Using What Works Clearinghouse
to Find Evidence-based Interventions

Kentucky Department of Education
Office of Continuous Improvement and Support
Section One
Identify Interventions
Step 1: Access the What Works Clearinghouse website.
Step 2: Select a topic from the “Find What Works” topic list.
Step 3: Select the “Find Research with Students Like Yours” button.
**Step 4:** Build a profile of your school. Be sure to include *at least* grade levels, race, ethnicity, and urbanicity.
**Step 5:** Sort the results by clicking the “Students Like Yours?” label in the header row.
**Step 6:** Review the results to select an intervention. Use the guidelines below to determine if the intervention meets ESSA Evidence Criteria for Level I, II, or IV. You will **not** find Level III evidence on the What Works Clearinghouse.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ESSA Evidence Level I</th>
<th>ESSA Evidence Level II</th>
<th>ESSA Evidence Level IV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interventions with a colored icon and <strong>three colored ovals</strong> are likely to be based on Level I evidence.</td>
<td>Interventions with a colored icon and <strong>two colored ovals</strong> are likely to be based on Level II evidence.</td>
<td>Interventions with a colored icon and only <strong>one colored oval</strong> are likely to be based on Level IV evidence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section Two
Verify the Evidence Level
Step 1: Select the intervention from the list.
Step 2: Identify the desired outcome domain, and select the underlined phrase “_ studies meet standards”. Note: If the intervention you selected does not have a list of studies, that means that the intervention is not supported by evidence. Go back to the list and select a different intervention.
Step 3: Select the citation with the highest “Students Like Yours” rating (indicated by green ovals).
Section Three
Review the Study
**Step 1:** Select “Findings” from the menu bar and view the improvement index to ensure that the intervention has demonstrated improvement in student outcomes. If it does not demonstrate a positive effect on student outcomes, it is not appropriate evidence.
Step 2: Select “Sample Characteristics” to ensure that the study reflects your student population and setting.

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<td>The “Sample Characteristics” align with both the student population <strong>AND</strong> the setting of your school.</td>
<td>The “Sample Characteristics” align with either the student population <strong>OR</strong> the setting of your school.</td>
<td>The “Sample Characteristics” does <strong>NOT</strong> align with either the student population or the setting of your school.</td>
</tr>
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Step 3: If the study meets the desired evidence level, maintain documentation of the source’s study citation to support the selection of the intervention.