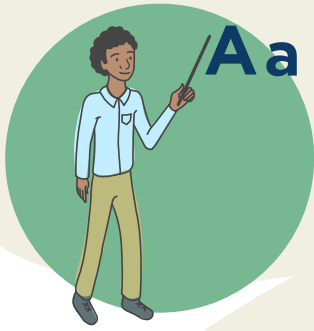


# USING THE WWC TO FIND ESSA TIERS OF EVIDENCE

Educators search for high-quality research for many reasons, and the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) can be a valuable tool for locating studies that meet the **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** requirements.



Educators search for high-quality research and evidence-based interventions to strengthen grant applications, to support comprehensive and targeted schools, or to implement new programming in their schools. ESSA evidence tiers are designed to ensure that states, districts, and schools can identify programs, practices, products, and policies that work across various populations.

The WWC has valuable tools for locating studies that meet the ESSA requirements. Here are the other pieces of the puzzle, including logos that can be seen throughout the [WWC website](#) to identify studies that meet ESSA requirements.

**ESSA**  
TIER  
**1**

AT LEAST ONE FINDING SHOWS STRONG EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVENESS

**ESSA**  
TIER  
**2**

AT LEAST ONE FINDING SHOWS MODERATE EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVENESS

**STRONG** evidence of effectiveness under ESSA is defined as

**MODERATE** evidence of effectiveness under ESSA is defined as



Meets WWC Standards **Without** Reservations under version 2.1 or later to meet Tier 1<sup>1</sup>



Meets WWC Standards **With or Without** Reservations under version 2.1 or later to meet Tier 2<sup>2</sup>



Statistically significant positive effect to meet Tier 1



Statistically significant positive effect to meet Tier 2



At least 350 students to meet Tier 1



At least 350 students to meet Tier 2



At least two educational sites to meet Tier 1



At least two educational sites to meet Tier 2

<sup>1</sup> **Meets WWC Standards Without Reservations** means in most cases that a study was a randomized controlled trial (RCT) that was deemed by experts to be well-designed and well-implemented and that did not have problems with attrition (that is, participants dropping out or otherwise leaving the study).

<sup>2</sup> **Meets WWC Standards With Reservations** means that a study has some potential issues that require caution. It may be a strong quasi-experimental study (meaning that it did not have random selection and/or assignment of participants) with comparison groups that are similar at the baseline. It may also be an RCT that is not as well implemented, or has issues with attrition.

*\*NOTE: Under ESSA, for a state/district/school to consider an intervention as a Tier 1 evidence-based practice, the setting AND samples from the studies used to determine the evidence tier need to overlap with the population AND setting of the state/district/school interested in implementing the intervention.*

*For a state/district/school to consider an intervention as a Tier 2 evidence-based practice, the setting OR the samples from the studies used to determine the evidence tier need to overlap with setting OR population.*

Access ESSA-related resources at the [What Works Clearinghouse website](#).

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