

# Demystifying the What Works Clearinghouse: A Webinar for Developers and Researchers

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# Demystifying the What Works Clearinghouse

## Overview

- **What Does the WWC Do?**
- **Why is it Important to have Standards for Research?**
- **How are WWC Reviews Conducted?**
- **What is Done to Ensure Quality and Accuracy?**
- **What if I Have Questions About a Review?**
- **How do I Submit a Study?**
- **Webinar participant Q&A**

# What Works Clearinghouse (WWC)

- **The WWC was established in 2002 as an investment of the Institute of Education Sciences, within the Department of Education.**
- **The project is operated by the National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance (NCEE), which supports the synthesis of evaluation throughout the U.S.**
- **NCEE conducts independent projects that are credible and free of political consideration.**

# The WWC Process

- **Mission: To be a central and trusted source of what works in education**



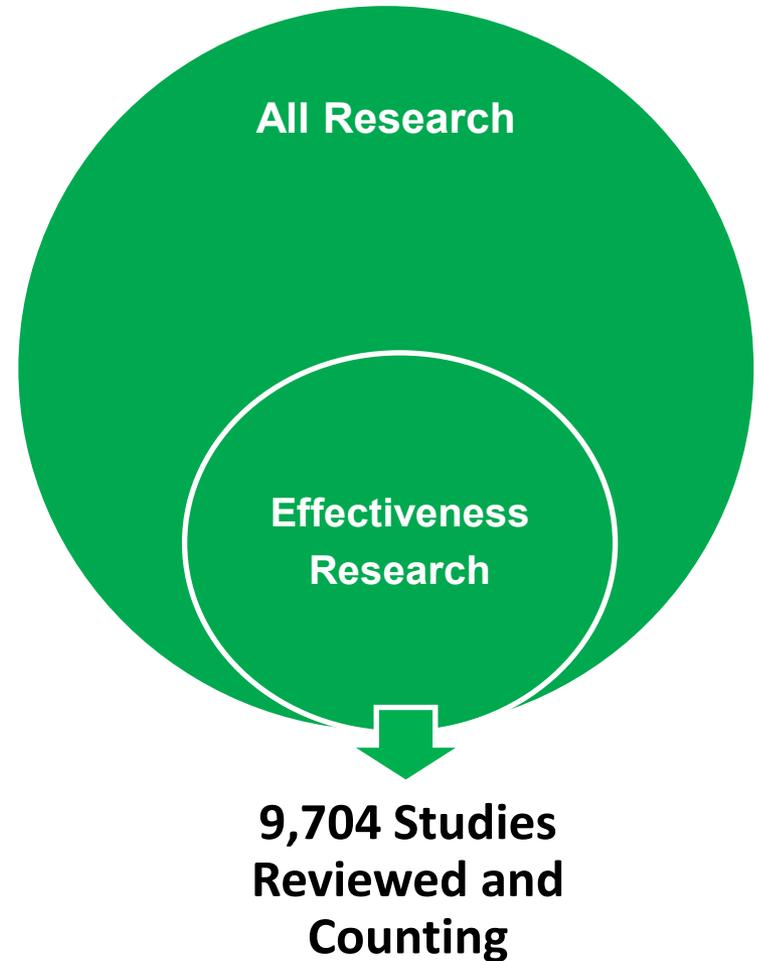
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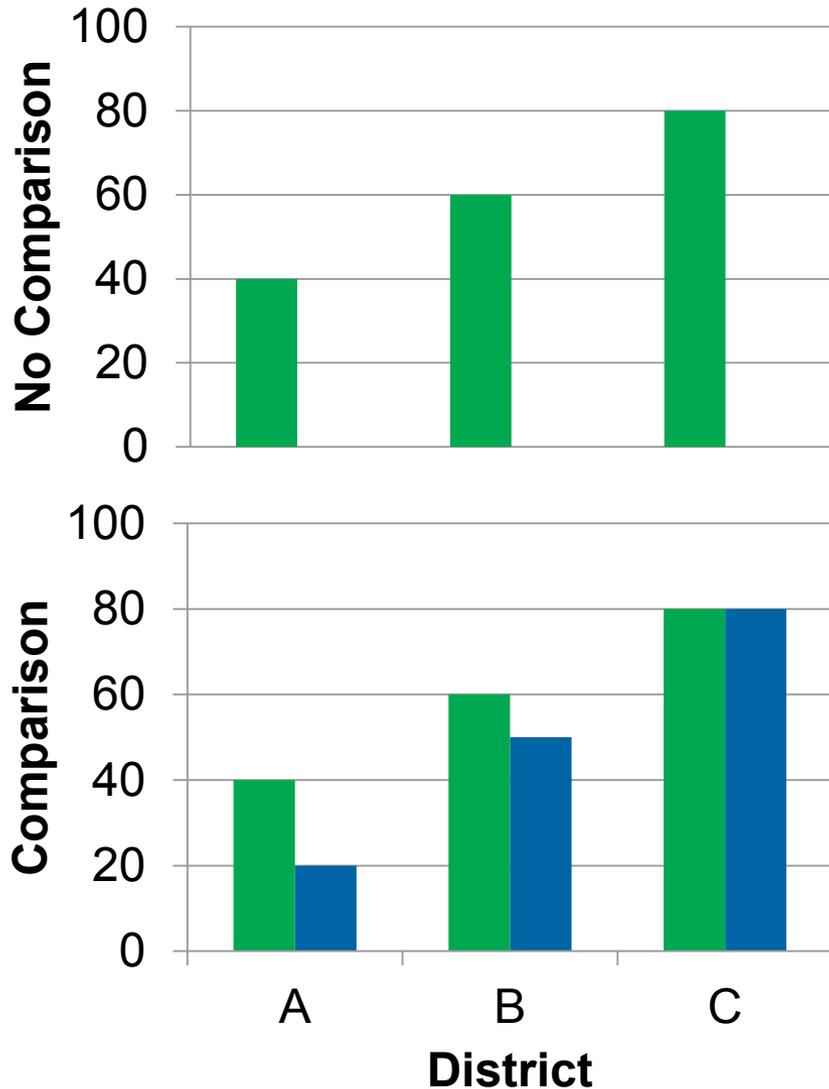
For Each Intervention, the WWC	
Does...	Does Not...
Review all effectiveness studies	Conduct our own studies
Summarize high quality studies	Recommend interventions
Document study details	Approve interventions

# The WWC Assesses Effectiveness Research

- The WWC assesses the quality of effectiveness research.
- High-quality effectiveness research rules out other causes of effects.
- Implementation provides important context for findings.



# The Quality of Effectiveness Research Matters



- Education decisions are increasingly based on education research.
- Decision makers do not have time to assess research quality.
- The WWC systematic review is a central and trusted source for decision makers.

# WWC Review Protocols

- **Each review is guided by a review protocol**
  - Developed with substantive experts
  - Specifies research questions for the review
  - Defines the scope of the review
  - Describes the process for identifying studies

<b>Eligible Study Designs (Effectiveness Research)</b>	<b>Ineligible Study Designs</b>
Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs)	Correlational
Quasi-Experimental Designs (QEDs)	Case Studies
Regression Discontinuity Designs (RDDs)	Implementation Studies
Single-Case Designs (SCDs)	Descriptive and Testimonials

# WWC Evidence Standards

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- **Developed by panels of national experts**
- **Focus on causal validity of the study design**
- **Applied to each study by certified reviewers**
- **Result in a study rating**
  - Meets WWC standards without reservations
  - Meets WWC standards with reservations
  - Does not meet WWC standards
- **What if the WWC needs more information?**

# What is the Result of a Review?

- **Master Review Guide and study rating**
- **Incorporated into a product on the website**
  - **Single study review**
  - **Intervention report**
  - **Practice guide**
  - **Stay tuned for new products**
- **Studies database**
- **How long does the process take**



# What is Done to Ensure Quality and Accuracy?



# What If I Have Questions?

- **What if I have questions about the WWC?**
  - Help Desk responds to most questions
- **What if I have questions about a review or report?**
  - Submit question in writing (use “Contact Us” page)
  - Specify study or set of studies
  - Identify issues of concern and explain objections
- **What happens to those questions?**
  - Investigation by Quality Review Team
  - Report of findings
  - Revise report if necessary



# How to Submit a Study for Review

The screenshot shows the 'About Us' page of the What Works Clearinghouse website. The header includes the IES logo, the title 'WHAT WORKS CLEARINGHOUSE', and a search bar. The navigation menu has 'About Us' circled in orange. A dropdown menu is open, with 'Contact Us' also circled in orange. The main content area features a 'Contact Us' heading with a question mark icon, followed by a text block explaining the purpose of the form. Below this is a form with an email field, a dropdown menu for 'Submit a Study to Review', and a large text area for 'Tell us what's on your mind.' Two orange arrows point to these two form elements. A 'SUBMIT' button is circled in orange at the bottom left. On the right side, there are social media links for Facebook and a 'Top Downloads' section listing two documents.

**ies** INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES

WHAT WORKS CLEARINGHOUSE

Enter search terms here

Home | Topics in Education | Publications & Reviews | Find What Works! | Inside the WWC | News & Events | **About Us**

Home > About Us

**?** Contact Us

Need help with a report? Want to make a suggestion? Have a question about the WWC? We're here to help! Call us at (866) 503-6114 or email us using the form below.

Your email:

*Submit a Study to Review*

*Tell us what's on your mind.*

**NOTE:** After you submit this form you will be **redirected to an external website** to upload an electronic version of the study.

Files must not exceed 100MB and must be in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format. If you do not have an electronic version of the study, please provide a URL link, or as much information about the study as possible (e.g., title, author(s), publication date, etc.), in your message text.

**SUBMIT**

Find us on Facebook

Top Downloads

- Assisting Students Struggling with Mathematics: Response to Intervention (RtI) for Elementary and Middle Schools
- Improving Reading Comprehension in Kindergarten Through 3rd Grade

# How to Submit a Study for Review

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- **Where does a study submission go once it is received?**
  - **Sent to a topic area or single study review team**
  - **Considered during next prioritization**
  - **Does the WWC review all studies that are submitted?**

# WWC Resources

- **WWC Procedures and Standards Handbook**
  - <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/DocumentSum.aspx?sid=19>
- **WWC Reporting Guide for Study Authors**
  - [http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/pdf/reference\\_resources/wwc\\_gsa\\_v1.pdf](http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/pdf/reference_resources/wwc_gsa_v1.pdf)
- **WWC Study Review Guide and Instructions**
  - <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/StudyReviewGuide.aspx>
- **The What Works Clearinghouse Help Desk**
  - <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/ContactUs.aspx>
- **Follow the WWC**
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