

WHAT IS AN “EVIDENCE-BASED” INTERVENTION?

(from section 8101(21)(A) of the ESEA)

“...the term ‘evidence-based,’ when used with respect to a State, local educational agency, or school activity, means an activity, strategy, or intervention that –

.demonstrates a statistically significant effect on improving student outcomes or other relevant outcomes based on –

1. **strong evidence** from at least one well-designed and well-implemented experimental study;
2. **moderate evidence** from at least one well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study; or
3. **promising evidence** from at least one well-designed and well-implemented correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias; or
4. **demonstrates a rationale** based on high-quality research findings or positive evaluation that such activity, strategy, or intervention is likely to improve student outcomes or other relevant outcomes; and includes ongoing efforts to examine the effects of such activity, strategy, or intervention.



Resources for Choosing Evidence-Based Program Urls/Links:

- [Evidence for ESSA link](#): Find Evidence-Based PK-12 Programs. Your new standard for the most up-to-date and reliable information on programs that meet ESSA evidence standards.
- [What Works Clearinghouse \(WWC\) link](#) – The What Works Clearinghouse is an investment of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES within the within the U.S. Department of Education. The work of the WWC is managed by a team of staff at IES and conducted under a set of contracts held by several leading firms with expertise in education, research methodology, and the dissemination of education and research.

Resources for Understanding and Leveraging Evidence-Based Practices

Citation: <https://oese.ed.gov/resources/oese-technical-assistance-centers/state-support-network/resources/leveraging-evidence-based-practices-local-school-improvement/>

[ESSA Action Guide: Selecting Evidence-Based Practices for Low-Performing Schools\(link is external\)](#) This report from American Institutes for Research focuses on the use of evidence-based practices, with the goal of helping leaders at the state, district, and school levels explore and select interventions designed to support school improvement.

[Evidence-Based Improvement: A Guide for States to Strengthen Their Frameworks and Supports Aligned to the Evidence Requirements of ESSA\(link is external\)](#) This guide from WestEd provides six tools(link is external) to help states and districts understand and plan for implementing evidence-based improvement strategies. The tools help states and districts inventory current practices and decide how to select new practices using a step-by-step process.

Additional Notes

School Improvement Award (SIA) - Supports evidence-based practices that address priority performance needs in schools identified as needing comprehensive support and improvement (CSI) or targeted support and improvement (TSI)

- CSI schools must use SIA funds to benefit all students
- TSI schools must prioritize identified student groups
- Look for research that supports the strategy, intervention, or program