

# Evidence-based Practices Guidance

## Background

Washington State's [Consolidated ESSA Plan](#) and ESEA, requires that all schools, districts, and other entities eligible for tiered supports under the Washington School Improvement Framework (WSIF) identify and implement evidence-based practices as part of their improvement planning and programming.

## Evidence-based Practices: Tiers of Evidence

Under ESEA section 8101(21)(B), any evidence-based intervention, activity, or strategy that the LEA pays for with ESEA section 1003 funds must meet one of the first three tiers of evidence under ESEA 8101(21)(A):

1. Strong Evidence
2. Moderate Evidence
3. Promising Evidence

An LEA **may not** use funds based on the fourth level of evidence under 8101(21)(A)(ii). Additional information on standards of evidence for 1003 funded activities can be found in [Department of Education \(ED\) non-regulatory guidance](#).

*Note: When applying for OSSI funds you must indicate the level of evidence or cite the state/federal approved source for any strategy, intervention, or practice that you are implementing. You may also cite guidance that supports its use as evidence-based (as determined by ESSA). If it is a commonly known EBP that is time-tried and known to work, e.g. "Universal Design for Learning (UDL)," we will be flexible in terms of supplying the exact "level of evidence."*

## Unlocking State and Federal Funds

The purpose of the [Unlocking State and Federal Funds](#) document is to empower school and Local Education Agency (LEA) leaders, grant administrators, educators, and other stakeholders to maximize the use of federal and state funds by providing information on how different federal and state funds may be used independently or together to meet specific, identified student and staff needs. Please search "School Improvement" to find relevant sections in this document.

## Links to Approved Resources on Evidence Based Practices

- [OSPI Menus of Best Practices and Strategies:](#)
  - [2023 ELA Menu \(ospi.k12.wa.us\)](https://ospi.k12.wa.us)
  - [English Language Arts Menu of Best Practices and Strategies \(ospi.k12.wa.us\)](#)
  - [Mathematics Menu of Best Practices and Strategies \(ospi.k12.wa.us\)](#)
  - [Behavior Menu of Best Practices and Strategies \(ospi.k12.wa.us\)](#)



- [Title I, Part A Evidence Based Practices in Intervention](#)
- [Updated WSIPP Inventory of Evidence and Research-Based Practices](#)  
Washington State Institute for Public Policy. (July 2020). Updated inventory of evidence-based and research-based practices: Washington's K-12 Learning Assistance Program. Olympia, WA
- [What Works Clearinghouse](#)  
Institute of Education Sciences. Washington, DC.
- [Evidence for ESSA](#)  
Center for Research and Reform in Education. John Hopkins University.
- [Exemplary Practices in Alternative Education](#)  
National Alternative Education Association. (2014). Exemplary practices 2.0: Standards of quality and program evaluation. Beaufort, NC.
- [Non-Regulatory Guidance: Using Evidence to Strengthen Education Investments](#)  
United States Department of Education. (September 16, 2016). *Non-regulatory guidance: Using evidence to strengthen investments*. Washington, DC.