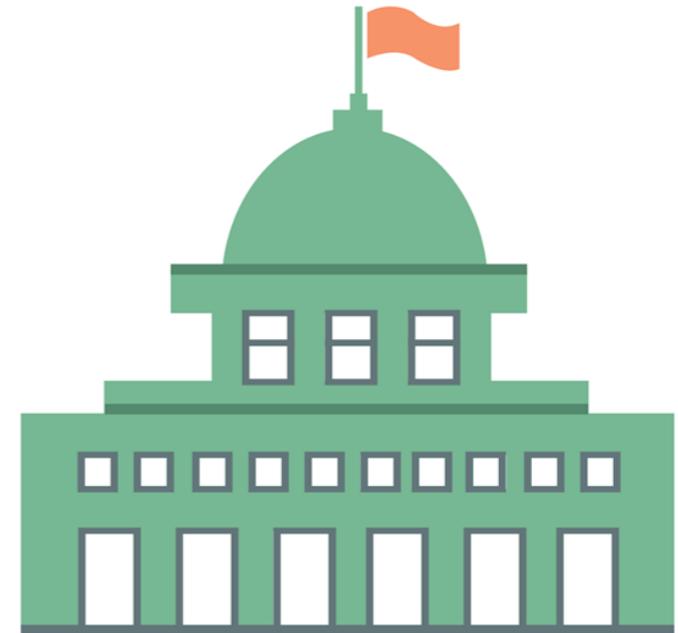
# Practice Guide Uses

- Classroom practice
- Professional development
- Curriculum development
- Research



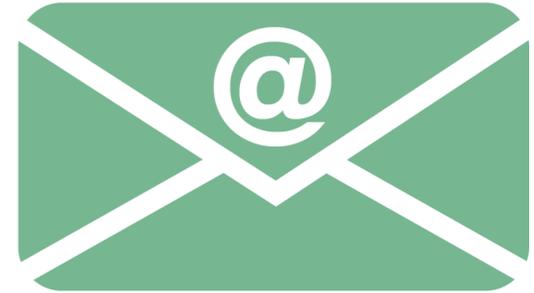
# Example of How a State Department of Education Uses WWC Practice Guides

- Scan of all Practice Guide recommendations
- Review of themes across Practice Guide recommendations
- Focus on quality core instruction
- Support implementation of standards-based instruction



# Question-and-Answer Session

# Contact



**Bridget Thomas**, Senior Education Researcher  
Quality Information Partners  
[bridgetthomas@qi-partners.com](mailto:bridgetthomas@qi-partners.com)

**Tara Thornton Garrett**, SRCL Literacy Coach  
Partnership Academy  
[tgarrett@paschool.org](mailto:tgarrett@paschool.org)

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**WWC**

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