



## Evidence-Based Requirements

### Title IIA: Supporting Effective Instruction

Under ESSA<sup>1</sup>, the use of Title II Part A funds for professional development and class-size reduction must comply with new evidence-based requirements. LEAs must select interventions that fall into one of the four levels of evidence defined below. Further information may be found in Federal guidance<sup>2</sup>.

#### Four Levels of Evidence in ESSA

1: Strong Evidence	2: Moderate Evidence	3: Promising Evidence	4: Demonstrates a Rationale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•one well-designed and implemented experimental study (randomized control trial)</li><li>•show statistically significant and positive effect</li><li>•not overridden by statistically significant and negative findings from other studies</li><li>•large and multi-site sample</li><li>•sample that overlaps with LEA's setting AND types of students served</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•one well-designed and implemented quasi-experimental study (comparison group with similarities to treatment group)</li><li>•show statistically significant and positive effect</li><li>•not overridden by statistically significant and negative findings from other studies</li><li>•large and multi-size sample</li><li>•sample that overlaps with LEA's setting OR types of students served</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•one well-designed and implemented correlational study with statistical controls for bias</li><li>•show a statistically significant and positive effect</li><li>•not overridden by statistically significant and negative findings from other studies</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•include well-specified rationale (for example, a logic model) informed by research or an evaluation that suggests how the intervention is likely to improve relevant outcomes</li><li>•effort to study the effects of the intervention (at a higher level of evidence) is underway somewhere</li></ul>

<sup>1</sup> Read the [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#), Title II, Part A, Sec. 2103. Local Uses of Funds.

<sup>2</sup> [Federal Guidance on Evidence-based Requirements](#)

## Resources

The following selection of links may be useful for researching evidence-based interventions.

- [What Works Clearinghouse](#)
- [Institute of Education Sciences \(IES\) Resources](#)
- [Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development Database](#)
- [Results First Clearinghouse](#)
- [Evidence for ESSA](#)
- [REL Regional Educational Laboratory](#)
- [National Center for Educational Statistics](#)
- [Equitable Access Support Network](#)
- [Best Evidence Encyclopedia](#)
- [ERIC Research Database](#)
- [JSTOR Research Database](#)