The What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) summarizes research on education interventions that teachers, school leaders, and other education consumers may use. The WWC chooses interventions to review from timely and relevant topic areas, which are broad areas of educational focus, such as literacy or STEM.

The WWC first identifies topic areas by weighing whether new evidence is in high demand AND available.

Weighing these two factors, the WWC identifies relevant and informative topic areas.

High-interest topic areas are those that answer important questions for educators.

The WWC identifies these topics by scanning state education agencies’ plans, understanding needs identified by Regional Educational Laboratories, and tracking WWC Help Desk inquiries and website searches.

Some topic areas have more high-quality research and rigorous evidence.

The WWC identifies these topics by keeping track of research funded by the Department of Education, described on registries of planned research, or already reviewed by the WWC.

The WWC is currently reviewing interventions from early childhood to grade 12 in five topic areas:

- **Educator Excellence and School Leadership**
  - Providing effective training and support for teachers and school leaders

- **English Learners**
  - Improving the English-language literacy and academic achievement of English learners

- **Literacy**
  - Increasing the reading and writing skills of beginning readers and adolescents

- **STEM**
  - Improving student outcomes in science and mathematics

- **Supportive Learning Environments**
  - Improving schools’ climate and learning environment to help all students succeed

In the future, the WWC will review interventions in additional topic areas that are timely, relevant, and of interest to users of the WWC.
How does the WWC select interventions to review in each topic area?

Steps the WWC uses to select interventions and begin the review process:

1. The WWC creates a list of interventions that have high-quality research by:
   - Asking for advice from experts on the research and interventions within the topic area.
   - Identifying interventions and studies in the topic area that the WWC has previously reviewed.
   - Conducting a broad literature search of all studies related to the topic area.

2. The WWC conducts a comprehensive search to find all studies related to each intervention identified in Step 1.

3. The WWC scores and ranks interventions.
   A score is assigned to each intervention based on the number of high-quality studies. Interventions with more studies are ranked higher, while interventions that the WWC has recently reviewed are ranked lower. After considering any other factors, such as the demand for evidence, the WWC then reviews the highest-scoring interventions.

4. The WWC screens and reviews studies of the selected interventions.

See the WWC Process Briefs for more information about how studies are screened and reviewed by the WWC.

The WWC reviews studies using the WWC evidence standards and summarizes the results of those reviews in intervention reports. See this infographic for more information about the systematic review process. Also, see this infographic for more information about how the WWC summarizes evidence within topic areas.