

WWC Search Guide for College Readiness

The i3/EIR Dissemination Team prepared this guide to help you search the Institute of Education Sciences What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) for evidence-based reports, resources, and tools on measuring and assessing college readiness. The WWC reviews evidence of the effectiveness of education programs, products, policies, and practices. The WWC findings can guide educators and practitioners to select evidence-based interventions.

This guide starts with a brief **Overview of Find What Works**, a WWC feature to help you efficiently find resources. Then the guide describes how to **Navigate Find What Works** and **Find Research With Students Like Yours**. The guide concludes with a brief description of **Quick Links** to find evidence-based resources.

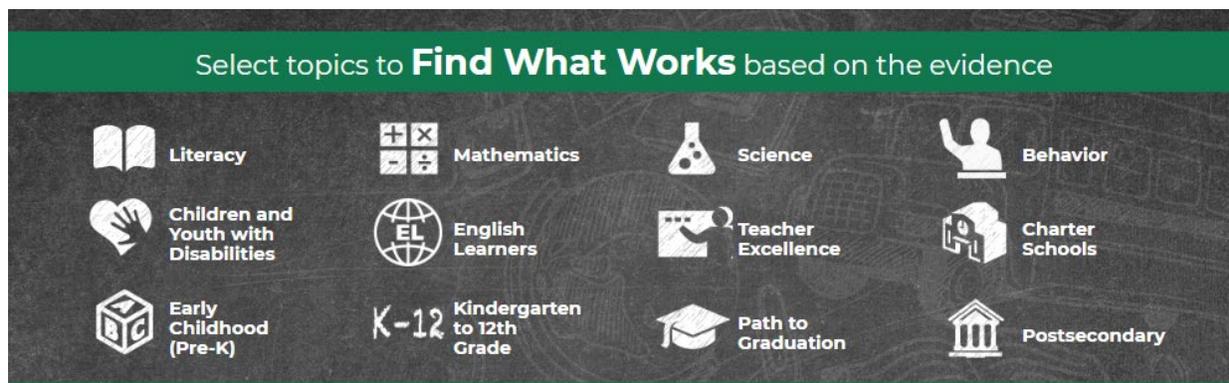
An accompanying video tutorial is also available: [Watch the video tutorial here.](#)

Overview of Find What Works

You can access **Find What Works** by navigating to the WWC home page (<https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>). **Find What Works** allows you to find interventions, programs, policies, and practices that demonstrate a positive impact on student success.

Navigate Find What Works

To find resources, select one of the topics listed below.



Once you select your topic (for example, “Postsecondary”), the site will display a list of interventions pertaining to that topic.



You can sort your resources by “Evidence of effectiveness,” “Intervention,” and “Grades examined.” Each sort option is displayed and defined below.

Evidence of effectiveness	Intervention	Grades examined	Compare
	Dual Enrollment Programs	9-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
	First Year Experience Courses	PS	<input type="checkbox"/>

DEFINITIONS

Evidence of effectiveness



A colored icon with a box indicates positive or potentially positive effects on outcomes for that topic.



A gray icon without a box indicates mixed effects or no discernible effects.



A question mark icon indicates no evidence.

By default, results are sorted by “Evidence of effectiveness,” based on the amount of evidence.

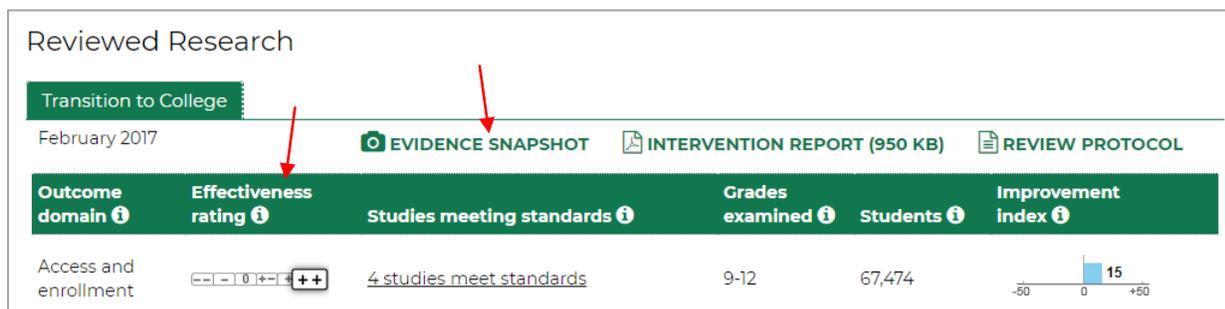
Intervention

The name of the educational program, product, practice, or policy aimed at improving student outcomes.

Grades examined

Grades of the students examined in the studies that met WWC design standards, which may not reflect the full range of grades for which the intervention may be used.

If you select a specific intervention (for example, “Dual Enrollment Programs”), you can review the number of studies that meet WWC design standards and provide evidence of effectiveness by outcome domain.





Another useful tool is the “Evidence Snapshot,” which highlights the number of studies meeting WWC standards.

INTERVENTION > EVIDENCE SNAPSHOT

Download Intervention Report
950 KB

Dual Enrollment Programs

Transition to College

Dual enrollment programs were found to have positive effects on students' degree attainment (college), college access and enrollment, credit accumulation, completing high school, and general academic achievement (high school), with a medium to large extent of evidence. For the staying in high school, college readiness, and attendance (high school) domains, dual enrollment programs had potentially positive effects with a small extent of evidence. Dual enrollment programs were found to have no discernible effects on general academic achievement (college) with a small extent of evidence.

Dual enrollment programs allow high school students to take college courses and earn college credits while still attending high school. Such programs, also referred to as dual credit or early college programs, are designed to boost college access and degree attainment, especially for students typically underrepresented in higher education. Dual enrollment programs support college credit accumulation and degree attainment via at least three mechanisms. First, allowing high school students to experience college-level courses helps them prepare for the social and academic requirements of college while having the additional supports available to high school students; this may reduce the need for developmental coursework. Second, students who accumulate college credits early and consistently are more likely to attain a college degree. Third, many dual enrollment programs offer discounted or free tuition, which reduces the overall cost of college and may increase the number of low socioeconomic status students who can attend and complete college.

Findings

5 STUDIES THAT MET STANDARDS OUT OF

35 ELIGIBLE STUDIES REVIEWED

Summary of all Research Settings and Samples that Met Standards

Race

Black	3%
White	29%
Not specified	67%

Ethnicity

Hispanic	8%
Not Hispanic	91%

Gender

Male: 43%
Female: 56%

Free & Reduced-Price Lunch

50%

Find Research With Students Like Yours

After selecting a topic on Find What Works, there are a few different ways to navigate this page. For this guide, we will highlight **“FIND RESEARCH WITH STUDENTS LIKE YOURS.”**

To identify research conducted with students similar to yours, you can navigate to **“FIND RESEARCH WITH STUDENTS LIKE YOURS”** at the top left of the page rather than immediately selecting a specific intervention.

After clicking on **“FIND RESEARCH WITH STUDENTS LIKE YOURS,”** you can select one or more characteristics to describe your students. For example, you can select specific grades, characteristics of your students, or school types and settings.



Was research done with students like yours?
✕

Grade ▶ To add an indicator to your results showing the similarity between your students and those in the high quality research, select one or more of the characteristics to the left that you feel are important to describe your students, grades, school, and setting.

Race ▶

Ethnicity ▶

Gender ▶

Class type ▶

School type ▶

Urbanicity ▶

Region/State ▶

Hint

Student, school, and setting characteristics can affect the effectiveness of an intervention.

The research was conducted with students very similar to yours.
 The research was conducted with students similar to yours.
 The research was not conducted with students similar to yours.

Done
Clear All

After you have made your selections, click “Done” and the list of interventions will be updated to include a “Students like yours?” column. The column will indicate whether the research was conducted with students similar to yours.

Quick links

You can also access “Intervention Reports,” “Practice Guides,” and “Reviews of Individual Studies” by selecting links at the bottom of the WWC home page.

QUICK LINKS

[INTERVENTION REPORTS](#)

[PRACTICE GUIDES](#)

[REVIEWS OF INDIVIDUAL STUDIES](#)

The “Intervention Reports” and “Practice Guides” links enable you to find WWC intervention reports and educator practice guides that summarize the results of WWC reviews on college access and success. To search for reviews of *individual studies*, use the “Reviews of Individual Studies” search page.