

## ESSA Evidence Levels

Evidence Level	Study Design	Favorable Effects	Other Effects	What Works Clearinghouse Standard	Sample Size & Overlap
<i>Level I Strong Evidence</i>	Experimental Study	Shows a statistically significant and positive (i.e., favorable) effect of the intervention on a student outcome or other relevant outcome	Is not overridden by statistically significant and negative (i.e., unfavorable) evidence from other findings in studies that meet What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) Evidence Standards with or without reservations (or are the equivalent quality)	Meets WWC Evidence Standards <u>without</u> reservations (or is the equivalent quality)	Includes a large sample and a multi-site sample, overlapping with populations <b><i>and</i></b> settings proposed to receive the intervention
<i>Level II Moderate Evidence</i>	Quasi-experimental Study	Shows a statistically significant and positive (i.e., favorable) effect of the intervention on a student outcome or other relevant outcome	Is not overridden by statistically significant and negative (i.e., unfavorable) evidence from other findings in studies that meet WWC Evidence Standards with or without reservations (or the equivalent quality)	Meets WWC Standards <u>with</u> or <u>without</u> reservations (or is the equivalent quality)	Includes a large sample and a multi-site sample, overlapping with populations <b><i>or</i></b> settings proposed to receive the intervention
<i>Level III Promising Evidence</i>	Correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias	Shows a statistically significant and positive (i.e., favorable) effect of the intervention on a student outcome or other relevant outcome	Is not overridden by statistically significant and negative (i.e., unfavorable) evidence from other findings in studies that meet WWC Evidence Standards with or without reservations (or the equivalent quality)		
<i>Level IV Demonstrates a Rationale</i>	Provides a well-specified logic model informed by research or evaluation	Relevant research or an evaluation that suggests that the intervention is likely to improve a student outcome or other relevant outcome	An effort to study the effects of the intervention, ideally producing promising evidence or higher, will happen as part of the intervention or is underway elsewhere		

Reference: [34 C.F.R. 77.1](#).