

WWC QUICK REVIEW PROTOCOL

What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) quick reviews are designed to provide education practitioners and policymakers with timely and objective assessments of the quality of the research evidence from recently released research papers and reports. These reviews focus on studies of the effectiveness of education or school-based interventions serving students in the pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade age range, as well as those in a post-secondary setting.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for a WWC quick review, studies must meet BOTH of the following criteria.

1. A study must be in ONE of the following two categories:

- *A recent study whose public release is reported in a major national news source or a major education news publication.* To determine whether new education research is being mentioned in major news sources, the WWC will use a mix of strategies. The WWC will monitor some news sources directly and will also monitor a variety of news clipping and news aggregator services.
- *A study that Institute of Education Sciences (IES) officials have requested the WWC to review.* These studies may be provided to IES officials prior to public release. In these cases, the release of the quick review will be conditional on the public release of the study.

2. A study must examine the effectiveness of an education or school-based intervention that is intended to improve student outcomes.

For the purposes of this criterion, an education program is defined as a program, product, practice, or policy operating in a school or community setting that aims to improve student academic outcomes. A school-based program is defined as a program that operates in a school and aims to improve either academic or non-academic student outcomes. Programs serving students in pre-kindergarten through post-secondary settings will be considered for quick reviews.

Quick Review Methods

WWC quick reviews rate research evidence based on WWC Evidence Standards. A study that is the subject of a quick review can receive one of three ratings:

- *Consistent with WWC evidence standards.* This rating is used for randomized controlled trials that do not have problems with randomization or sample attrition.
- *Consistent with WWC evidence standards with reservations.* This rating is used for strong quasi-experimental studies that have valid comparison groups and are consistent with other WWC evidence standards, as well as some randomized controlled trials.
- *Not consistent with WWC evidence standards.* This rating is used for studies that provide insufficient evidence of causal validity.

Quick reviews follow a standard one- to two-page format. The review provides a brief overview of the intervention or program being evaluated, the study's research design and methods, and the key study findings. The ratings and research summaries included in WWC quick reviews are based only on publicly-available information. Prior to publication, quick reviews are examined by peer reviewers on behalf of IES.